



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



e-newsletter

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JULY, 16TH 2011

## Interview with FIDIC President Gregs Tomopolous On What FIDIC Is About .

*Gregs Thomopolous is the President of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers 'FIDIC', (the acronym stands for the French version of the name "Fédération Internationale des Ingénieurs-Conseils") with its secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland. FIDIC represents globally the consulting engineering industry. As such, the Federation promotes the business interest of firms supplying technology-based intellectual services for the built and natural environment. Gregs is also the Chairman & CEO of Stanley Consultants Incorporated in the United States of America.*



Gregs Thomopolous

**E-Newsletter:** *Sir, can you tell us what FIDIC is about?*

**FIDIC President:** FIDIC stands for the French acronym of International Federation of Consulting Engineers. FIDIC has eighty-six countries that are members of FIDIC. ACEN; Association of Consulting Engineers Nigeria is a FIDIC member from Nigeria and only one association is admitted per country. We don't have two associations from one country and also that association must represent companies. So it is like a business association, not individual members. There are no individual members of FIDIC. We represent the business interest of our member firms, for our member associations. FIDIC was founded in 1913. It started in Europe; Belgium and France and today we have the headquarters of FIDIC in Geneva, Switzerland. FIDIC really is the global voice of engineering consultants representing the global interest of engineers that design the built environment. It is best known for construction contract. Many years ago FIDIC developed what was known for a long time as the "Red Book" which is the FIDIC conditions of contract for international construction and it made it easier for contractors who work in various countries to understand the FIDIC condition of contracts. It made it easier and it really helped a lot. So in addition to the FIDIC contracts, FIDIC also develops best practices manuals intense on many topics that helps engineering companies to establish and follow best practices. We have several principles; I will just mention one that is most important to us that is "Quality"; it's very important. Ethics and integrity, sustainability, sustainable designs and off course capacity building is another one where we are promoting the building of local resource of engineering companies to be able to serve in the development of their countries.

**E-Newsletter:** *How has FIDIC fared so far globally; from 1913 to 2011 ?*

**FIDIC President:** It has fared very well. If you look at the fact that

it started with just a few countries in Europe getting together and today we have eighty-six (86) countries. The FIDIC name is a very powerful brand name in the engineering and construction industry worldwide. Everywhere I have travelled to and I have travelled to many countries, FIDIC is the premier organisation that represents engineering and engineering consultants. So it has fared very well. FIDIC is doing very well; it is highly regarded, it is highly esteemed by government in Asia, in the Middle-East, in Europe and Africa. So it has done extremely well.

**E-Newsletter:** *What word of advice do you have for FIDIC member countries and consulting engineering firms that are registered with ACEN?*

**FIDIC President:** Yes, I have two words. The government needs to be more supportive of local companies. There are capabilities; you have the talent, you have the expectations but for some reasons Nigerian firms are not involved at prime and major projects. In fact I don't think they involve them all. So the government needs to start building a sustainable engineering industry locally. From the government side, awarding contracts and design contracts should be given to local companies and also companies should be paid on time. I heard that sometimes companies work for several months and they don't get paid; you can't have a sustainable business if you don't get paid. So that's my word for the clients and government of the public sector. For the companies, I have told them myself; the few things I will urge them to do is; pay attention to the quality of work they do, it is very important. They have to do quality work. Secondly they need to grow bigger. Companies in Nigeria are not big and that might be impeding their ability to do big projects. You need to have companies that can grow in size to several hundreds and may be even thousands in other to be able to participate in the development projects of Nigeria.

**E-Newsletter:** *Thanks u very much sir, we are very grateful for granting us the opportunity to interview you despite the short notice.*

**FIDIC President:** You are welcome.



Gregs Thomopolous & Engr. Otunte Otuneh

## NOTICE

The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch General Meeting will come up on Thursday 28 July 2011 by 5.00pm at Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo secretariat, Water Works Yard, #3 Bernard Carr Street, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.



The Nigerian Society Of Engineers  
*Presents*

## 2011 Engineering Games

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**Date:** 19th - 24th September, 2011

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08033860630, 08127222228, 08033562752, 08023880518, 09 8767053

**Felicitation**

On Monday 11th July 2011, the Governor of Rivers State Rt. Hon Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi inaugurated the Board of Trustees, Rivers State Social Services Contributory Trust Fund. Engr. Dr. Awajioyak A. Ujile FNSE who



Engr. Dr. Awajioyak A. Ujile FNSE

is the Chairman of the NSE PH Branch Engineering Week Committee was sworn in as a member of the Board. Sir, congratulations on this laudable achievement.



The Nigerian Society of Engineers  
PORT HARCOURT BRANCH

The Chairman  
Engr. Dr. A. H. Igoni, msc  
SPECIALLY INVITES

to a **SEMINAR ON:**  
**ELECTRICITY GENERATION & DISTRIBUTION IN RIVERS STATE**

**MAIN SPEAKER**  
**HON. AUGUSTINE O. WOKOCHA**  
Commissioner for Power, Rivers State

**ALSO FEATURING:**  
Presentation by the Managing Director of Cutix Cable Coy. Ltd.

**Date:** Thursday 14th July, 2011 **Time:** 4:00pm  
**Venue:** Engr. Johnson A. Ezeigbo Secretariat, Water Works Yard, #6 Benard Carr Street, Port Harcourt

Engr. Dr. A. H. Igoni, msc | Engr. D. C. Iyemba, msc | Engr. Prudence Igb-Nwaeze, msc  
Event Chairman, 0802722471 | General Secretary, 08023880518 | Technical Secretary, 08033860630

On Thursday July 14 2011, the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt organized a seminar on "Electricity Generation and Distribution in Rivers State". The main speaker during the seminar was the Honourable Commissioner for Power in Rivers State, Hon. Augustine Wokocha who was represented.

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**NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!**

All members of NSE PH should pay their **Annual Branch Dues of N4,500 for Corporate Members and N6,500 for Fellows to UBA ACC. NO: 0234-031-0000962 (Port Harcourt Main Branch)**. Also pay **National Annual Subscription of N7,500.00 for Corporate Members & N9,500 for Fellows** directly to **AFRIBANK ACC No. 1420202215613** & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made at the Bank