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Enviado: 17 de abril de 2020 16:13
Para: =?utf-8?Q??=
Assunto: CEO's Update - Coronavirus Weekly Issue 4



Issue 4: Friday 17 April 2020

Dear colleagues

Welcome to the fourth issue of the *FIDIC Covid-19 Update*, our weekly update to keep FIDIC member associations, consulting engineering business leaders and wider stakeholders updated on FIDIC's latest actions in addressing the challenges associated with the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic.

Introduction

The world continues to be gripped by the coronavirus pandemic. Country-wide lockdowns are still the order of the day, with a majority of populations working from home or on 'furlough' or special arrangements or leave from their employment. Different nations around the world are at different stages in their

Covid-19 journey though we are starting to see encouraging signs as some countries, including Switzerland where FIDIC has its offices, signal their intention to relax some of their lockdown rules as soon as mid-May. However, it is clear that restrictions on movement will be with us for a number of weeks yet and there is no sign that the construction and infrastructure industry is going to be returning to anything approaching normality for some time.

The biggest question around the world is when would be appropriate to lift the lockdown and implement an appropriate exit strategy in order to secure and revive the national and global economy without compromising public health. Reduction in the rate of spread and the development of an appropriate vaccination seems to be the solution and this will call for global cooperation between governments to avoid return of the virus in the months ahead.

Clearly, the current ongoing situation is posing some significant challenges for consulting firms, member associations and FIDIC as much as it is for the industry. As reported previously, all our staff, the board and committees are working remotely. This is proceeding well, and we are certainly learning lessons for our future work from the experience of greater remote working. I'm sure that the entire industry will be learning similar lessons and this will prepare firms for the new world that we will all inhabit when we finally emerge from the Covid-19 crisis.

Our industry will certainly not be the same when all this is over and it's clear from the discussions I have had with stakeholders that they expect to be doing things differently in the future. Given the very concerning forecasts about the world economy that have been reported in the media in recent days, it's also clear that our industry will need to be advocating the case more strongly than ever for investment in both social and economic infrastructure to give the global economy the best chance of recovering from the effects of this pandemic.

FIDIC issues Covid-19 guidance memorandum for users of FIDIC standard forms of works contract



International Federation of Consulting Engineers
The Global Voice of Consulting Engineers

FIDIC COVID-19 GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM TO USERS OF FIDIC STANDARD FORMS OF WORKS CONTRACT

FIDIC Guidance Memorandum

COVID-19 is having material and global impact on the delivery of construction projects across the world. Many of those projects are being delivered under FIDIC standard forms of contract. To assist contract users, FIDIC has issued a guidance memorandum which contains an outline of the provisions in FIDIC's various general conditions of contract for works which may be relevant with regard to likely scenarios that are arising as a consequence of Covid-19.

FIDIC's main purpose in drafting the guidance memorandum is to help parties to a FIDIC contract to consider mutually satisfactory solutions and avoid disputes arising between them.

[Click here to download the Covid-19 guidance memorandum for users of FIDIC standard forms of works contract](#)

Massive turnouts at FIDIC webinars



We have now held four events in FIDIC's Covid-19 webinar series and to say that we have been bowled over by the response would be an understatement. So far, we have seen 2,800 people from more than 130 countries people attend our first four webinars. This is a brilliant turnout and the hundreds of questions we have received at each event is testament to the interest in the topics we have discussed.

The ratio of webinar attendees to those who registered for events continues to be way above the usual average, which is another sign that we have struck a chord with the range of events we have organised. Of course, we could not do all this without the support of our speakers who have generously given of their time to contribute to these webinars. I want to say a massive thank you to them for their support in helping FIDIC deliver this important initiative for our member associations, consulting engineering firms and wider stakeholders across the global industry.

We are currently holding two webinars a week and by the end of the programme on 11 June a total of 18 events will have taken place. The webinars will give FIDIC valuable feedback from attendees, not only on the global industry response to Covid-19, but also on how key industry leaders see the future.

[Click here to view the FIDIC Covid-19 webinar programme](#)

Discount on FIDIC Contracts Management and Administration online training



The banner features a world map background with various icons representing online learning, such as a laptop, a microphone, a person, and a globe. The text is arranged as follows:

- ONLINE TRAINING** (Large orange text on the left)
- 2020 FIDIC Online Contracts Courses** (Large blue text on the right)
- We offer internationally recognised Online courses in English led by Accredited Trainers.** (Medium blue text on the right)
- Learn more** (Orange button on the right)
- FIDIC International Federation of Consulting Engineers** (Logo and text at the bottom left)
- The Global Voice of Consulting Engineers** (Text at the bottom left)

In order to assist industry professionals looking for contract training opportunities in these challenging times, FIDIC has taken the decision to reduce by 20% the cost of its online module 4 course on FIDIC Contracts Management and Administration to allow for a larger attendance during the current coronavirus crisis.

The online module 4 course, which takes place from Tuesday 28 April through to 29 September, focuses on contractual mechanisms, project management features of FIDIC's major contract forms, the Red and Yellow Books 2017 Edition. The 20% discount means a saving of 500 Euro off the normal cost of this popular online training course.

Contract managers or administrators will learn the FIDIC best practices for successful project completion by attending this course. The completely updated online course is built upon the new 2017 FIDIC forms, however, the sessions highlight the main differences with the 1999 conditions of contracts.

[Click here for full details of the course and to book a place](#)

Translated FIDIC Covid-19 Guidance for Global Consulting Engineering Business

Important coronavirus (COVID-19) updates



FIDIC's Covid-19 Guidance for Global Consulting Engineering Business has been extremely well received since we launched it just over three weeks ago. The take up from our member associations and the wider industry has been extremely encouraging and now I can report that the guidance is accessible to an even wider audience with the news that the guidance has been translated into Spanish, Farsi and Ukrainian. Many thanks to our member associations Cámara Nacional de Empresas de Consultoría de México (CNEC), the Chamber of Engineers and Architects of Costa Rica (CCAI), the Iranian Society of Consulting Engineers and FIDIC affiliate member ICEG for all their work in translating the guidance.

You can access these translations and the English version of the guidance, along with other useful FIDIC Covid-19 updates on our special FIDIC coronavirus web page.

[Click here to access the FIDIC coronavirus update web page](#)

FIDIC board meeting goes online

The next FIDIC board meeting on Thursday 30 April and Friday 1 May will now take place online using our Zoom video conferencing platform. The meeting was originally scheduled to take place in Washington DC around the same time as US member association ACEC's annual convention but given the Covid-19 restrictions their flagship event has had to be postponed. Our board meeting will go ahead on the planned dates and we have a packed agenda of items to discuss. It will be interesting to see how board members interact online and how the meeting works but I'm confident that we will have a successful meeting. As usual, I will update you all with a report from the board in the week following the meeting.



As ever, I offer best wishes to you and your families.

Stay safe, keep well, look out for each other and keep in touch!



Dr Nelson Ogunshakin FICE, OBE
Chief Executive, FIDIC



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