

Executive Summary from ACE IBG September 2018

September's ACE International Business Group meeting was held at MLM Group's office in central London. The meeting started with feedback on the CIO conference which was held in June. Well attended this conference has set in motion an ACE Digital Group.

Brexit – ACE's policy team will be providing guidance notes to members based on the "Chequers Deal" and "No-Deal" and their expected impact on our industry - these are expected to be issued within next couple of weeks.

The **ACE Middle East group** was discussed at length and the ACE Board is continuing to review the delivery of ACE in the Middle East.

EFCA, European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations – the link between ACE and EFCA continues to be progressed and Hannah Vickers, new ACE CEO, will be updating IBG at the next meeting.

Gavin English, Managing Director IMC-Worldwide & FIDIC Executive Committee and Ben Freedman, Director MLM Group - provided an update on the **FIDIC conference** which took place in Berlin in early September this year.

The 2018 International Infrastructure Conference was focussed on Mobility & Smart Infrastructure. Excellent speakers and panel sessions across the two day conference set out views and insights on Technology, Software, Future Cities, project financing, Sustainability and Connectivity. However FIDIC conferences are more than just the conference programme, with 102 member associations, the global network of consulting engineers brings leaders of our industry together from around the globe. This year also saw the commencement of Dr Nelson Ogunshakin as FIDIC CEO. As past ACE-CEO we wish him all the best in his new role and look forward to a close relationship between ACE and FIDIC. We are sure he will bring his energy, enthusiasm and excellent stewardship to the global engineering community.

The next FIDIC International Infrastructure conference takes place in Mexico City, 8-9 September 2019.

Future Guidance Notes on International Project Risks – A proposed list of guidance notes for operating Internationally was reviewed and considered extensive but potentially too broad to bring value to ACE members. The list continues to be reviewed and firstly an approach of providing topics and useful sources to be considered alongside support from members in the legal and insurance sectors who may already cover a number of the topics.

Iran – Anna Braden, Beale & Co gave an update on the risks of operating in Iran. Supported by Beale & Co, a guidance note will be being issued shortly. Further guidance notes on International Project risks are being reviewed by the IBG – more news from the next meeting.

Rebecca Wooding, Infrastructure Advisor, **DFID** – gave an insightful presentation on how DFID works and her role as an Infrastructure Advisor. For further information on DFID and international project opportunities – refer to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development>