

Address by Mr. Akihito Hirotsu, The President, FIDIC ASPAC Grouping

Respected Chairman of the Session
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for your introduction. Greetings. I am very much honored and privileged to extend my sincere congratulation on this occasion of the conference on Making Globalization Work – The Role of Consultants, which has attracted such a large attendance from all over the world. I would also like to express my deepest appreciate to the conference Secretariat and everyone in Board for their dedication in bringing this conference to reality.

Today I am addressing as Chairman of ASPAC, ASPAC is, Ladies and Gentlemen, the acronym for Asia Pacific Regional Group of FIDIC Member Associations. FIDIC is worldwide organization of consultants with member associations coming from approximately 80 countries and economies. The activities of FIDIC region is primarily by volunteers, every member associations and individuals are in very strong belief that making FIDIC as our organization stronger can bring our own profession more recognized in the world. In this way, FIDIC can have clear message to all the clients in the world to be heard.

Taking some instances, there are contract documents which have been created by FIDIC and have been in use from the past. Now these documents have become important documents in the world and international financial institutions over the world. They have decided to adopt these documents. However, in order to make the latest contract documents more popular, FIDIC has been publishing many guidelines, manuals, training kits and so on. Many member associations and us, consultants, are utilizing all these materials published by FIDIC to create more job opportunities. Just FIDIC helps us and we also help FIDIC to become stronger primarily by voluntary basis. We are also making strong effort to educate younger generation professionals.

Today, we have many members of what we call young professional forum. May I ask those members attending here today to stand up and show to our attendance your presence, please. Thank you very much. ASPAC has today 19 member associations and soon to exceed very high level of 20 which number is almost a quarter of 80 member associations of FIDIC itself. The number itself is still small but behind us we have all the other member associations to support us and assist whenever necessity arises. Talking, for example, about climate changes affecting people, plants and animals, scientists have observed that some changes are already occurring. To control this stretch, wider range of skills is demanded to consultants. Our roles are changing. Lately, beyond the consulting engineering, extending to the solution of environment and social progress, Ladies and gentlemen, before ending my address, I very much hope that this conference will be the opportunity for international community to become a global partnership to tackle these challenges with all relevant stakeholders including the private sector and the civic society.

Thank you.