

Good morning conference



Featured Speaker

John Armitt CBE

Geographic Sector Hotspots

John Armitt has become a household name within the industry, and as chairman of the Olympic Delivery Authority a lot of eager anticipation lies on his shoulders. With an impressive display of current progress, there is a growing sense of certainty that the London 2012 Olympic Games will be a great success.

From his previous post as chief executive at Network Rail, Armitt was assigned responsibility for Olympic Games infrastructure in September 2007. He enjoys an exceptional reputation amongst peers, and previous work includes a loyal stint of 27 years at John Laing. He was awarded the CBE for his service to the rail industry in 1997.

Day Two of FIDIC focuses on boosting performances in geographical hotspots; and with a host of projects revolving around the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the English capital is currently undergoing a major engineering operation. For the London 2012 a series of sustainability targets were established by the Olympic Delivery Authority from the outset, addressing both physical and social aspects of the Games during both the construction phase and in Legacy. John Armitt will describe these objectives and the impressive progress made.

Debating a sustainable future

Yesterday's events began in tremendous fashion, with FIDIC chairman John Boyd, Dee Doocey of the London Assembly, Chris Mole MP, Minister for Transport, and HRH The Princess Royal providing the international greetings at the opening ceremony.

The theme for the first day, Industry Challenges and Responses was met by the opinion leaders with insight and expertise. The session, chaired by John Boyd, featured Ian Tyler of Balfour Betty, Keith Clarke of WS Atkins, Brian Bruce of Murray Roberts and Petter Eiken of SKANSKA.

The conference then broke up into seminar sessions.

Seminar 1 was chaired by ICE President Jean Venables. The issue was 'global challenges and responses'. The debate was panelled by Stuart Glenn of PB, Paul Jowitt of ICE, Keith Howells of Mott MacDonald and Tom Smit of Royal Haskoning.

Seminar 2, chaired by John Dionosio of AECOM, discussed 'mobilising engineering resources to respond'. Panellists of the debate included Tony Prior of Halcrow, Gavin Young of PB, Jeannie Edwards of MWH and Pablo Bueno of TYPASA.

Seminar 3 looked into 'future funding of infrastructure'. The debate was chaired by Keith Clarke of Atkins, whilst contributing panellists consisted of Christopher Deacon of Thames Water, Corl Hessler of MCC, Alasdair Macphail of PB and Fola Adeola of Guaranty Trust Bank Plc.

Day one: Key seminar actions

- Work with governments to encourage more interest in engineering careers.
- Start the education process early – increase awareness of, and commitment to, engineering.
- Invest in the right people.
- Engineers need to take initiative in promoting solutions to the world's issues.
- Establish clear communication and collaboration within the engineering profession.
- Encourage more investment in research and development.

Conference Diary

09.00 – 10.30

Geographical Hotspots

Clients' views: Geoff French, chairman, Scott Wilson, UK (ACE Chairman)
John Armitt, chairman, Olympic Delivery Authority, UK
Shirong Li, president, CIOB
AP Mull, CEO, Tata Group, India
Terry Morgan, chairman, Crossrail, UK

11.00 – 12.30

Business Sessions

Regional and Country hotspots
AP Mull, CEO, Tata Group, India
Sector hotspots
David Nickols, president, MWH EMEA
Localised Mega Projects
Peter Wickens, chairman, Mott McDonald

14.00 – 15.30

Business Sessions

A place at the political table
Nick Raynsford, MP
Promoting skills and raising standards
Siv Axelsson, group human resources and communications director, WSP group, Sweden)
A coordinated, unified approach
Akihko Hirotoni, president, ACK group

16.00 – 17.00

Plenary wrap-up session

17.00 – 18.00

Future leaders workshop

Working in the GCC:

Addressing the Legacy of the Credit Crunch



Key speakers include:

Gavin English, Managing Director, WSP
Michael Earp, Executive Director and Major Client Advocate, Finex Global (a Willis Group Holdings division)
Neil Broadhead, Head of Forensic Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Roger Button, Construction and Engineering, Projects and International Arbitration Partner, Shadbolt LLP
Gurjit Singh, Chief Property Development Officer, Sorouh Real Estates

18-19 October, Sheraton Hotel, Abu Dhabi

“The impact of the global credit crisis on the respective GCC economies has been a wake up call for developers, consultants, contractors and governments in the region. Over the past ten months nearly US\$2 trillion worth of construction projects have been suspended across the region, which has had a catastrophic impact on some parts of the industry.

This ACE-organised conference will draw together senior engineering and construction professionals working in the region to explore current and future opportunities in the GCC countries, sharing knowledge and lessons learned on the many challenges they face and unite to resolve some of the issues.

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