



International Business Group meeting - May 2018

Executive summary

The International Business Group (IBG) met for the second time this year at the kind hospitality of WSP at their Grays Inn road offices.

The meeting led by IBG Chair Clive Anderson of WYG opened as usual with a discussion on **Health, Safety and Well-being** and topic such as stress induced illness in the work place and the effect of personal (domestic) issues that manifest as work related stress and also issues of 'client' bullying experienced by member firms with staff on secondment.

Members were mindful of the need to continually improve communications to the wider ACE membership through the IBG portal on the ACE website and this update is part of that process as well as better visibility on Social media (LinkedIn and Twitter in particular) which is something IBG will be progressing with the ACE executive .

Inevitably **GDPR** was discussed the need for ACE members and interested parties to register for the ACE website and Infrastructure Intelligence and 'opt in to GDPR' by **logging onto ACE website and follow the procedure for opting in.**

A list of future **IBG speakers** will be added to the Portal, with a broad invitation for ACE members to attend the Speaker section of the IBG session. This will include the future speaker from DfID – Mark Harvey – DfID Lead Infrastructure Advisors to update IBG on 'How DfID works'.

Some of the wider topics discussed were:

1. Evidence of **discrimination** or prejudicial procedures against UK firms bidding for EU work/contracts post Brexit.
2. **Recruitment** of EU/Overseas Graduates /experienced technical staff leading up to 29 March 2019.
3. ACE relationship with **EFCA** who would like to work with ACE on a strategic alliance.
4. Progress on formation of ACE representative branch in the middle east – **ACE Middle East** registered through the UAE Chamber of Commerce.
5. The impact of the **MDB –Multilateral Development Bank** was discussed. The MDB will adopt NEC3 as model form of contract.



6. IBG noted that ACE is second largest contributor to **FIDIC** and this is a great opportunity for IBG to be more engaged with FIDIC, **Dr. Nelson Ogunshakin's** new role at FIDIC offers an opportunity for ACE members to become more acquainted and engaged with the various subcommittees in FIDIC including:

- Innovation
- Sustainability
- BIM

The **FIDIC Conference (9-12 September 2018 in Berlin)** was discussed and IBG are looking to engage in the FIDIC Young professional forum and IBG will be organising a luncheon in Berlin for 20 to have an informal round table discussion on conference related topics. IBG were also reminded of the **European CIO conference on 20 to 21 June 2018**.

WSP and **IMC Worldwide** tabled a draft overview document of **International Funding Institutions (IFI)**. In addition the broader risks associated with International operations were discussed.

Representatives from **FCO** and **DfIT** gave an overview of how the **Prosperity Fund** is being implemented and the plans for downstream trade opportunities in these emerging markets.

Brexit is a standing agenda item for the IBG and was discussed at length, Members are reminded of the ACE **Effect of EU Migration on the UK Consultancy and Engineering Sector Post-Brexit** report.

In Any Other Business the recent Geo Political risks on trade with Iran, Russia and Saudi Arabia were discussed.

Overall a very broad and informative session which has resulted in a number of actions to inform and communicate to ACE members, full details and minutes of the meeting are available on the ACE IBG portal – thank you once again WSP for their hospitality!