



ACEN

e-newsletter



A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS OF NIGERIA (ACEN)

Volume 1 Issue15

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ACEN HOLDS 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM

The Annual Conference and AGM of Association of Consulting Engineers Nigeria - ACEN will hold on November 10th & 11th, 2009 at Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Ikeja, Lagos. The conference is being organised with a technical workshop on Power Generation in Nigeria, as we are all aware that our country is short of power generation at present. This challenge solely lies on Nigerian engineers to profer solutions to these problems. The sub-themes of the workshop will cover Civil, Mechanical and Electrical aspect of power generation. The Minister of Power is being expected to attend the opening ceremony.

Members are implored to attend this technical workshop in large number as it would be of great benefit to all member firms.

The conference will start with the launching of the book on 30years of ACEN and will be followed by a plenary session and later in the evening by a dinner and award night. The AGM will involve the election of new members to Council. Members are enjoined to grace these landmark events. Nomination forms have been sent out to all members and we expect the completed forms back to the Secretariat on or before Friday, October16, 2009 for the coming elections.

ADVERTISE YOUR FIRM IN THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE/AGM BROCHURE

Advert Rates for Members

Back Cover	- N120,000.00
Inside Cover (Front & Back)	- N100,000.00
Full Page	- N50,000.00

FIDIC 2009 LONDON CONFERENCE

The just concluded FIDIC Annual Conference in London was attended by over 30 ACEN members. The delegation was led by ACEN President, Engr. Bayo Adeola, Other members are Vice President, Engr. N.A. Rafindadi, Immediate Past President of ACEN and President of GAMA, Engr. Mrs. Mayen Adetiba, Past President of COREN, Chief Ebenezer Osoba, Other Past Presidents of ACEN in attendance included HRH Oba Engr. M.O. Adesina, Engr. Y. Shagaya. Others were incoming President of NSE, Engr. O. A. Ajibola, Engr. Temilola Kehinde, Engr. K. Umar, Honorary Treasurer, Engr. Tunde Ogunde and Executive Secretary, Mr. Babatunde Amode, the administrative officer, Mr. Kola Idowu was also in attendance.

The theme of the conference was "Sustainable Solutions to Global Challenges". The conference focused on today's financial crisis and the ensuing recession provided the backdrop of the issues that needed to be addressed without delay and these included amongst others, climate change, ever increasing demand for energy, the need for investment in infrastructure in emerging economies and mass urbanization. To tackle these challenges effectively, the world needs leadership, experience and creativity of the engineering community. FIDIC 2009 London Conference therefore aimed at exploring the role of engineers in the delivery of sustainable solutions to these global challenges. The conference was to identify and plan the actions needed to position the consultancy and engineering industry as a leader in providing viable and effective solution.

Several papers were presented by notable professionals on (i) Industry Challenges (ii) Clients Perspective (iii) Industry Perspective. The conference proposed amongst others the need to invest in the training of young engineers, uprightness in the pursuit of excellence, abhorrence of corruption, lobbying the politicians and the public and acting with integrity.

The next FIDIC Conference is scheduled to take place in New Delhi, India.



**Some of the delegates at London FIDIC Conference
L - R. Engr. Tunde Ogunde, Engr. Lekan Ogunbayo,
Mrs. Osoba, HRH Oba M.O. Adesina and Chief
Ebenezer Osoba.**

COMMUNIQUÉ ON COLLAPSE OF BUILDING SEMINAR PUBLISHED

The Communiqué of last seminar jointly organized by COREN and ACEN on Multi-Disciplinary Strategies for Arresting Structural Collapse of Buildings in Nigeria has been published. The seminar was held on July 9, 2009 at Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Ikeja, Lagos. The communiqué was published in Guardian newspaper of 15th September, 2009. Similarly, it was published in Daily Trust newspaper of 16th September 2009. We appreciate the efforts of task force committee who worked tirelessly to make the communiqué a reality. Several professionals in the Construction Industry including Architects, Engineers, Builders, Planners, Surveyors, Contractors, Property Developers and Government Officials attended the seminar and made important contributions to the subject.

The full text of the communiqué is shown below:

The forum resolved that stability of building structures is the responsibility of the professionals in the construction industry. Hence, the collapse of buildings is an indictment on professionals in the Industry.

The collapse of buildings is caused by the failure of one or more structural elements of the building. Several contributive factors were identified as being responsible for collapse of buildings at various stages of building development and the communiqué below offers methods by which building collapse could be prevented or eliminated in the future.

1.0 The forum recognized the following as the major causes of building collapse in Nigeria:

- * Incompetent contractors
- * Faulty construction methodology
- * Improper design
- * Poor planning approval process
- * Non-compliance with specifications /standards
- * Use of sub-standard materials and equipment
- * Inadequate supervision /inspection /Monitoring
- * Economic pressures
- * Incompetent conversion /change of use of buildings, and Aged buildings and poor maintenance culture



2.0 Incompetent Contractors

By far the greatest number of incidences of collapse can be traced to incompetent and inadequately trained contractors in the informal sector. This category of contractors remains unregulated as the practitioners are neither engineers nor architects nor builders, and are not subjected to any professional discipline. They do not understand designs, quality materials, construction methodology, or safety in construction; the first effort at reducing the incidences of collapse is, therefore, to regulate this sector of the industry.

Federal and state governments in Nigeria should pass laws which set guidelines for contractors in the building industry and such legislations should ensure that only competent professionals in the industry are allowed to register construction companies.

3.0 Poor Planning Approval Processes

The present planning approval process is dominated by town planning requirements. Important as these are, they do not adequately cover for structural design and supervision. Most approving authorities do not have enough experienced personnel to properly evaluate structural designs for approval purposes. The COREN requirement of designs being stamped by registered engineers is often by-passed by non-practicing engineers stamping drawings designed by incompetent engineers, especially those in government.

There is the need to strengthen government agencies for the approval of structural designs. COREN needs to regulate that only practicing consulting engineers should be authorized to stamp drawings for approval. The possibility of using private sector consultants to strategically support the planning approval process should be seriously considered.

4.0 Inadequate Supervision/Inspection/Monitoring of Work

The primary responsibility for the supervision of construction work is that of the contractor. The responsibility for the inspection of work under construction is that of the consultant engineer, while monitoring of work is the responsibility of government agencies or approved alternatives. There are short-comings in all the three areas.

Contractors' supervisors, especially in the informal sector mentioned above, are often incompetent to carry out the primary supervision work required. Clients are often unwilling to pay consultants for the degree of supervision required, especially when they have to compensate for the poor quality of the contractors' supervisors. Government agencies are overstretched by the volume of work they have to do with inadequate personnel, vehicles and other equipment.

Clause 2 above addresses the improvement needed for contractors. Professional bodies, especially ACEN and COREN, need to educate the public on the need for adequate supervision and the appropriate quality of staff required and the remuneration for such services. For effective monitoring by government, there is the need to create a construction monitoring unit independent of town planning requirements, and to adequately staff this unit and provide the necessary vehicles and other equipment. Private sector consultants could be engaged to support this unit if necessary.

5.0 Economic Pressures

Sometimes, the use of substandard materials or wrong methodology derives, not from incompetence but from economic pressures. Consultants' fees are frequently significantly discounted, even by government agencies. This puts pressure on the consultants to do more work than he is able to cope with, severely hampering thoroughness and adequate supervision. Similarly, construction contracts are often over-negotiated. It is not uncommon for rates for work element by local contractors to be a third of what the expatriates charge. This puts severe pressures on the contractor leading to short cuts and use of sub-standard materials

There is a need for private developers in particular, and government agencies to recognize this pitfall and pay appropriately for work. Professional bodies such as ACEN and FOCI need to continuously educate the public on this issue.

6.0 Aged Buildings & Poor Maintenance Culture

It is normal for buildings to deteriorate with age, especially when exposed to the weather and water from bathrooms and kitchens. Water soaks into concrete from exposed balconies and cause the steel reinforcement to rust. Similarly, the slabs in bathroom floors soak through the floors causing rust. Over long periods, this deterioration gets structural critical and can lead to failure. As has been observed, such failures are more common in the rainy season when the wetness is most severe.

Good design and construction practice can significantly reduce this problem. Existing buildings, however, need to be inspected and controlled remedial actions advised. Regular inspection and certification of buildings every ten years might be an appropriate response to this,

7.0 Remote Causes

In addition to the immediate causes of collapse listed discussed above, there are several remote causes which must also be critically addressed. Some of these are:

- * The falling standard of education
- * Lack of Continuing Professional Development
- * Non-enforcement of existing regulations
- * Endemic poor work ethics
- * General disregard for laws and regulation
- * Bribery and corruption

Conclusion

COREN and ACEN take the issue of building collapse very seriously and are determined to join forces with others to significantly reduce its occurrence. ACEN is in the process of setting up a task force to continuously address the problem until positive changes are recorded. The problem is, however, a multi-disciplinary one that involves construction professionals, public and private sector developers, governments and the society at large.

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ACEN WORKSHOP

The monthly ACEN workshop on Estate Infrastructural Design: Street Lighting, Generating Plants and Power Distribution was held on September 28 - 30, 2009 at ACEN Secretariat. The workshop was facilitated by Engr. Charles P. V. Mobe of Miu - Beta Engineers. Eight (8) participants attended the workshop and we still implore members to send participants to the rest of our workshops for the year.

Other coming workshops in the year are:

- (a) Design of Highway which comes up on October 6 - 8, 2009
- (b) Management of Contracts comes up on October 27 - 29, 2009

ACEN/TECHGRADE WORKSHOP

ACEN in association with Techgrade Consulting will hold a workshop on '**Contract Administration For Engineering Projects**'

Date: Tuesday 13th - Thursday 15th October, 2009

Venue: Fountain Hall, Rockview Hotel, Abuja.

Fees: N55,000.00 for ACEN/NSE Members, N60,000.00 Others

10% discount for 5 or more participants from same organisation.

The other two workshops on "Procurement & Management of Engineering Consulting Services" and "Understanding PPP Project Procedures and Potential Problem Areas" which were earlier scheduled for September and November 2009 respectively have been postponed due to logistic reasons.

The new dates for these workshops will be communicated to members as we equally regret any inconvenience these postponements might have caused the members.

NEW ACEN WEBSITE

The ACEN website now wears a new look. It has been re-designed to meet the requirement of all member firms in

terms of current information about secretariat, upcoming events, detail information on all firm members, newsletters etc. Similarly, advertisements, articles are welcomed from the members for the website at a reasonable cost. Members are urged to visit the website on www.acen.org.ng

ACEN SECRETARIAT REPLACES FAULTY TELEPHONE LINE

The ACEN secretariat has acquired new land line to boost communication between members and the secretariat. The new line number is **01-7360785**.

It replaces the old line with number 01- 4726807 which had seized to function very well.

ACEN 2009 DIRECTORY

The ACEN 2009 Directory is available at the secretariat at the Cost of N2,500.00 (Two Thousand, Five Hundred Naira Only) per Copy. Other items available are T-shirts, ties and CD's of our past workshops.

ACEN PAST PRESIDENT CLOCKED 70

ACEN past President, the Olowu of Owu Ijebu, HRH Oba Engr. Michael Olusegun Adesina marked his 70th birthday anniversary on 29th September, 2009. A church service was held at St. Michael Anglican Church, Owu Ijebu, Ogun State while the reception took place at Owu Ijebu town hall. The occasion was attended by ACEN president, Engr. K. A. Adeola, Engr. Mrs. Mayen Adetiba, Engr. Y. Shagaya, Engr. Ebenezer Oshoba and the Executive Secretary, Mr. Babatunde Amode. The President, Council Members and Members of the Association of Consulting Engineers Nigeria wish Kabiyesi Adesina a happy and a prosperous 70th birthday anniversary and more useful service to the engineering industry and the nation.

NSE HOLDS AGM IN DECEMBER

The Annual Conference/AGM of Nigerian Society of Engineers holds on 7th December, 2009 at Owerri, Imo State.

Project 1

NIGERIAN NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION

NNPC Towers, Herbert Macaulay Way, Central Business District, P.M.B. 190, Garki, Abuja Nigeria.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PRE-QUALIFICATION OF PROSPECTIVE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS FOR NNPC ENGINEERING GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS [EGS]

INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) intends to undertake the review, update and upgrade of its Refinery General Specifications (RGS).

This advert is to request interested experienced local and international consulting Firms to submit proposals for pre Qualification.

1.0 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Project is to review, update and upgrade the existing Refinery General Specifications to an Engineering

General Specifications (EGS) that is complete, current and adequate for universal application in the upstream, midstream downstream sectors of the Oil and Gas Industry.

SCOPE OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The scope of the Consultancy services for the EGS project covers the following:

- 3.1 Review of the existing RGS for content, adequacy, etc.
- 3.2 Review and update the existing RGS, incorporating Modern/new processes/controls not previously covered in the old document.
- 3.3 Upgrade the RGS to an EGS that will have universal application covering both downstream, midstream & upstream Engineering specifications within the Oil and Gas industry.
- 3.4 Provision of suitable platform (including electronic) to enable periodic update of the EGS when necessary to Avoid obsolescence of the document.
- 3.5 Production of ten (10) bound hard and two hundred (200) labeled CD ROM Copies of the updated/upgraded documents.

4.0 COLLECTION OF BID DOCUMENTS

All firms wishing to express their interest to bid for this project shall submit relevant documents for **pre-qualification** as stipulated in below. Only companies that are adjudged successful in the pre-qualification exercise shall be invited to collect tender documents upon payment of a non-refundable bid fee of \$3,000.00 (Three Thousand US Dollars) or N438,900.00 (Four Hundred and Thirty-eight Thousand , Nine Hundred Naira Only). All payments shall be in Bank Draft payable to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation.

5.0 PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

By this publication, the NNPC hereby invites competent, reputable and experienced Consulting Firms for pre-qualification to bid for the required services as described in Interested Firms should submit pre-qualification documents detailing their firms capabilities, relevant experience and financial Status.

The requested information and any supporting document(s) in respect of these requirements should be submitted in one (1) original plus four (4) hard copies and three electronic copies (CD ROM). The documents shall be sealed and clearly marked "**Pre qualification for NNPC Engineering General Specification Project Consultancy Services**" to reach the Address given below, not later than three weeks from the date of this publication.

**The Group General Manager,
Engineering and Technology Division, Block 'B', 11th Floor,
NNPC Towers, Abuja, Nigeria
Signed: NNPC MANAGEMENT**

**PROJECT REFERENCE
GUARDIAN NEWSPAPER TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 29, 2009**

Members Feedback & Suggestions? Please send to ACEN Secretariat: 3, Akintoye Street, Off Herbert Macaulay Way, Sabo - Yaba, Lagos. Tel: 01-4726807, 01-7748910, 08037224842. Email: info@acen.org.ng