

INSIGHT

BEST IN AFRICA

Afcons wins Africa Best Employer Brand Award



AFRICA
BEST EMPLOYER BRAND AWARDS 2019.
4th December, 2019 | The Westin Turtle Bay Resort & Spa, Mauritius
BEST EMPLOYER BRAND AWARD
Presented to
Afcons Infrastructure Limited



AFRICA
BEST EMPLOYER BRAND AWARDS 2019.
BEST EMPLOYER BRAND AWARD

Presented to
Afcons Infrastructure Limited

4th December, 2019 | The Westin Turtle Bay Resort & Spa, Mauritius

Aasif Sayed
Project Head
CHRO Asia

Strategic Partners

Create
Dr. R. L. Bhatia
Founder, World CSR Day &
World Sustainability

Hosted by
WORLD HRD COUNCIL

REWIND A TOTAL RECALL OF 2019
 **PG 3**

Exciting times ahead!

Happy New Year and warm greetings as we begin 2020! An eventful year has passed and a new one has come. Welcoming the New Year, let's look at the highlights of the past year. In 2019, Afcons achieved several milestones, and I would like to thank all of you for your contribution and support.

Afcons made significant progress in Metro infrastructure sector. We bagged three new jobs taking our Metro portfolio to eight Indian cities. We completed the base slab construction at Howrah Metro Station which is India's deepest underground Metro Station. We finished Reach-3 of Nagpur Metro, including the complex Sitabuldi Metro Station, in record time.

Gopalpur and Kandla ports, constructed by Afcons, were inaugurated and have become fully operational. The Annaram barrage, which is part of the world's largest multi-stage and multi-purpose lift irrigation scheme, was dedicated to the people of Telangana. The bold and ambitious project will provide water to 45 lakh acres of agricultural land and is a lifeline for countless villagers. We are proud to be part of such pathbreaking mega projects that are redefining India.

The year gone by also had its own set of challenges. The domestic road (NHAI EPC, and, HAM) segment virtually came to a standstill. Many big-ticket projects like river-linking, high-speed rail didn't move at the expected pace. Most importantly, the apathy among banks to fund infrastructure sector became a major roadblock.

Internationally, we continue to enjoy a growing African portfolio. While Afcons has received repeat orders in existing countries, we're expecting more jobs in newer geographies from the continent.

We will continue to maximise local employment and skill development, including supporting local communities, in Africa. Our efforts have drawn attention and appreciation. We were humbled to receive the Africa Best Employer Brand award for 2019.

Exciting times are ahead at Afcons!

I wish you and your family a happy and fruitful 2020.



K Subramanian

making headlines

Inauguration of Volta Bridge construction

The Honourable President of Ghana His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Afuko-Addo commemorated the inauguration of Volta Rail Bridge construction on November 5, 2019. The bridge is part of Ghana's biggest railway project, Tema-



Mpakadan Railway Project, which is being built by Afcons. A senior leadership team from Shapoorji Pallonji and Afcons, including Mr S Kuppaswamy, Advisor - Group Finance & Special Projects, Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Private Ltd, Mr S Paramasivan, Managing Director, Afcons, and Mr Akhil Gupta, Executive Director - Operations and BU Head - Surface Transport, Afcons, were present at the event. The senior leaders assessed the construction of railway tracks, Mpakadan Rail Head sections and Volta Bridge and expressed satisfaction over their progress. They also visited the Sleeper Plant that has been set up exclusively for the project. **(Full story on Page 4-5)**

Work begins on Kanpur Metro

Honourable Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the construction of Kanpur Metro Rail Project on November 15, 2019, at IIT-Kanpur Main Gate.



Honourable Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs

Mr Hardeep Singh Puri and other senior officials were also present at the event. Executive Vice President and BU Head Urban Infrastructure Mr R Anantakumar and Project Manager Mr Sanjay Kumar Singh represented Afcons at the event.

Afcons is constructing a 9-km viaduct along priority section that also includes IIT- Kanpur, Kalyanpur Railway Station, SPM Hospital, CSJM University, Gurudev Chauraha, Geeta Nagar, Rawatpur Railway Station, Lala Lajpat Rai Hospital and Moti Jheel stations.

Ministry top brass at Tanzania project

The top officials of Ministry of Water & Irrigation, Tanzania, visited the Water Supply Pipeline Project in October 2019. Ms Nadhifa S Kemikimba, Director - Ministry of Water & Irrigation, and her team and Mr Jumaa Hamidu Aweso, Deputy Minister of Water & Irrigation and Minister of Parliament, visited the project separately to review its progress.

OFFICE ADDRESS

Afcons House, 16, Shah Industrial Estate, Veera Desai Road, Azad Nagar, Andheri (W), Mumbai - 400 053, Maharashtra, India.

Tel No. +91-22-67191000

Fax. +91-22-2673 0047/ 2673 0026

Website. www.afcons.com

CIN No. U45200MH1976PLC019335

EDITORIAL

Bhakti Prasad, Krishnakumari C, Bivabasu Kumar, Chandrika Sen

REWIND

As we step into the New Year, let's recall the moments that made 2019 memorable

OCT-DEC

Ghana Prez cuts sod for Volta Rail Bridge construction
 UP CM inaugurates construction of Kanpur Metro Rail Project



JAN-MAR

Full & Final
 Final stretch of Chennai Metro Phase-1 inaugurated
Port Power
 Gopalpur Port and berths at Deendayal Port Trust, Kandla, inaugurated
CIDC Double
 Awards for Agra Lucknow Expressway and BMCT projects
PRCI Awards
 Afcons' project firms win PRCI awards



Breakthrough!
 Simultaneous breakthroughs of the east and west-bound tunnels for Ahmedabad Metro project
Momentous Mike
 Inaugural MIKE Award at Global, Asia and India levels
Metro Record
 Nagpur Metro (Reach-3) completed in 28 months
EPC World Awards
 Sitabuldi Metro Station in 20 months
A First
 BMCT project gets honoured at 8th EPC World Awards
 Afcons becomes first infra company to be certified for ISO 45001:2018 (Occupational Health & Management System)

IGBC Rating
 IGBC Platinum rating for nine Chennai Metro stations
O&G Project
 Two new projects from ONGC
Smart City
 Maiden Smart City job in Tirupati
New Geography
 Container terminal job in Mauritania

APR-JUNE

Annaram Delight
 Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme inaugurated
HSE Award
 Afcons feted as best HSE Construction Company 2019
New Geography
 Entry into Ivory Coast with marine job at San Pedro

Kuwait Milestone
 A balance cantilever precast segment erection done using segment lifter for bridges with curves and super elevation in Kuwait, for first time
Dubai Project
 Surface transport job - from RTA
Nagpur Metro
 Job of constructing depot facilities and stations
LNG Tanks
 EPC job for LNG storage tanks at Chhara

JUL-SEPT

Infra Award
 Runner-up award at Construction Week India Awards 2019

Pandoh Pride
 2.9km-long road tunnel in HP completed before time
Chhara Job
 Marine Job at Chhara
Mumbai Metro
 Bags Mumbai Metro project
Super-Seven
 Seven projects win International Safety Award from Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA)

Best in Africa
 Afcons wins Africa Best Employer Brand Award 2019
Nagpur Metro
 Job for elevated Metro stations in Reach-2

I&D Success
 Two awards at L&D World Summit & Awards 2019
Metro Buzz
 Nagpur Metro (Reach-3) wins 2019 Dun & Bradstreet Awards
Catching Up
 Afcons named Second Fastest Construction Company at Construction World Awards

Bangalore Metro
 Afcons wins job for underground Metro works
Howrah Hurrah
 Base slab of Howrah Metro Station, 30m below ground, completed



AN AFRICAN TRACK RECORD

Afcons ventures into maiden turnkey railway job; Prepares Ghana for its first multi-modal transportation system

When President of Ghana His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo unveiled the plaque for construction work to start on Volta Rail Bridge, at Ogoli, in November last year, there was widespread jubilation among residents of the Volta region. In his speech, the President promised a glorious future with economic development and making Juapong an important railway town. The Volta Rail Bridge is part of the Tema-Mpakadan railway under the Ghana-Burkina Faso inter connectivity railway project, and, Afcons is in charge of constructing this expansive railway route.



The 97.7 km railway route between Tema and Mpakadan is Ghana's largest and most ambitious railway project. It will pass through the Greater Accra, Eastern, Volta, Oti and northern regions. It is part of the 1000 km Ghana-Burkina Faso railway network that will link the two west African countries and improve trade relations. Afcons commenced work in 2018 and is working at a frenetic pace to meet the September 2020 deadline, a promise made to deliver the project 10 months ahead of schedule.

Project of Structures

The Tema-Mpakadan project is Afcons's first turnkey railway project on EPC basis. The project involves over 65 lakh cum of earthwork, construction of 159 structures, including 120 box culverts, 22 Road under Bridges, 11 Road over Bridges and four bridges, seven passenger stations, installing signalling and tele-communication system, railhead facilities at Tema and Mpakadan, maintenance facilities for loco and wagon at Tema. Besides these, the scope includes capacity building wherein railway staff have to be trained on operations and maintenance.

Afcons has conducted a three-week study tour for select officials from Ghana Rail Development Authority (GRDA), and, a 10-week training on track technology for select GRDA track engineers at Konkan Railway Training Centre, Bengaluru Metro, Delhi Metro, RDSO, and, other Indian Railway workshops.

Local Employment

In bid to boost local employment and keep its promise to bring new technology into the country, Afcons established a Sleeper Plant using long line method for the first time.

"Considering the prospects and opportunities in the railway sector in Ghana, we took a bold decision to set up our own sleeper plant at Shai Hill. We have an experienced railway team and we have been producing almost 720 sleepers per day. A total of 75,000 sleepers have been produced in five months, and, we'll achieve the targeted number of 1,94,000 by March," says Mr Udai Veer Singh, Project Manager & Vice President (projects).

Around 80 workers work daily at the Sleeper Plant of which 41 are Ghanaians. More than 80 per cent of the workforce in the entire project are locals. "We are extremely

fortunate to have a dedicated team. More than 1,000 Ghanaian workers are employed in various capacities in the project. The locals are hardworking, and, some have been instrumental in liaising with state agencies, managing local communities, handling compliance issues etc. We have experienced Ghanaian workers in our survey and track works team. This project wouldn't have been possible without the overall support of locals inside and outside the project," says Singh.

On the Fast Track

The clock is ticking for Afcons, and, as of January 2020, the project team has completed 65 per cent of overall project work - which includes 95 per cent earthwork. Track laying works are carried out simultaneously so



Ghana President His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo takes stock of the project

This bridge is challenging because of unpredictable geological conditions in the Volta. Piling works are in progress and pile foundation goes as deep as 70m. We're using raker piles in the foundation for additional lateral strength. We're confident of completing this bridge by September 2020," says Singh.

Multi-modal Transportation

The Tema-Mpakadan railway

RAIL LIFTING MACHINE

Rail Lifting Machine is a first-of-its-kind fixture designed and fabricated in a way that it can do double the quantity of work in comparison to manual rail lifting. The maintenance cost of the machine is negligible, and it can be handled efficiently by just five people as against 25 workmen required to do manual lifting.

CONCRETE VIBRATORS

Afconians indigenously developed an equipment comprising three electric vibrators installed clockwise, whose frequency can be adjusted as per requirement within the fabricated frame. This was done to ensure proper compaction for the sleepers and less rejections with no honeycombing, at minimal cost.

CRANE ON TRAILER

A swinging beam fitted with sliding chain and pulley arrangement mounted on a trailer is unique to this project. This innovation has reduced unloading time. It is convenient and does not need additional resources such as crane or hydra.



that no time is wasted and almost 75 per cent of structural work is completed.

Volta Challenge

In the entire project the Volta Bridge is the biggest and most critical structure. There will be five spans of sixty meters each with six foundations. Two foundations are on land and the remaining four foundations are on Volta river.

"We're constructing a 300m long bridge over river Volta which is in the downstream of the Akosombo dam and upstream of Kpong dam.

project is envisaged as a modern rail link that will not only benefit passenger and goods transport but also revitalise the rail and water transport systems with social and economic benefits.

The multi-modal transportation system will see goods being transported from Tema to Mpakadan by rail, from Mpakadan to Buipe through ships, and, from Buipe, the goods and containers will further travel by road. This will ease out the pressure on Tema port and usher in an economic boom in the country.



WALL OF UNITY AT MAURITANIA

After Ghana, Zambia and Agelega, the Mauritania project team put up their own Wall of Unity (pic above) at the site in November 2019. As a celebration of diversity and vibrance, the team members painted the wall with their palms coloured in the colours of Mauritania and India flags. It was preceded by an orientation programme on Afcons DNA, and, HR for Non-HR.

CHHARA PORT SIGNING CEREMONY

A signing ceremony for EPC of marine facilities for LNG import, storage and regasification terminal at Chhara Port between HSEPL and Afcons was held on November 4, 2019. Mr S Baitalik, Vice President-Projects, represented HSEPL, while Mr Avantsa Ramanujarao, Project Controller, led the Afcons team also comprising Mr Yoganad M, Project Manager, and Ms Madhuri Jadhav, Project Coordinator.



DIRECTOR MARINE AND INDUSTRIAL AT BANGLADESH SITE

Mr Gokul Javalikar, Director & BU Head (Marine & Industrial Structures), visited EPC jetty project, Bangladesh from October 31 – November 2, 2019. During his visit, an open-house was organised with the site team and he motivated the team to complete the project on time.

EVC, MD VISIT MG SETU

Executive Vice Chairman Mr K Subramanian and Managing Director Mr S Paramasivan (pic below) visited MG Setu project, Patna, on November 19-20, 2019. They were accompanied by Executive Director-Operations and BU Head (Surface Transport) Mr Akhil Gupta. They appreciated the efforts of the project team and encouraged everyone to keep the momentum going for finishing the work on time.



new projects

METRO JOB IN BANGALORE

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited has awarded Afcons design and construction works of underground structures and three underground stations for Reach-6 of Bangalore Metro Rail project, Phase-2.

community development

Bangladesh: On the occasion of the 7th Raising Day of Bangladesh-India on November 4, 2019, blood donation camps were held at Dhaka Tongi Joydevpur Railway Project and Bangladesh Jetty project sites. Afcons staff and workmen turned up in large numbers to donate blood.



Ivory Coast: Afconians from Dry Bulk Cargo Terminal Project, San Pedro, Ivory Coast, took part in two cleaning drives in San Pedro. As part of the 'I love my city, I sanitise' initiative by the Mayor, Afconians cleaned the Regional Hospital Center and the Town Hall. Afconians' efforts were appreciated by the Mayor and other officials.



Mauritania: A blood donation camp themed 'Save Blood, Save Life' was organised by the Afcons team at Nouakchott Port project. It was in collaboration with Centre National de Transfusion Sanguine (CNTS).

Pandoh Tunnel: Afconians at Pandoh Tunnel Project organised 'Say No To Plastic' campaign at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Thalot, in October. The students and others were informed about plastic pollution by the Afcons' team and a cleanliness drive was also organised. A pop quiz was also conducted and the winners were given with prizes at the end of the event.



inconversation

SUBRATA BANDOPADHYAY

“Adding value to Lusaka’s infrastructure development”

Amidst the hustle-bustle along the roads around Makeni Flyover, Afcons teams deftly continue the construction activities of what is possibly the first flyover in Africa. “We have ensured, at no point, traffic movement stops because of our construction activities. Everything has been planned in a way that people of Lusaka aren’t inconvenienced,” says Mr Subrata Bandyopadhyay, Project Manager, Lusaka City Roads Decongestion Project in Zambia.

The 930m flyover is part of one of the country’s most ambitious road projects. “By introducing the concept of flyovers in Lusaka, the Ministry of Local Government has taken a step towards diversifying and adding value to infrastructure development of the country,” he adds.

A project of this magnitude is the need of the hour for Lusaka. The city is Southern Africa’s economic hub and plays a

vital role in connecting and enhancing businesses across the borders. Apart from Makeni Flyover, Afcons is rehabilitating / widening 68.4kms of lane roads, constructing 26.8kms of bidirectional dedicated bus lanes, three flyovers and five at-grade junctions.

The company is also constructing a building for the Ministry of Local Government, which sprawls over 66500 sq. feet. “Lusaka is a city that rests on the ideology of positive adaption. We have been able to introduce several concepts such as flyovers and bidirectional dedicated bus lanes here thus reinforcing the aim of the project which is to boost public transport,” explains Mr Bandyopadhyay.

The project comes with its own share of challenges. It has been designed in a way that traffic movement is not hampered, requires minimal land acquisition and leads to least disturbances related to construction. “Like

most urban infrastructure development works, initially, land acquisition had to be handled with utmost sensitivity. Also, Zambia being a land-locked country, mobilisation of resources had to be planned meticulously,” he recounts.

This is also Mr Bandopadhyay’s first project on foreign grounds. “This has been a great learning experience for me, both professionally and personally. I am immensely proud as well as humbled to be part of a team that is so motivated and gifted,” he says. The team is already moving close to nine months ahead of schedule, thereby maintaining Afcons’ track record. This project is a clear sign that Zambia is open to new businesses, amalgamation of cultures and the latest technologies.

Mr Subrata Bandopadhyay is the Project Manager, Lusaka City Roads Decongestion Project, Zambia

hrcorner

Soft Skills Training

First time Manager Training – Batch II: The second batch of First Time Manager training programme was held at Afcons HO in October 2019. The objective of the training is to sensitise the participants on the expectations and challenges faced by first time manager considering the new level of responsibility.

Presentation Skills Training: A two-day training programme on presentation skills was organised at Chenab and KRCL bridges sites in October 2019. The training was conducted by external faculty and its objective was to help participants design and deliver high impact presentations.

Workshop on Negotiation Skills: A two-day workshop on negotiation skills was organised at Afcons HO in November 2019. The objective of the workshop is to help participants understand the basic concepts and styles of effective negotiation, enabling them to identify and resolve the obstacles in achieving desired results.

life@afcons It’s Santa time!



POSTCARDS FROM ZAMBIA

Stationery donation at Human Service Trust School



Women’s Day celebrations



Aid for children at Care for Kids Orphanage



Sports day at site



Cycle donation



Wall of Unity



Walkathon



AWARDS



Best in Africa

Afcons won the Africa Best Employer Brand Award at the sixth Africa Best Employer Brand Awards 2019. Mr Satish Tengeri, Executive Vice President (Operations), collected the award at a ceremony, in Mauritius, on December 4, 2019. Afcons is the only infrastructure company, in 2019, to receive the award instituted by the World HRD Congress

Construction World Awards



Afcons Infrastructure Limited received double honours at the 17th Construction World Awards. Managing Director Mr S Paramasivan accepted the recognition for Top-Ranked International Contractors by ENR (Engineering News-Record) and the award for the Second Fastest Construction Company (Large Category) at a ceremony held in New Delhi, on October 15, 2019.



D&B Award for Nagpur Metro

Nagpur Metro Reach-3 won the Dun & Bradstreet Awards in Best Railways and Metro Project category in a ceremony held in New Delhi on November 20, 2019. Mr VJ Pai, Project Manager, Nagpur Metro Reach-3, and Mr BK Arora, General Manager, Business Development, collected the award on behalf of Afcons. This is the third year in a row Afcons won this prestigious award.



ALERTS

Afcons now has a dedicated Youtube channel. Scan the code to visit the channel and stay tuned with the latest videos

Disclaimer: Afcons Insight is for private circulation only. Content from this publication should not be reproduced, in part or in whole, without the consent of the editorial team.

