



## **The International Federation of Surveyors-Africa Regional Network Annual Report of Activities for the Year 2024**

In the year 2024, the International Federation of Surveyors-Africa Regional Network carried out numerous activities in line with its 2023-2026 approved workplan. Some of the key program included:

### **1.0 FIG-ARN sessions at the 2024 FIG Working Week, Accra, Ghana 19 - 24 May 2024**

At the FIG 2024 Working Week in Accra, Ghana, FIG-ARN rolled out important sessions that centered around the theme of the WW 2024 *Your World, Our World, Resilient Environment and Sustainable Resource Management for All*. These included special sessions and panel discussions that examined the critical role of traditional institutions in promoting good land governance in the Africa; maiden meeting of African Women Land Professional Associations; Regional Capacity Development Networks-Collaboration Forum 1&2; and the meeting of Presidents of African Land Professional Associations - follow up to the first High-Level Meeting of held at the African Union Headquarters in November 2023.

Some of the outcomes of the sessions included

- Identified the role, challenges, and opportunities for traditional institutions in actualization of good land governance in Africa. Key recommendations for community-based land management system in Africa
- Finalization of the plans, theme, venue, and time for the 1<sup>st</sup> African Women Land Professional Associations Conference
- Recommended more involvement of private partners in CCD and support to African states in strengthening land governance and institutional reforms
- Firm commitment to establish the Forum of Presidents of African Land Professional Associations

### **2.0 FIG-ARN and International Cooperation – Where the Belt and Road Connect 1 - 9 September 2024**

From 1 - 9 September 2024, the Chairperson of the FIG-ARN, Mr. Kabir, M.M mni, led the African team to China to strengthen international cooperation between China and Africa in geospatial industry. The working visit was a follow up to 1st China-Africa Geospatial Information Conference that took place during the FIG 2024 WW in Accra, Ghana 2024. It strategically coincided with 9th High-Level Meeting of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) holding between the President of China and heads of African States and governments in Beijing from 4-6 September 2024. Highlights of the Conference included the following

#### **i. The UAV Fair in Yiwu at the Yiwu International Expo Center, Yiwu, Central Zhejiang Province 1 to 3 September 2024**

The meeting centered on expanding the frontier of cooperation between Chinese and African geospatial experts on UAV "1+5+N" business model. The model encompasses the application of UAVs in five thematic areas- the digital economy, international trade, emergency rescue and safety development, aerostat technology, and low-altitude logistics.



**Figure 1 & 2** some of the delegates during the UAV Fair and Conference at Yiwu

**ii. The International Geospatial Cooperation Forum (IGCF) – DVT**

The FIG-ARN attended the conference and made presentations along with over 40 international scholars, entrepreneurs and business representatives from 30 countries, including China, Germany, France, Spain, India, Colombia, Nigeria, Ghana and Egypt. The conference laid solid foundations for cooperation in between African and Chinese geospatial communities in seven key areas viz: South-South Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation in Remote Sensing Research and Education; Low Altitude Economy; Joint Geospatial Projects: Geospatial Capacity Development; Geospatial Infrastructure; Barter Platform; and Digital Economy for a Shared Future



**Figure 3** Part of the International Geospatial Cooperation Forum (IGCF) Session

**iii. China-Africa Geospatial Information Cooperation seminar at Deqing Geospatial Information Town – Houzhou, Central Zhejiang Province 4-5 September 2024.**

FIG ARN attended and presented African perspectives at the cooperation seminar that was organized by the Deqing Association for Geospatial Information Professionals. The seminar centered on fostering cooperation between China and African countries in areas of capacity development; and resolved to promote VR stimulated trainings, provide new packages of Chinese Government Scholarship for African students at Msc and PhD levels; initiate students' internship and technical exchange program; and open African liaison offices at the World Geospatial Information Home (WGIH) in Deqing.



*Figures 4 & 5 a Session and Group photograph by some of the delegates to the CAGIC Conference*

**iv. Working Visit to the Jiande Women's Federation, Zhejiang Province 07 September 2024**

FIG-ARN team also conducted a working visit to the Jiande Women's Federation. The aim was to learn and gain new perspectives from China's Reforms which is anchored on promoting the rights, equality, visibility, and roles of women in societal development without forgetting the old family values.



*Figure 6 Jiande Women's Federation 1Meeting*

v. **Chairperson of FIG-ARN granted a Special Visitor status to the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS) 09 September 2024**

Mr. Kabir, M. M accompanied by Surv. Adamu Bala, YSN and PhD student in China, was granted a special visitor status to the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS). The visit discussed the challenges and opportunities for Africa to achieve the SDGs leveraging geospatial technologies. New understanding was reached on the need to collaborate between China and Africa geospatial communities on capacity building, e-learning, summer school, and supporting geospatial industry start-ups in Africa. In addition to CBAS other centers and organizations within the CBAS premises that were visited include

- The UNESCO International Center on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST)
- Aerospace Information Research Institute (AIR), Chinese Academy of Science;
- Office of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk; (IRDR) and
- Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB) office among others



Figure 7: Special Working Visit Organized for Kabir, M.M to the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS) and Other Agencies in Beijing.

## 2.1 Some of the Outcomes of the Belt and Road Working Visit

1). The protocols for cooperation between African geospatial information professionals and their Chinese counterparts was well established

2). Framework for establishment of African country's land professional association offices was laid

The working visit led to the launching of a new initiative - China-Africa Geospatial Information Cooperation (CAGIC).

3) Protocol for grant of Chinese scholarship for 5 eligible students per African country who are wishing to pursue higher degrees in Chinese Universities was initiated

4). VR stimulated training centers, industrial and technical tours, and geospatial business sector of the cooperation has already started

5). Areas of cooperation including exchange of educational visit, MOOC, and training opportunities between African Women Land Professional Associations and the All-China Women's Federation were outlined and established

6). framework for collaboration in areas of capacity building, e-learning, summer school, and supporting geospatial industry start-ups in Africa between African land professionals with CBAS, UNESCO-HIST, SREB was initiated

### 3.0 FIG-ARN attended the 1<sup>st</sup> United Nations Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Week (UN-GeoNOW 2024 in Deqing, China 21 – 24 October 2024).

The Chairperson for FIG-ARN Mr. Kabir, M.M received an invitation to attend the maiden edition of the United Nations Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Week (UN-GeoNOW 2024) from 21 – 24 October 2024. The UN-GKI Week 2024, with its theme, "Geospatial Ideas Benefiting Our World" was convened to build a global geographic information ecosystem and promote application of geographic information technology as leverages to accelerate realization of global sustainable development goals, SDG. The ground-breaking event was organized by UN-GGIM, UN-EP, UN-ESCAP, UN-DESA and supported by local organizers including Deqing County Peoples' Government and Moganshan Geospatial Information Laboratory.

The presentations, exhibition, regular, and panel sessions dwelled on eight key areas that included Geospatial Information application; Digital Twins and Smart City; Natural Resources Survey and Governance; Smart Farming and Food Safety; Clean Energy and Green Mining; Geomodelling and Geospatial Intelligence; Climate Change and Risk Reduction; and Leadership Development of Geospatial Knowledge. Contributing to the knowledge and innovation, and the SDGs, the Chairperson FIG-ARN presented a paper titled *The Africa's Journey to 2030 and China-Africa Geospatial Information Cooperation: Getting There without Getting Lost*.



Figure 8 A Group Photograph With Some of the Delegates at the UN-GeoNOW 2024

### 3.1 Some of the Outcomes of the GeoNow 2024

- GeoNOW 2024 provided opportunity to launder and further promote the image of FIG and the Africa Regional Network
- FIG-ARN was recognized by the global bodies as a critical stakeholder in geospatial field and the SDGs in Africa

#### **4.0 FIG-ARN attended the Finals of the 2024 World Vocational College Skills Competition on Geospatial Information Collection and Processing at the Guangdong Polytechnic of Industry and Commerce, China – 28 October 2024**

On a special invitation and accompanied by the Nigerian Minister in the Nigerian Embassy in Beijing, China diplomat Ms. Nini Okey-Uche, mni, and Zou Jiankun, Manager of the Middle East and Africa Region of Southern Surveying, the Chairperson of FIG-ARN Mr. Kabir, M.M mni attended the finals of the 2024 World Vocational Skills Competition on Geospatial Information Collection and Processing that held at the Guangdong Polytechnic. The visit introduced the FIG-ARN team to new perspectives on institutional cooperation and opened a new avenue for healthy competition in pursuit of excellence in geospatial knowledge, skill, and ethics particularly among African youth and institutions of higher learning.



***Figure 9 Kabir, M. M and the Nigerian Minister in the Nigerian Embassy in Beijing, diplomat Ms. Nini Okey-Uche (center) in a Group Photograph with the Organizers and Finalists of the 2024 World Vocational College Skills Competition on Geospatial Information Collection***

#### **5.0 The Chairperson FIG-ARN extended working visit to the School of Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing Information and the Department of International Exchange and Cooperation**

The FIG-ARN high-profile delegates were received by a team led by the Vice President Zhao Hong of the school and other relevant directors from the High light of the working visit included

1. Bilateral Meetings with President of Gansu Construction Vocational and Technical College, President Dang Xinghai on international cooperation, vocational training, and internship for African technicians and technologists.

2. Discussed and explored new areas of cooperation with Guangdong Polytechnic Vice President Zhao Hong on international teaching cooperation, funding of educational research, innovation and development, virtual teaching and learning, and vocational education for African students and geospatial experts



***Figure 10 Kabir, M. M mni and the Nigerian Minister in the Nigerian Embassy in Beijing, Diplomat Ms. Nini Okey-Uche, mni (center) in a Group Photograph the Staff and Management of School of Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing Information, Guangdong Polytechnic***

**i. Inspection of the National Vocational Education Virtual Simulation Demonstration Base for Surveying, Mapping and Geographic Information.**

The FIG-ARN team was led to the visit of the Virtual Simulation Demonstration Base by Mr. Wu Weiqin, the Director of the Department of International Exchange; Li Yuan, the Secretary of the School of Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing Information; and Zhu Teng, Deputy Director of the Department of Geomatics. At base, the team acquired a first-hand experience on virtual simulation, virtual teaching, and immersive geo.



***Figure 11 The Chairperson FIG-ARN Kabir, M. M Experienced VR at the National Vocational Education Virtual Simulation Demonstration Base***

**6.0 FIG-ARN convened the 1<sup>st</sup> African Women Land Professional Associations Network Conference at the APC Hotel Conference Centre Dar es Salaam, Tanzania 24 - 28 November 2024**

In line with its 2023-2026 Workplan, the FIG-ARN in collaboration with the Network of Excellence in Land Governance-East Africa Node (NELGA-EA) and the Ardhi University (ARU) of Tanzania held the maiden and ground-breaking edition of the African Women Land Professional Associations Conference. The aim of the conference was to establish an African network of women professionals in land and the built environment to advance the women's land rights and good land governance in Africa.

The conference was well attended by more than 200 high-profile delegates from Africa and beyond including the President of FIG, Dr. Diane Dumashie, the representative of African Union Commission, Dr. Janet Edeme, and Mr. Hans Ni, the Secretary- General of Working Committee on International Exchange and Cooperation of China Association for Geospatial Industry and Sciences was declared open by Her Excellency, Samia Suluhu Hassan, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania who was ably represented by the Honorable Minister for Land, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Hon. Deogratius J Ndejemi (MP).

The theme of the conference, "Women Land Professionals and the Struggle for Inclusive Land Governance in Africa: Reflections on the Past, Present and Future " brought together erudite scholars and resource persons from China, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ghana presented technical



papers, career talk, and panel sessions on women and gender responsive land governance; mainstreaming climate change in land professional sector; strategies for minimizing gender disparities in land and property



**Figure 11 One of the Panel Discussions Sessions During the Conference**



rights; and capacity development framework for African women land professionals.

**Figure 12 Group Photograph after the Opening Ceremony with the Honorable Minister Deogratius Ndejemi (MP) and Other Dignitaries including the President of FIG, Dr, Diane Dumashie (4<sup>th</sup> Left) and the Representative of the African Union Commission) Dr. Janet Edeme (2<sup>nd</sup> Left) and the VC Ardhi University (4<sup>th</sup> Right)**

## 6.0 Some of the Outcomes of the Conference

- 1). An 11 - point Dar -Es-Salam Declaration on African Women Land Professional Associations Strategic Capacity Development Framework for the Actualization of Inclusive Land Governance in Africa
- 2). Created greater synergy among various stakeholders in land governance and adopted interdisciplinary approach for achieving gender balance and gender responsive land governance
- 3). Greater bonding among disparate women land professional associations in different areas of specializations and practices in Africa

## 7.0 The Chairperson FIG-ARN accompanied the President of FIG to a meeting with the Zanzibar Land Commission

Following the conclusion of the AWLPA conference the President D Dumashie was invited to visit the Zanzibar Land Commission to share experiences and strengthen collaboration in areas of capacity building, policy and institutional reforms in the commission. The Mr. Kabir, M. M mni accompanied the President to the meeting where he made significant contributions to the discussions.



**Figure 13** the President of FIG, Diane Dumashie, received the Key to the City of Zanzibar that symbolizes granting her an unrestricted access to the city



**Figure 14** The President of FIG in a group photograph with the members of the Board and Management of Zanzibar Land Commission

## 8.0 Post conference tour to Zanzibar by Delegates to the AWLPC

After a successful AWLP conference and dinner, the delegates embarked on a social tour to the beautiful islands of Zanzibar. Some of the areas visited by the delegates included tours sites at Stone Town, Spice Farms, Prison Island, Mikumi Safari, and Nungwi Beach resorts.



**Figure 15 A Snapshot of the President of FIG Dr. Diane Dumashie (Top Center) and Some of the Delegates at Various Tourist Spots in the City of Zanzibar**

**7.0 The Chairperson FIG-ARN Represented President Dr. Diane A Dumashie at the 2024 Induction Ceremony Conducted by The Surveyors Council of Nigeria for The Newly Registered Surveyors of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at Abuja on 25 April 2024**

In an address delivered on behalf of the President of FIG, Dr. Diane Dumashie congratulated the newly inductees into the profession of surveying in Nigeria. She urged the new surveyors to live up to their professional callings and always strive for excellence. She encouraged them to partake in the activities of the FIG particularly the YSN-Africa and attend the WW2024 that was due to hold in Accra, Ghana in May 2024.

The induction ceremony was attended by high-level dignitaries, including the Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Land, Housing, and Urban Development Engr. Abdullahi Tijjani Gwarzo who congratulated the new surveyors for their entry into the Register of Surveyors in the Federal Republic of Nigeria



***Figure 16 The Chairperson FIG-ARN Kabir, M. M and The Hon. Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development Engr. Abdullahi Gwarzo in a Friendly Handshake During the Induction Ceremony***



***Figure 17 The Hon. Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development Engr. Abdullahi Gwarzo Hands Over the President of FIG Award to the Best Performing Female Candidate in the SURCON 2023 Professional Examinations.***