

Nigeria`s FIG Young Surveyors Network: Successes, Challenges, and Prospects

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SUMMARY

Almost a decade after its inauguration in Nigeria during the Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors in Kwara State in 2012, The Young Surveyors Network (YSN), Nigeria has remained the main umbrella body which serves as a coming-of-age fraternity for the large number of graduates who emerge from the numerous schools offering Surveying and Geoinformatics in Nigeria yearly. The YSN has functioned effectively by organising and carrying out volunteer services which aim to build synergy and prepare Young Surveyors for leadership. At the local, State, and National Levels, several fora exist for the purpose of achieving the fundamental goals and objectives of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Young Surveyors Network. Initiatives such as Professional Training Workshops, Annual Conferences (Harvest of Ideas), Workshops for Candidates preparing for the Surveyors Council of Nigeria (SURCON) Professional Examinations to be registered as Surveyors, and even community awareness about the profession are some of the programmes that the YSN, Nigeria had embarked upon. In the course of its activities, the YSN has recorded successes; it has also faced challenges which have threatened its very existence. This paper analyses the recorded successes and evaluates the challenges in order to identify the prospects for more success available to the YSN, Nigeria. To have a better understanding of these issues, Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat (SWOT) analyses were used to assess the achievements and challenges that the body has faced over the years; also the opportunities available if challenges were mitigated were also analysed. Findings revealed that if several innovative initiatives were introduced by the network and backed up by its parent bodies the YSN would achieve resilience and become formidable. Such initiatives could include setting up a funding mechanism for Young Surveyors (both graduates and students), establishing Mentorship Programmes for the Young Surveyors, encouraging “Catch Them Young” programmes at Secondary Schools to inform students about the profession thereby whetting their interest in the profession, as well as encouraging activities at the grass-root level.