



UIPE President Eng. Vincent Ochwo



UIPE TA Team Leader Dr Anton Olivier

# The Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers benefits from a 2-year European Union Technical Assistance Project

The European Union Delegation to Uganda has allocated funds for a two-year technical assistance (TA) project to support UIPE. The 'Support to the Local Construction Industry Project' is being implemented by IMC Worldwide. IMC have extensive worldwide experience in capacity building of institutions in the infrastructure sector.

The IMC Worldwide TA team is made up of a Team Leader, Branding Expert, Career Development Expert and Debt Collection Expert. The core team is supplemented by other non-key experts who are called on as the need arises.

Dr Anton Olivier is the team leader of the European Union's TA to the Local Construction Industry that is working with UIPE over the next two years

UIPE is the organisation that vets engineers before they are registered with the government's Engineers Registration Board. But as Dr Olivier points out, the TA is focussed on increasing UIPE's relevance to the entire engineering sector, and so hopes to benefit technicians and technologists as well as university graduates.

The overall purpose of the TA is to help Ugandans in the engineering profession become more competitive. At the moment there is an imbalance in the market: although around 2,000 home-grown engineers, technicians and technologists emerge from colleges and universities each year, the industry still finds it hard to recruit staff with the right kind of

experience and skills. The aim of the TA is to find ways to address that gap.

By the end of the two-year project, UIPE should be in a better position to give member engineers, technologists and technicians a helping hand from the time they start this specialised study to the time they get their first job and become established. The TA team's Professional Career Development Specialist, Jim Clarke, says, "We're making the link between industry and the big pool of engineering professionals so that through UIPE they find support they need to respond to what the industry is looking for."

The TA to UIPE is funded to the tune of €1.3m, and is one of four such institutional development projects the EU supports. According to the EU Project Manager in Uganda, Simon Muliisa, taken together the four projects make up a €12 million intervention. This includes technical

assistance to the Ministry of Works and Transport, the Uganda National Roads Authority and the Uganda Road Fund.

Mrs Immaculate Makwo Akello is UIPE's Executive Secretary, she runs the small team that makes it all happen for UIPE members. She is looking forward to big improvements to the services that UIPE can offer its members.

She says: "Our Secretariat is the first point of contact for our 4000+ members, but we realise that there are many more professionals out there that could benefit from what UIPE offers. So we are hoping that the new strategy and business plan that the TA team is helping us develop will further strengthen UIPE so that everyone in the engineering profession finds us relevant."

Thanks to the TA Project, Mrs Akello is also expecting changes in the





The EU Support to the Local Construction Industry project will help young engineering professionals on their career paths

website and back-office processes so that members can apply for membership and enrol in training programmes online. And, in October, a new state-of-the-art Learning Resource Centre will open at the UIPE HQ in Kyambogo, Kampala that will allow members to book time on high-end design computers as well as access online technical journals. The UK's Royal Academy of Engineering has also partnered with UIPE so it can access further funds to provide the specialist software and knowledge resources needed to keep Ugandan engineers abreast of international developments.

UIPE President, Eng Vincent Ochwo, sums it all up: "Thanks to the TA Project, UIPE is increasing its relevance to all professionals working in engineering. As the only member organisation for the entire profession in Uganda, we have a responsibility to help build careers. We are hoping that the TA Project will lift UIPE to a new level, so that we can play our part in ensuring home-grown talent is ready and able to contribute to Uganda's future."



Infrastructure projects need engineers, technicians and technologists with the right skills and experience.

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