

ASPAC asia-pacific region news

No.8: March 2009

FIDIC Annual Conference 2008 at Quebec

The FIDIC Annual Conference was held at Quebec, Canada in 7-10 September 2008 under the theme “A strong industry serving society.” During the Conference, the ASPAC Executive Committee Meeting and the General Assembly Meeting were held to discuss the following three issues:

Technical sessions were the following three themes.

- Capacity Development Program
- ASPAC YPF (Young Professionals Forum)
- Progress of the Action Plan

1. Capacity Development Program

ASPAC secretariat proposed a framework of capacity development program for consulting engineers and government officials in the zones of most dynamic economic developments in ASPAC that is composed of future goals, target countries, methodology and role of each actor related to the program. This concept actually initiated by Dr. John Boyd, FIDIC President. The program aimed at understanding of roles and responsibilities of consulting engineers and government officials, establishment of linkage between local governments at ASPAC countries and FIDIC member associations, and establishment of sub-regional groups at ASPAC for implementation of continuous capacity development programs. This framework was agreed in the ASPAC Executive Committee Meeting on 7 September 2008.



ASPAC Executive Committee Meeting
(7 September 2008)

The capacity development program was continuously discussed in the ASPAC Forum on the following day, and representatives from India and Australia informed that each association already planned or implemented a similar program by their own resources in cooperation with FIDIC secretariat. In addition, members of India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam announced their candidacy for target countries that would carry out the program.

Although the general direction of the program had no objection, one of our proposals, i.e. establishment of sub-regional groups at ASPAC for implementation of continuous capacity development programs and support of the other future activities in ASPAC, was not agreed in the ASPAC General Assembly Meeting on 9 September 2008. Also, it regrettably had not reached an



agreement that the ASPAC secretariat would decide the target countries for implementation of the program by consultation with FIDIC.

Participants of the ASPAC General Assembly Meeting:

EC-Members:

Akihiko Hirotsu (ASPAC Chair; AJCE)

K.K.Kapila (ASPAC Member of Executive Committee; CEAI)

Karamat Ullah Chaudry (ASPAC Member of Executive Committee; ACEP)

Dennis Sheehan (ASPAC Member of Executive Committee; ACEA)

Representatives from ASPAC MA:

ACEA (Australia)	Dennis Sheehan
BACE (Bangladesh)	Mahbub Haque, Lailun Nahar Ekram
CNAEC (China)	Tang Ping, Jie Zhang
ACEHK (China, Hong Kong)	
CAEC (China, Taipei)	Shou-Chich Kao
CEAI (India)	Amitabha Ghoshal, Ramesh Kehar, Dhaval Parikh Chakravarthula Sravanth, Sangeeta Wij
INKINDO-TEKNIK (Indonesia)	Sarwono Hardjomuljardi
AJCE (Japan)	Yoshihiko Yamashita (11 Participants)
KENCA (Korea)	Haeng-Rae Cho, Kyu Yull Choi, Myeong Jin Lee, Junsuk Lee
ACEM (Malaysia)	Donns Shawa, Bruce Siew Keat Chan
ACENZ (New Zealand)	Adam Thornton, Brent Meekan
ACEP (Pakistan)	Karamat Chaudry
ACES (Singapore)	Kok Siong Chan
ACESL (Sri Lanka)	

Secretary:

Masakazu Maeda, Kazutosi Akasaka, Eiko Watatsu (ASPAC Secretary; AJCE)

Observer:

Subhash Mehrotra (FIDIC EC)

2. ASPAC YPF (Young Professionals Forum)

ASPAC YPF is a kind of capacity development program for young consulting engineers. It was



ASPAC General Assembly Meeting
(9 September 2008)

proposed to set up the place for young professionals particularly in ASPAC countries to communicate and enlighten each other. Since FIDIC YPF has started their activities, ASPAC YPF would be initiated based on that of FIDIC YPF considering different viewpoints from European countries and the United States. It was also proposed that this forum would be managed by sub-regional groups because ASPAC covers broad areas including a wide variety of races, religions and cultures; however, it was not agreed by participants.

3. Progress of the Action Plan

The following events of ASPAC Action Plan 2007-2009 were reported in the Meetings:

- Regular meetings are held twice a year.
 - ✓ There are two occasions: regular meetings at FIDIC annual conference and FIDIC/ASPAC annual conference. The former was in Singapore, and the latter was in Pakistan in 2007 and Seoul in 2008.
- Newsletter and Website are utilized for communication with member associations.
 - ✓ ASPAC Region News is issued periodically.
 - ✓ The annual action plans and events of the Member Associations (MAs) are reported by e-mail, newsletters and website.
 - ✓ Directory of MAs are displayed on FIDIC web site gradually.

The ASPAC Secretary additionally reported that they had received country reports from six MAs before the Conference, and all members were asked again to send back complete report to ASPAC Secretariat. While this report has some questionnaires about activity plans, policy issues, demands for training program, and activities for young engineers in each member association, it would be quite important for ASPAC to improve and promote their actions. Members agreed to promote the ASPAC Action Plan continuously and activate communication among member associations.

It should make special attention in the ASPAC General Assembly Meeting that Professor Omoto from Kyoto University had the presentation about “*Promotion of adjudicators in Asian region and its action plan.*” He is a sole Japanese adjudicator approved by FIDIC.

JBIC, Kyoto University and AJCE are promoting training of adjudicators in Asian region. They had seminars in Tokyo, Kyoto, Manila and Delhi, and in future they would have seminars in Hanoi,

Vietnam; Bangkok, Thailand and Denpasar, Indonesia. A delegate from Pakistan requested Prof. Omoto to have a seminar in his country, and another delegate suggested that the plan or information on this matter should be circulated in ASPAC region. All members declared to support the program for promotion of adjudicators in Asian region.



Special Presentation by Prof. Omoto
(9 September 2008)

4. Current Status and Prospects of the Issues Related to ASPAC Activities

With regard to the Capacity Development Program, it was finally judged that demand for implementation of the program was little among ASPAC member associations. Because several countries in ASPAC already started the similar programs, ASPAC Secretariat received a few requests for the program implementation. Therefore, it was determined that the program would be proceeded by each member association who is interested in the program.

On the other hand, some of the steering committee members of FIDIC YPF, such as member from Iran, India, China and Japan, have played a key role of ASPAC YPF activities. They made an activity paper that describes background, general direction, mission and objectives, function and organization of ASPAC YPF, and clearly states their required actions and time schedule in the year of 2008 and 2009. Mr. Takashi Nakajima, Steering Committee member of FIDIC YPF, CTI Engineering International Co., Ltd., has joined in ASPAC Secretariat since October 2008 and strengthened our activities to accelerate the YPF actions.

The year of 2009 is the last year of our Action Plan, and therefore the achievements in three years will be reviewed and general directions of the follow-up actions of ASPAC will be proposed. Additionally, problems on the establishment of an ASPAC permanent secretariat will be identified and sorted out, and solutions to these problems will be suggested accordingly.

ASPAC Secretariat

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