A Rising Tide Which Lifts All The Boats The Role of Capacity Building in Procurement

Andrew Steeves, M.Sc.Eng, MBA, Engineer in Residence at University of New Brunswick, Canada.









Background -

Founding Principles of FIDIC:

"... charged with promoting and implementing the consulting engineering industry's strategic goals... and to disseminate information and resources of interest to its members." (FIDIC Webpage)

A Core Objective of FIDIC:

"To promote and assist in the worldwide development of a viable consulting engineering industry." (Ibid)

FIDIC Values:

Quality, Integrity, Sustainability



Role of Capacity Building Committee (CBC):

- "To enhance the capacity of its members." (CBC Terms of Reference)
- To be an instrument for meeting FIDIC Principles, delivering FIDIC Objectives and supporting FIDIC Values

In the past the CBC focus has been somewhat narrow:

- Dissemination of new or revised FIDIC policies,
- Training in regions where the consulting engineering industry was struggling or new and
- Training for Young professionals



Growing Pains for CBC:

"Over the years FIDIC has grown in terms of number of members, geographical location and the activities carried out. The growth has posed challenges on the ways and means of effecting Capacity Building activities." (CBC Terms of Reference)

The CBC performed specialized activities which were often directed to a portion of the membership. It was not a tide lifting all the members, only a directed "surge" affecting some.



New Developments:

FIDIC has developed (and is developing) innovative, industry specific business practice documents which are intended to benefit clients and improve operations of all members, regardless of location.

Examples include management systems (quality, integrity, sustainability, risk, environment) and business processes (consultant selection, QBS, insurance, liability, etc.)

These innovative, ground-breaking documents are intended for <u>all members</u> as a means of raising the level of business practices and project delivery.



A Disconnect:

In its current role the CBC performs valuable services to FIDIC but recent developments (industry, technology, society) have led the Executive Committee to review and repurpose the CBC.

The new and expanded CBC is described in a new Terms of Reference.

"... it has become necessary for FIDIC to reconsider the way its Capacity Building activities can be carried in a manner that will address needs of its broad-based groups efficiently and effectively."



New Challenges and a New Mandate for CBC:

- Global challenges demand greater innovation. The CBC will train members in new techniques of technology delivery and business management, educate them on the attendant risks and provide the necessary skills.
- Under procurement reform, defining Quality is a challenge. The CBC will train members in QBS (FIDIC Procurement Guide, QBS Guide, QBS Marketing Guide and DOS guide) and place QBS in the centre of the procurement process.
- The CBC will promote and train members in the best business practices including Sustainability, Integrity, Innovation and Capacity Building and link them to the Quality procurement discussion.



New Challenges and a New Mandate for CBC:

- In its new role, CBC will focus on training requirements for the industry thereby addressing the global skills shortage and helping firms maintain quality of delivery.
- Through the CBC FIDIC will connect Future Leaders to discussions about Thought Leadership thereby anticipating trends affecting society, clients and our industry.
- By disseminating and promoting FIDIC's Guide to Practice the CBC will raise the quality of business practice and project delivery.
- The CBC will be FIDIC's means of informing and training members about **innovations in business practices and technology.**



A New Direction:

The intent is for the CBC to play a central role in FIDIC.

It will serve as the means of disseminating and training members in business standard practices and educating members about new and developing issues affecting society.

The results will be better project delivery, improved sustainability and enhanced business performance.

Not This...



But This...





Questions?

A RISING TIDE/CAPACITY BUILDING