

Accreditation and regulatory frameworks for a successful and sustainable geospatial profession in The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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SUMMARY

An initiative led by the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (GEOSA) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, working with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS, UK), seeks to establish an accreditation framework for land surveyors.

The program is designed to set professional accreditation and registration requirements that meet international standards while reflecting national priorities.

To achieve this, a range of assessment methodologies (e.g. competency-based evaluations, technical examinations, and structured interviews) will be incorporated to ensure rigor, transparency, and fairness within the accreditation rules and requirements. This will set the expectation for initial accreditation.

These requirements will be supported by a strong regulatory framework model ensuring ongoing professional practice standards, and a supportive, proactive approach to the regulation of professional practice.

International benchmarking is a key aspect of the approach, evaluating geospatial practice in a number of countries and existing regulatory systems. A comparative review of eight jurisdictions (KSA, UK, USA, New Zealand, South Africa, Malaysia, UAE, Oman) across 13 thematic areas helped to identify common areas of practice, different approaches, and items of best practice.

Additionally, the process will align to recognised international accreditation and certification standards, e.g. ISO:17024.

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Governance structures will maintain quality assurance and oversee compliance; and an underpinning education standards framework will ensure routes to professional accreditation are accessible, regardless of prior education or experience.

This accreditation regime ensures that qualifications are robust, valid, fair, and internationally recognised. The engagement of international expertise reinforces transparency, accountability, and excellence within the surveying profession: demonstrating the global interconnectedness of the geospatial profession.

Formal permission from GEOSA to present this paper at conference will be required.

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