

Developing Leadership Skills in Young Surveyors - the Young Surveyors African Network - West African Young Surveyors (wysan) Team

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SUMMARY

Nurturing and developing young surveyors into leaders is essential for the future of the surveying profession. These young professionals bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the industry and have the potential to shape its direction. By supporting their growth as leaders, we can ensure that they are able to make a positive impact in their communities and organizations.

WYSAN seeks to;

1. Give young surveyors leadership roles such as leading a project team or organizing an event to help them develop their skills.
2. Encourage young surveyors to pursue learning opportunities like classes, conferences, and mentorship to continue growing.
3. Create a collaborative team culture that promotes open communication to help young surveyors feel comfortable taking on leadership roles.
4. Hold young surveyors accountable for their work and encourage them to take ownership of their responsibilities to develop their leadership skills and confidence.

Assembling a diverse group of 10 young surveyors from various West African countries, with different languages (primarily English and French) and time zones, to collaborate on solving various societal problems and building capacity in those regions has been a challenge that the WYSAN team has successfully taken on. Since its official start in April 2022, WYSAN has consistently worked towards achieving this goal. The WYSAN team, which is composed of young

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surveyors from various West African countries, has been successful in working together and achieving significant results despite language barriers. This demonstrates the commitment, versatility, and innovation of young surveyors in creating a better future in and around the geospatial sphere, and in protecting and conquering new frontiers. The WYSAN team is dedicated to leading and driving these efforts.

Since April 6, 2022, the WYSAN team, in partnership with other organizations, has been working on a number of initiatives including creating two job opportunities, providing training for country leads on the African Geo portal, and planning a project in Sierra Leone. These efforts have required months of planning, communication, dedication, motivation, and collaboration with people from various disciplines, ages, cultures, and genders.

WYSAN team aims to improve the surveying profession and make a positive impact on the world through capacity building and advocacy. We established a sustainable structure for improving geospatial excellence for marginalized communities and climate action through various means. This paper details our methods for creating an inclusive culture that promotes diversity, equity, and belonging to improve the lives of communities and contribute to a better future.

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