

## Consulting engineers meet in Quebec

### Quality – Integrity – Sustainability - Profitability

Felix Fongoqa, President of Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA) and Graham Pirie, CEO, CESA have just returned from a well attended 2008 International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) Conference held in Quebec. This annual event played host to almost 70 member countries out of a total of 75, with South Africa being well represented with 22 delegates at the conference.

Fongoqa enthused that the conference was a resounding success with a great venue, interesting content and a wonderful networking platform. The conference was preceded by a meeting of 30 FIDIC Directors representing countries across the globe. Pirie gave a presentation to the meeting of Presidents on The Group of Africa Member Associations (GAMA) and to the GAMA delegates on preparations for the GAMA Conference that is being held in Durban from 15 to 18 March 2009.

The keynote speech given by John Ralston entitled, 'Engineers Shape Your World' highlighted the fact that engineers are at the forefront of change in society. He contended that globalisation is dead and that we need to move out of our old mindset by 'thinking small as well as big'. Engineers need to be a force that changes society and in particular engineering education. Environmental concerns featured prominently and it was stated that the

Group of 8 nations emits 80% of the world's green house gases.

The cornerstones of FIDIC being *Quality – Integrity – Sustainability – Profitability* were discussed in detail and a training programme around these key issues has been developed.

- Quality was discussed in relation to Quality Based Selection
- Integrity was discussed in terms of Business Integrity Management Solution (BIMS) and Government Procurement Integrity Management System (GPIMS)
- Sustainability can be addressed through the Project Sustainability Management Toolkit and
- Finally, engineers are in business to make a profit and do not have to apologise for the fact.

An entire session was also devoted to the issue of *ethics and integrity* and an interesting presentation on *advocacy* was presented by Dave Raymond of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC). Pirie attended a very interesting workshop on the issue of consulting engineers and their role as the Trusted Advisor as well as an enlightening presentation on Communication in the Engineering Fraternity.

A very interesting plenary session was held on client expectations representing the views of a number of clients including Hydro, Quebec; Rio Tinto, Canada; the City of Amman, Jordan and Singapore Public Utilities Board with Quality Based Selection (QBS) or the two envelope method being the way to go. It was stated in another session that QBS promotes innovation, saving in life cycle costs, satisfies public interest and encourages competition based on merit. The chal-



Young Professional's (YP's) from South Africa - Kieren Brown, Chairperson of CESA's YPF from MPA Consulting, Ian Pollard (Bigen), Ramolin Naidoo (SSI), Heena Bhana (Vela VKE), Llewlynn Jacobs (Bigen) and Brandon Naidoo (SSI).



Ben Chan (Australia); Kieren Brown (South Africa); Timothy Mugabe (Uganda); Fabian Sommer (Switzerland).



Fairmont Le Chateau Frontenac, where the conference was held in Quebec, Canada.

lenge is to promote QBS more effectively.

CESA's Young Engineer of the Year, Andries van Wageningen and Chairperson of the YPF Kieren Brown attended the conference together with a large contingent of young engineers from South Africa some of whom were lucky enough to have attended the annual FIDIC management and leadership training programme.

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