

Prospects, Challenges and Responsibilities of Young Surveyors; the African Perspective

Israel Taiwo and Yusuf Aro-Lambo (Nigeria)

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SUMMARY

The role of the young in any organization remains pivotal to the success of the present and the sustainability of the future of the society. In Africa, where there exists a youth bulge of about 60%, the role of the youth is more crucial to development. Yet, it is worthy of note that in many places in Africa, the number of older professionals actively involved within the surveying profession is more compared to youths. The FIG-YSN is concerned with objectives such as; improving the number of young professionals participating within the FIG, helping young professionals in the beginning of their careers with contacts, and increasing co-operation between the commissions and the students and young professionals' network. These and other youth based roles are responsibilities needed to be championed in the African context. The FIG and its partners have extended many of its services to aid and spur African Young Surveyors into action, most importantly, the STDM training which has twice been facilitated with special consideration to Africans to aid pro-poor land management among several other benefits. At various national levels within Africa, there had been activities, success stories and challenges. Amidst like and unique challenges and encouragement experienced by the young within different countries of Africa, which has led to the strong existence and silent existence of the Network amidst African countries; issues such as starting-off, acceptance, planning, support, and other factors have been identified to necessitate the current state of the network. In order to further the dynamic objectives of the FIG and the FIG-YSN within Africa and consequently globally, approaching the situation in a holistic manner is imperative. This was identified at the meeting of representatives of African Young Surveyors held at Addis Ababa Ethiopia on the 9th of November 2014, during the STDM 'Training of Trainer' workshop. The idea is to leverage on the similar and dissimilar challenges and success stories identified amidst national networks of the African Nation, so as to par the African network with other active continents. This paper is a diagnosis into Young Surveyors Networks within the African Nation, identifying the prospects and challenges of the network by examining views, scenes, predictions, projections and visions gathered from various African countries and as well identifying responsibilities that need to be engaged. Agents of change, rooms for improvement, and possibilities of partnership were identified. This is a call to obligation, collaborative participation, increased and in-depth integration within and between "YSN Africa" and other similar networks and commissions within the FIG and around the world.