



SRI LANKAN CONSULTING ENGINEER



Newsletter of the Association of Consulting Engineers, Sri Lanka
Incorporated by Act, No. 42 of 2003

February 2004

Issue 1

A Member Association of
the international Federation
of Consulting Engineers

ACESL NEWS

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the ACESL was held on 8th January 2004 as usual at the IESL. President ACESL Mr. NG R de Silva chairing, greeted the Members present wishing all a Happy & a Prosperous New Year. This time the attendance was 25, about 50% of the ACESL strength.

As you know there were 4 vacancies to be filled in the council for the session 2004/05 and the council had received only 4 nominations, the following were elected unanimously.

Mr. W M S C Piyadasa

Mr T G Perera

Mr Upali Delpechitre

Mr T D P Munasinghe

Mr T D P Munasinghe is the only new entry to the council replacing Mr K W Fernando. The following five shall continue to serve the council.

Mr N G R de Silva

Mr T P Ranaweera

Mr K Suntheralingam

Mr R M A Senerath

Mr B Senarathne

The President in his address announced the incorporation of the ACESL by Parliament Act, No. 42 of 2003 and stated that all credit should go to Mr Tudor Munasinghe for his efforts that followed it through from the beginning to the end at various stages. This generated a very fruitful discussion wherein most of the members present appreciated and felt the need for the ACESL to continue the good work done.

Views were expressed by many on the Draft Construction Bill, Need for a Road Sector Master Plan, Need for a Policy for Road Sector Transport and the application of the Fees Structure etc. General agreement was reached that ACESL should inform IESL and ICTAD of this achievement and the need to strengthen ACESL institutionally in order to make it a dynamic and vigorous organization towards meeting the challenges and create an environment for broader collaboration between members and Member Firms for promoting services. General consensus was reached to call for a Special General Meeting early to ratify new rules and the amend the present constitution to suit the incorporation Act.

THE NEW COUNCIL

The first council meeting was held on the 30th Jan'04 and elected the following office bearers for the session 2004/05.

President : Mr W M S C Piyadasa

Vice President : Mr D P T Munasinghe

Hony. Secretary : Mr B Senarathne

Hony Treasurer ; Mr Upali Delpechitre.

Council Memebers :

Mr.N G R de Silva

Mr. T G Perera

Mr K Suntheralingam

Mr R M A Senerath

Mr T P Ranaweera

The Council at this meeting decided to meet every fortnight for the first two months to work out the strategies entrusted to the new council and draw up an action plan before summoning a SGM as decided at the AGM.

EVENTS

I am certain that all of you have now received a copy of the ACESL's new Act, No . 42 of 2003 and appreciate that at last we were able to beat the Dissolution of Parliament this time and ACESL as extremely LUCKY.

This in fact has made the Council more meaningful & responsible for the entire Engineering Community in Nation Building Activities for Sustainable Development

We take this opportunity to invite suggestions rules, and new ideas from all members that we should incorporate in the constitution and would be glad to invite you to attend the fortnightly meetings fixed for the second & Fourth Fridays during February & March Council meetings to clarify any issues if any before we adopt at the SGM. Your cooperation will be highly appreciated.

In this regard a brief note received from Mr T G Perera a Senior Council Member is appended below for all members information.

Consulting Engineers' Association receives Parliamentary Incorporation

The Parliament has approved the Incorporation of the Association of Consulting Engineers, Sri Lanka by Act No 42 of 2003.

The Association was established in 19..... at a time when there was a brain drain of

engineering professionals from the traditional government departments in the late 1960s due to poor terms and conditions of work, and incentives were created for the more outgoing senior engineering professionals to set themselves up as private consultants either individually or in association with others. Within a short period the Association was admitted to membership of the Federation of International Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) which gave them recognition in par with other similar associations throughout the world.

Having had to face tough times in the early 1970s due to stringent financial constraints on development, engineering consultancy was given a boost in 1977 with the introduction of an open economy and the flow of funds for development activities. The Association has played a vital role in fostering the interests of the local consultants and has proved worthy of acting as the national body to represent engineering consultants in Sri Lanka. In consideration of this position, the government has now upgraded the role of the Association by giving due legislative recognition to its aims and objects, which among other things are to maintain high standards of professional conduct amongst its members, to free the country of dependence on foreign consultants in the development process, to provide a forum for state institutions to ascertain the views of the association on matters relating to engineering consultancy services and to interact with similar associations in the region in fostering technical cooperation for their common benefit..

PRESIDENTS Speech at The AGM

ACESL – New SECRETARIAT

ACESL is looking for Office Space about 20 to 30 Sq.Mts in Colombo or Battaramulla. If our members could help in arranging or finding any suitable place with some parking space at convenient place, Pl contact the Hony Secretary or Hony Treasurer with Details.

CCI NEWS

Mr T D P Munasinghe has been admitted as an Advisor to the Chambers as from -----

FIDIC NEWS

Quality Management in Consulting Engineering

You would have observed that the previous issues carried extracts of the following from "The Guide to Quality Management" published by FIDIC 2001.

- 1). The Concept of Quality Management – Feb'2003
- 2). FIDIC Policy & Quality Management- Apr'2003
- 3). The eight Principles of Quality Management – July 2003.

No'2003 issue could not accommodate continuation of above chapters due to running short of space. This issue will focus on Process Approach, Continuous Improvement & Decision Making Process that have to be built in to the process which will carry you to the Development of a Quality Management System in Your Firm.

It is important and we are fully aware of the commitment of the consulting Engineering Industry's Skills and capabilities of the highest order that have to be delivered to the clients in Public & Private sector. In this context, it is interesting to find out how many of our Member Firms have initiated the Quality Management Process to improve business practices.

Guide to Quality Management in the Consulting Engineering Industry –
Continued:

A Process Approach

Processes

Any output is the result of one or more processes. This means that if the processes are correct and performed correctly, then the service or product will achieve the desired quality. The identification and control of all processes influencing the quality are important activities. In a consulting Firm, processes depend very much on the employees.

Process is the orderly sequencing of defined activities, some of which may be repetitive and thus guided by certain protocols and accepted standards. Others will have to be defined in the planning process, so that they can be adequately estimated and scheduled, and conveyed to the team for execution.

Planning

Assuring that the desired quality is achieved requires that adequate time be spent in planning the work to be done. Quality Management cannot function without effective planning.

Document and Information Management

In a consulting firm the typical sequence of activities is to collect data and information, process the data and information based on the experience and knowledge of the employees involved, and finally to deliver value added information to the client.

We are presently in a period of conversion from paper to electronic media. Many storage issues will have to be addressed. The availability of valuable inventory created by the work and management process is crucial to the firm's success and continuity. It must thus be part of the Quality Management system.

System Approach to Management

Identifying, understanding and managing a system of inter related processes for a given objective improves the organisation's effectiveness & efficiency.

Continuous Improvement

Each Team and each person must continuously examine their work, with a view to identifying more effective ways to achieve the desired service, including reducing the time and resources required and to improve the quality of the Service.

The adoption of the "Plan –Do- Check- Act " cycle can be beneficial in the process of continuous improvement. Consulting firms need to pay attention to interrelationships between Project processes, project support processes (for eg: quality, risk and information management) and administrative processes (for eg: human resources, financial management and business planning)

The steps are:

1. plan by clarifying expectations, surveying existing conditions, developing and analyzing courses of action, and planning the improvement process
2. do through testing the process
3. check by analysing the results, and
4. act by standardizing the process and repeating the overall improvement process

A Factual Approach to Decision Making

Effective decisions are based on the analysis of data and information.

Measurements.

Quality must be measured for it to be managed. Measurements should be a means for determining results and developing methods to improve processes. The measurement process should be continuous rather than take place on a single occasion, and results should provide feed back into the various levels in the organization.

Auditing is a process which subjects randomly chosen aspects of project work or management procedure to a detailed examination. If described protocols exist as apart of an implemented quality management system, the defined conditions are monitored. The number of material departures from the

defined norm are recorded, described and counted: this is the Audit. Comments on the ways to improve the audit may be added

Management review

Management of the firm should periodically analyse and review the Quality Management system, so as to assure its suitability and effectiveness and actualize its objectives. Management review should focus on measurable items, such as redesign incidents, unsatisfactory scope definitions between internal departments, refused extra work orders, project profitability and the like, as direct indicators of poor adherence to the procedures.

As a basis for the analysis, the following items should be considered:

- changes to the regulatory standards
- increments of scope in the services to be provided by the firm
- degree of achievement of the firm's actual quality objectives
- internal & external audit results
- non-conformance
- customer complaints
- corrective and preventive actions

Client or other External feedback

It is crucial for a quality Management system to obtain external, or client feedback. This can be done through :

- client evaluations. These must be solicited in a number of ways: first by direct inquiry, and the cataloguing of comments into classified issues; second, through an easy to complete questionnaire. Finally, the most direct test relates to further work from a satisfied client. The reasons for this confidence should be carefully established and documented, as they may vary from client to client.

Prevention Focus

Quality cannot be inspected into a product or service. It must be built or designed in at every step. The quality process facilitates the prevention of errors and wasted effort, and makes the vision of " Getting it right from the Beginning, every time" a reality.

FIDIC Executive Committee Nomination

With reference to the Executive Committee election procedure in FIDIC's By-Law IV.1, please be informed that one vacancy will be required to be filled at the next General Assembly Meeting (GAM) to be held on 15 September 2004 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The member eligible for retirement is :

Erik Langlo, Switzerland

The members for the Executive Committee continuing in office are :

Bayo Adeola, Nigeria
John Boyd, Canada
Jorge Diaz Padilla, Mexico
Yumio Ishii, Japan
Axel Jaeger, Germany
Richard Kell, Australia
Maxime Mazloum, France
Gregs Thomopolus, USA

Each FIDIC Member Association is hereby invited to submit nominations for the vacancy to be filled.

RESIGNATION OF FIDIC MANAGING DIRECTOR, DANIEL IVARSSON

FIDIC Managing Director Daniel Ivarsson has decided to resign, and to pursue a career in the provision of high-level advisory services in the fields of governance and policy development, in particular in the public sector and with development banks.

At a time of major changes in the way our profession and industry operate, Daniel has strongly contributed to the broad range of activities which FIDIC undertakes in the best interest of our MAs and Member Firms. I join with the Executive Committee in acknowledging Daniel's hard work and intellectual capability and his commitment to FIDIC during his time as MD.

Daniel has established a wide network of friends within FIDIC and the many agencies with which we associate, and he and his wife Vladi will be missed. We wish him well in his

new career. We are pleased that Daniel will be available to provide ongoing advice to FIDIC in his areas of particular expertise.

Daniel has been able to give ample notice, and he will continue in his role as FIDIC MD until his replacement is chosen and appointed.

Richard Kell, AM FTSE
President FIDIC

E- Mail addresses of Members

All members are kindly requested to furnish their E- Mail addresses & Fax numbers, so that important notices could be sent to members without delay.

Request for Articles

Members & Member firms are kindly requested to submit short articles (A4 size) for publication in the News letter. The articles could be about projects in progress handled by the Firms, or future investments on matters relating to consulting Industry

Please send in your articles direct Mr. Upali Delpetchitre, Editor; to
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