



## SESSION 2: ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS

Panel 1 / 3 pm: Connecting Communities Through Robust Stakeholder Engagement

**Presenter:** Oscar Cortes  
Vice President of International Relations  
FEMCIC

**BIO:** Highly experience Binational (+ 30 years) Consultant Project Manager Engineer with history of effective leadership for major Civil Engineering initiatives, direction, and economic feasibility studies and stewardship of large Infrastructure capital projects and PPPs in Mexico and USA. Experience in Sustainable Infrastructure Development and PPP for Water Desalination, Road Infrastructure, Renewable Energy,

Mass Transit and Social P3 projects.

- Vice President for International Relations, Federación Mexicana de Colegios de Ingenieros Civiles (FEMCIC) & Chairman Bi-national Infrastructure and PPP's.
- Tijuana Economic Development Council, Infrastructure Advisory Chair.
- Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from San Diego State University (SDSU).
- Master's degree in Economic Valuations from Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC).
- Post-Graduate Degree Specialist in Public-Private Partnership Projects from Instituto Tecnológico y Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM).
- Post-Graduate Degree in Urban Planning from Universidad Iberoamericana.
- Post-Graduate Specialist Degree Project Management from Sacramento State U.
- Society for the Advancement of Value Engineering (SAVE) Certification.
- World Association of P3 Units & Professionals (WAPPP) member & leadership council committee for North America (Mexico).
- APWA, International Committee member representing Mexico (FEMCIC).
- FEMCIC, Country Chairman representative at the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) & Professional Certification ENVISION SP.
- Member at American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).
- Member at Dispute Review Board Foundation (DRBF).
- Construction Contract Manager and Construction Claims Engineer Manager at California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).
- President for the San Diego Chapter for the Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG).
- Advisory Board member at International Sustainable Resilience Center (ISRC).
- Independent Consultant Engineer in Project Management, Construction

Claims Engineering Disputes and Public Private Partnership Advisory.

### **Presentation: Stakeholder Engagement and Infrastructure: Integrating Best Practices for Construction**

In today's competitive construction market, sustainability is often used as a catchword as well as a watchword. Compared to other sectors, research found that little systematic work on the implementation of sustainability agenda has been done in the infrastructure industry. The lack of common understanding among various stakeholders in infrastructure projects is generally perceived to be the primary cause. Opportunistically, the application of sustainable principles in overall infrastructure development and related businesses is surely an advantaged differentiator in the market. More importantly, it also brings

about social and environmental benefits. To do so, however, the different levels and types of interests and the needs of various project stakeholders in the infrastructure projects must be looked into and understood. On-going methods identify and integrate the different perceptions and priority needs of the stakeholders, along with identifying issues that impact on achieving sustainability objectives, in order to develop integrated decision-making guidelines for improving sustainability outcomes in infrastructure projects. As an integral of such methods are public meetings on the definitions of sustainability and project expectations to the infrastructure project stakeholders in community and project team. Achieving sustainability-related targets in construction projects is increasingly becoming a key performance driver. Yet sustainability is a complex concept in projects and there are many diverse stakeholders. Some stakeholders are generally recognized as important, i.e., the client and main contractor, yet there are others not always perceived as such and whose absence from the decision-making processes may result in a failure to address sustainability issues. Hence there is a need for a systematic approach to engage with stakeholders with high salience in relation to sustainability