

FIG Young Surveyors African Network Report

Young Surveyors African Meeting 2018

FIG African Regional Network Meeting





FIG YOUNG SURVEYORS AFRICAN MEETING

**Fitting Africa's Needs:
The Young Surveyor in a Smart World**

Gaborone, 16th October, 2018

Held in connection with the 2018 FIG African Regional Network Meeting

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YOUNG SURVEYORS NETWORK AFRICA

FIG Young Surveyors African Meeting 16th October, 2018 Gaborone, Botswana



Hello – Dumelang – Makadini - Molweni – Apah – Mwaramutse – Omagane

We would like to show our appreciation to all who participated in the Young Surveyors African Meeting and the 2018 FIG African Regional Network Meeting in Gaborone, Botswana.

The theme of the FIG ARN, “Geo-Spatial Technology Impacts: Shifting the Paradigm in Africa”, showed the clear goal and an eye for the future. This gave the opportunity for young surveyors to think about how we can apply our energy, knowledge and skills to future technological possibilities in meeting the needs of the African Continent and the world.

The FIG ARN 2018 was a very successful event, with young surveyors being very much engaged through out the programme. It involved two very interactive and informative panel discussions on “The role of the African governments in advancing Fit for Purpose Geo-Spatial Technologies” and “Developing African Smart Cities and Communities”. The FIG Young Surveyors African Network also met to discuss the future of our Network, and how to better create more cohesion among the African Young Surveyors.

In all, the three days demonstrated growing need for the involvement of young surveyors, not just as surveyors of the future, but as change makers of today.

Kwabena Obeng Asiamah (Ghana)

Lore Kelvin Sereetsi (Botswana)

Kingsley Yaw Sam (Ghana)

Eva-Maria Unger, Chair FIG YSN (The Netherlands)



YOUNG SURVEYORS NETWORK AFRICA

About the Young Surveyors African Meeting

On a warm bright sunny day in Gaborone, Botswana, 32 young surveyors from 8 different countries gathered at the Tlotlo Hotel and Conference Centre to share, brainstorm, explore, and re-orient, from today's Geo-spatial Africa, into the future of the continent.

The Young Surveyors African Meeting (YSAM) was held on the 16th of October, 2018, prior to the FIG African Regional Network Meeting 2018. The theme of the YSAM was “Fitting Africa’s Needs: The Young Surveyor in a Smart World”. This theme provided the opportunity for several presentations from young and seasoned surveyors all over African continent, with the focus on the role of the young surveyor.

The YSAM also provided a unique setting for the Young Surveyors African Network to chart out its future course as a regional network.

FIG Young Surveyors African Meeting 2018



Opening Session

The meeting opened with welcome messages from the representatives of the Botswanan Institute of Geomatics (BIG), the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), FIG Foundation, and the FIG Young Surveyors' Network.

The Botswanan Institute of Geomatics (BIG) offered its warm welcome to the Botswana and Gaborone in particular, through its President, **Jakoba Kgopolelo**, a Young Surveyor. This was followed by warm greetings from the FIG, through FIG Vice President, **Dianne Dumashie**, who talked about the importance of the involvement of young surveyors in the FIG, and the overall goal of the FIG. She wished the Young Surveyors a fruitful meeting and nice stay in Gaborone, and encouraged our involvement in the FIG African Regional Network (ARN) Meeting.

The FIG Foundation through its President, **John Hohol**, also sent their [goodwill message](#) through a presentation made on their behalf by Kwabena Asiana, as he could not be at the meeting. He highlighted the contribution of the FIG Foundation to the FIG YSN since 2006, awarding 121 grants worth **€265,000 (\$310,000)** in total, including five grants for this YSAM.

The FIG YSN Chair **Eva-Maria Unger**, and Vice Chair (Administration) and Chair-elect **Melissa Harrington** also both sent their warm felicitations through video messages ([Eva's message](#) and [Melissa's message](#)) to the meeting attendees. The final [message](#) was from the FIG YSN representative, **Kwabena Asiana**. Here the attendees were encouraged to take full part in the YSAM and the ARN meeting. The 2014/18 workplan and its results thus far were also presented to them.



Keynote Session

The [keynote](#) for the meeting was delivered by **Lopang Maphale** on behalf of **Kwame Tenadu Snr**, Chair of FIG Commission 8 and Managing Director of Udanet Group, Ghana.

The Keynote was on the topic “Connecting Smart Technologies to the Societal Needs of the African Continent”. He talked about the emerging (smart) technologies of today, and the African continent as a whole.

We learnt about the linkages between smart technologies and the societal problems that Africa has today, including food insecurity, shelter, education, and infrastructure. He concluded with an inspiration for young surveyors through self-esteem, self-respect, capacity building, purposeful leadership, innovation, and waste avoidance.

“We can only impact our environments if we take responsibility and control of our own professional development through self-study”.



Find Your #SurvMate (Networking Break)

Taking a cue from previous Young Surveyors events, the tea break in this meeting was used for a networking break dubbed, “**Find Your #SurvMate**”.

Here, young surveyors and seasoned surveyors present alike to talk to each other and make new friends. The goal was to find a person with whom they had three things in common, who would be their “**#SurvMate**”.

These five questions were used as an ice breaker;

- What do you hope to gain from the meeting?
- Where do you see yourself in the future?
- Do you have a surveyor role model?
- What has been the most fun/embarrassing moment in your career so far?
- What do you know about Botswana?

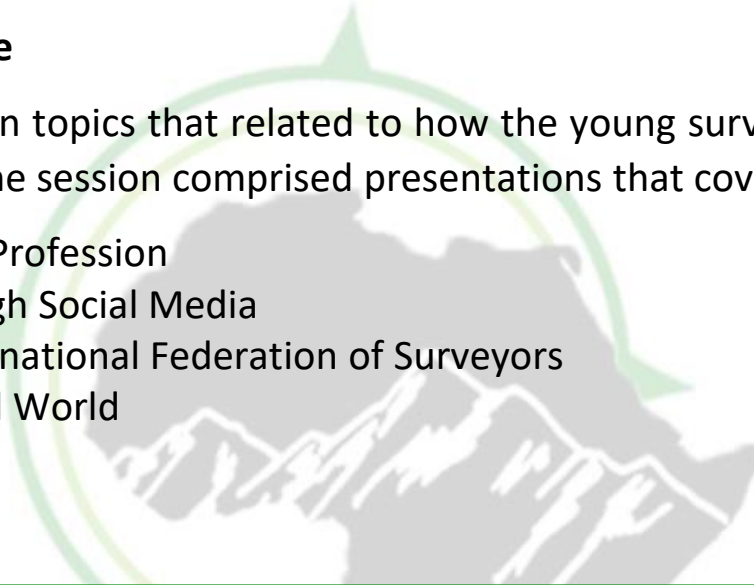


The African Young Surveyor in the Professional World

Report by **Angela Etuonovbe**

The first session bordered on topics that related to how the young surveyor could improve him/herself in the professional world. The session comprised presentations that covered;

- Branding: You and Your Profession
- Making an Impact through Social Media
- An Overview of the International Federation of Surveyors
- Ethics in the Professional World



The African Young Surveyor in the Professional World

Branding: You and Your Profession

Dianne Dumashie, United Kingdom

Young surveyors today are at the crossroads of technological advances that have seen the involvement of not just surveyors in our profession, but also other professionals. There is therefore the need for us to be able brand ourselves to compete on the regional, and international levels. In this presentation, the concept of branding was explored, as well as the features of branding such as;

- Differentiation (Standing Out)
- Authenticity
- Recognition

In all this [presentation](#) was very enlightening for young surveyors, especially those who are interested in private practice.



The African Young Surveyor in the Professional World

Making an Impact through Social Media

Rose Njambi, Kenya

The next topic was handled by **Rose Njambi** from Kenya, an FIG Foundation Grant recipient. There was a discussion about the nature and the use of social media, as well as the positives and negatives of it.

Using her blog www.geohubkenya.wordpress.com, she explained to the young surveyors present about the need for young professionals to use social media in a positive manner, to not just network, but to also help each other with technical problems.

Furthermore, she demonstrated how social media could be used to demonstrate the importance of the role of surveyors to the general public.



NETWORK AFRICA

The African Young Surveyor in the Professional World

An Overview of the International Federation of Surveyors

Angela K. Etuonovbe, Nigeria

Since this was the first FIG Young Surveyors programme for majority of the young surveyors present, **Angela K. Etuonovbe**, Chair of Commission 4, gave an overview of the FIG, highlighting how a person can get involved in the federation, especially a young surveyor. This was especially enlightening for young surveyors who were still in students, but recognized ways that they could still contribute to FIG.

Ethics in the Professional World

Mohammed Kabir, Nigeria

The session ended with a talk from Mohammed Kabir, the Registrar of the Surveyors' Council of Nigeria, on Ethics in the professional world. Here, the ethical concerns about real-life situations were presented and explained. Young surveyors learnt about many general ethical concerns and how to navigate them.



Community Mapping and Young Surveyors: OpenStreetMaps Africa

Report by: **Kekeso Malekela**, South Africa

The aim of the session was to get insight on the various community mapping initiatives and to highlight the use and importance of collaboration between geodesists and communities in the efforts of creating open data using open source software.

Willy Franck Sob (Cameroon) [presented](#) the activities with Open Street Maps in Africa, particularly focusing on Cameroun.

He showed a [video](#) demonstrating community mapping projects in Cameroon and the functionalities of open street maps. He also demonstrated a beta version YSN Africa Web Portal that captures members of YSN members around Africa. Young surveyors present were encouraged to capture their information on the portal. The portal will assist members in locating and contacting members in various countries.

Overall it was an informative and interesting session.



Shaping the Future of the African Network

The 2014-18 term under YSN Chair, **Eva-Maria Unger**, established a number of working groups for the YSN based on its 2014-18 Work plan.

These working groups have achieved a lot, including the formulation of a number of toolkits to aid the YSN activities. This session stemmed from the 4YSC's session, "To Infinity and Beyond" led by incoming FIG-YSN Chair, **Melissa Harrington**, that focused on how the YSN can adapt and make changes.

We looked at how the Young Surveyors African Network can also adapt the YSN Work plan according to the needs of our regional network.

The session comprised activities that were intended to shape the future of the Young Surveyors African Network. The session included group tasks and presentations from new national young surveyors bodies that shared their experiences.

YOUNG SURVEYORS NETWORK A



Shaping the Future of the African Network

The Group Activity

The young surveyors were split into five groups, representing the five working groups – Social Media, Events, Mentoring, Partnerships, and Policy Issues as defined in the 2014-2018 Work Plan.

We also had a few seasoned surveyors present who joined the group on mentoring the provide insights on the side of mentors.

The groups then presented the issues they identified to everyone.

The key issues identified were the following;

- Direct Communication with Young Surveyors.
- African Young Surveyors involvement in the FIG African Regional Network.
- The involvement of Francophone and North African Young Surveyors.
- The setting up of National Young Surveyors bodies.
- The governing structure and officers of YSAN.



Shaping the Future of the African Network



Learning Through Sharing

This part of the session provided the soapbox for young surveyors, especially those from newly established national YS bodies, to share their experiences in the setting up of the networks so we can learn from each other. There were three presentations from Rwanda, Zimbabwe, and Botswana.

Jean Pierre Habiyaremye and Tharcille Dukuzemariya, Rwanda

Tharcille Dukuzemariya is a lecturer at INES-Ruhengeri and a land surveyor in Rwanda.

Jean Pierre Habiyaremye is the managing director of Geo-Spatial Solutions Ltd, and an Instructor at ULK Polytechnic. They are both members of the Rwandan Organization of Land Surveyors.

Jean Pierre and Tharcille [presented](#) on the establishment of the Rwandan Young Surveyors body. Rwanda had no surveyors prior to 2013, when the first group of Land Surveyors graduated from INES-Ruhengeri. Two young surveyors from Rwanda participated in the 4th Young Surveyors Conference in Istanbul, and drawing inspiration from that, they gathered close friends to start their own national YS body. Now an instant messaging group has been formed to be the nucleus for their YS body, with 134 members. They are scheduled to have their first meeting on the 3rd of November, 2018.

Shaping the Future of the African Network

Shirley Chapunza, Zimbabwe

Shirley is a Surveying and Geomatics student at the Midlands State University and is also the Chair of the Zimbabwe's Institute of Geomatics Youth Network.

The [Zimbabwe's Institute of Geomatics Youth Network](#) was established in August, 2018, together with the Zimbabwe Institute of Geomatics (ZIG). It currently has a membership of 180, drawn from young professionals, technologists, technicians, graduates, and students. It further has a student wing, The Geomatics and Surveying Students Association in the four major academic institutions that train surveyors in the country. This is to help involve young professionals from their student years.

Botswana

Kelvin Seretsi Lore, Botswana

Kelvin is a land surveyor, the Chair of the Botswana Geomatics Youth Network, and the Public Relations and Marketing Officer of the Botswana Institute of Geomatics (BIG).

The Botswana Geomatics Youth Network was established in 2016 under the Botswana Surveying and Mapping Association (BSMA) which was established in 2001, and reconstituted as the Botswana Institute of Geomatics in 2017. Their members are drawn from young surveying professionals and students alike. They are also very active in the Botswana Institute of Geomatics, with the President, and Publics Relations Officer being young surveyors. This not withstanding, BIG is actively making inroads to have a bridge between their young and seasoned surveyors.



Closing and Welcome Dinner

After a productive day of presentations, group activities, and networking, it was time to for the evening event which was the dinner organized by the Botswana Institute of Geomatics (BIG). This gave an opportunity for young surveyors to meet and interact with participants of the FIG ARN meeting. But of course, a day in Botswana cannot end without Tsutsube and Setapa dances!



Young Surveyors in the FIG African Regional Network Meeting

The Young Surveyors African Network was given the opportunity to hold a session during the FIG ARN meeting. This session was in two parts. The first part involved only young surveyors, where matters arising from the YSAM session on the future of our network were discussed and certain feedback was obtained about the way forward. These were [documented](#) and will be taken up in the next FIG YSN work plan.

The second part of the session was the young surveyors' interaction with the other surveyors, and how to improve the involvement of young surveyors in the activities of the ARN and their respective national networks. The activities of the YSN and the YS African Network were also presented and the outcome of the YSAM was [reported](#) there.

This was a very productive session and we hope the results from here will help to better organize the YS African Network.

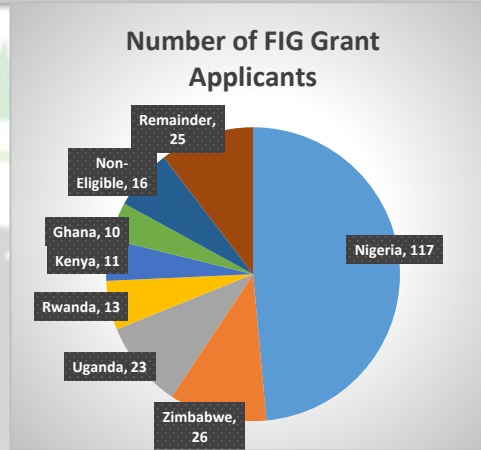


FIG Foundation Grants for YSAM 2018

The FIG Foundation is an independent body under the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). The FIG Foundation was established in 2001 for the purpose of raising funds to finance educational and capacity building projects and scholarships with the goal of helping to build a sustainable future. One of its seven initiatives in our goal is "To support by seed funding conferences, meetings of young surveyors and similar events".

The FIG Foundation has always been a supporter of the FIG Young Surveyors Network. Since 2006, the foundation has awarded 121 grants worth over €265,000 (\$310,000). These grants have been given with the aim of fostering the role of young surveyors within the profession and FIG, through supporting the accommodation and travel costs of young surveyors.

Many thanks to **Cromwell Manaloto** for smoothly running the grant process and the FIG Foundation Board for their help!



Tharcille Dukuzemariya
(Rwanda)

Angela Etuonovbe
(Nigeria)

Willy Franck Sob
(Cameroon)

Rose Kihungu
(Kenya)

Keketso Malekela
(South Africa)

CELEBRATING 13 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT!!!

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generous sponsors for
their support!**

YOUNG SURVEYORS NETWORK AFRICA



Botswana Institute Of Geomatics



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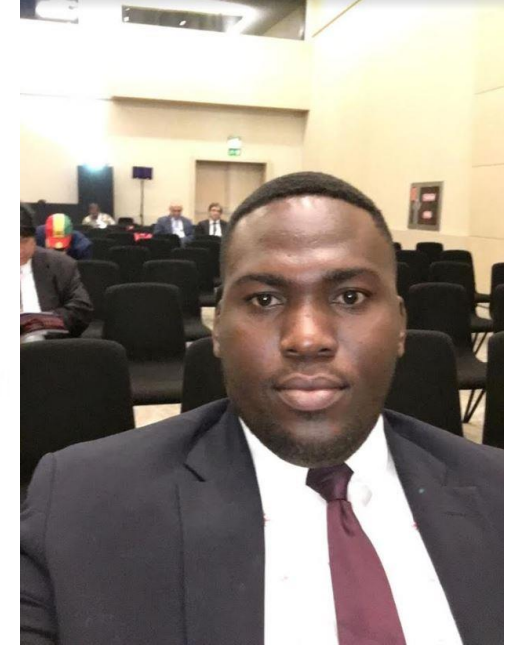
Meet the YSAM Organising Committee



Kelvin Lore Sereetsi
(Botswana)



Kwabena Obeng Asiama
(Ghana)



Kingsley Yaw Sam
(Ghana)

YOUNG SURVEYORS NETWORK AFRICA



YE DAASE!!!

REALEBOGA!!!

ENKOSI!!!

MURAKOZE!!!

SIYABONGA!!!

TINOTENDA!!!

THANK YOU!!!

NGAPAPHLA!!!

WA DO!!!