

## Reflecting on the 2022 FIG Congress in Warsaw, Poland: A Journey Forged by Opportunity



Looking back, the 2022 FIG Congress in Warsaw, Poland stands out as a pivotal moment in my career. As a recipient of the FIG Foundation Young Surveyor Grant Award, I experienced firsthand the transformative power of this opportunity. This journey significantly contributed to my path to becoming the chair of the FIG Young Surveyors Network (YSN).

My journey began in Zimbabwe, where I initially aimed to become a mining engineer. However, fate had other plans. Not wanting to take a gap year, I made an impromptu decision to pursue Surveying and Geomatics based on the advice of an admissions officer. This leap of faith led me to discover a passion I never knew I had.

Four years into my studies, during my internship, I advocated for and led the establishment of the national Young Surveyors Network under the auspices of the Zimbabwe Institute of Geomatics. The association's support enabled me to attend my first FIG conference—an African Regional Meeting in Gaborone, Botswana. The experience of engaging with like-minded professionals and learning from seasoned experts was inspirational and I vowed it wouldn't be my last FIG experience.

### Building Connections and Expanding Horizons



Through connections made in Botswana, I co-led the planning of the 2nd FIG Young Surveyors African Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, in 2019. This experience, my first time far from home, immersed me in a different culture and fuelled my desire to be part of the inclusive and diverse FIG family. Later that year, I joined the core team organizing the 5th FIG Young Surveyors Conference, initially planned for Amsterdam.

Despite the disappointment of not receiving the FIG Foundation Young Surveyor Grant Award for the Dakar meeting, I applied again for the Amsterdam conference and succeeded. However, due to the pandemic, the event shifted online. This challenge did not deter me. Instead, it highlighted the resilience and adaptability of our community as we navigated new realities together.

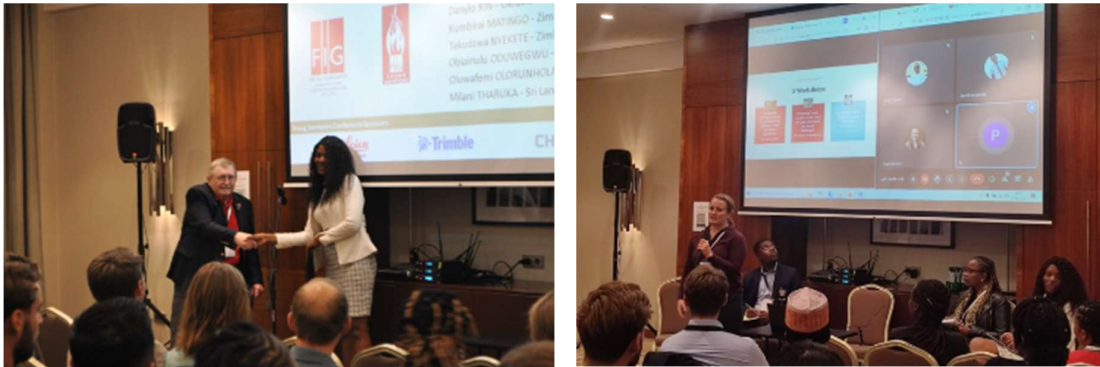
### The Warsaw Experience



Finally, in 2022, I attended the 7th FIG Young Surveyors Conference and the 26th FIG Congress in Warsaw, Poland—my first global experience. As the Vice-Chair Elect for FIG YSN, I had the daunting yet exciting responsibility of standing in for KB whose trip was delayed and Ferah, who couldn't make it. The experience was exhilarating yet daunting, marking my first major responsibility in an international setting.

My roles included leading sessions, chairing discussions, and participating in a panel on the Volunteer Community Surveyor Program. I chaired the keynote session on "Volunteering for the Future: Smart Surveyors for Social Good," which underscored the power of

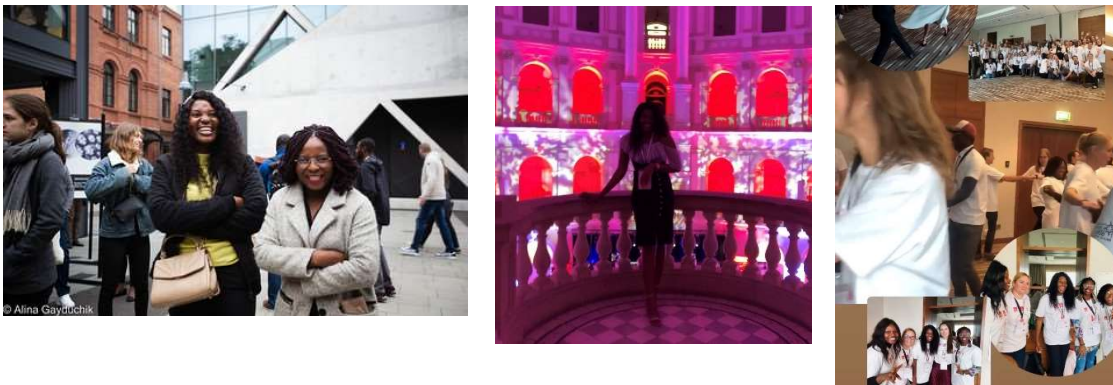
collaboration in addressing societal challenges. As a panellist on "Building Relationships and Securing the Future of Young Surveyors: The VCSP Perspective," I shared my views on the importance of cross-generational and cross-cultural partnerships for the profession's future. Receiving the FIG Foundation Young Surveyor Grant Award certification was a highlight.



Presenting young surveyors' perspectives in the plenary session led by Diane Dumashie, "How the Land Profession Skills May Thrive in the Post-2020 Pandemic World - Insights from Across the Generations: Geography, Governance, and Volunteering," was a standout moment of the congress. It underscored the critical role of volunteering and professional development in times of crisis. Adding to this, serving as a rapporteur for the Commission 7 panel on "Policy and Legal Innovations in Land Administration" was both a pivotal experience and a testament to the high-level discussions I was privileged to be part of.



### Cultural Immersion and Networking



The conference also provided cultural experiences, including a city tour of Warsaw and a cultural evening showcasing Polish traditions. Participating in the YSN charity event involving Polish ballroom dancing was a highlight, blending fun with philanthropy. At the FIG Foundation Gala

Dinner, I had the opportunity to network with FIG Foundation Directors and fellow grant recipients, further cementing my place in the FIG community.

### **A Foundation for the Future**



The Warsaw experience was foundational for my growth as a surveyor. The support from the FIG Foundation allowed me to engage deeply with the global surveying community, shaping my professional identity and inspiring my future contributions.

***"The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers." – Ralph Nader***



I extend my heartfelt thanks to the FIG Foundation for believing in my story and supporting my attendance at the 7th FIG Young Surveyors Conference and the 26th FIG Congress. This opportunity has been a cornerstone in my journey, informing and inspiring my path as a surveyor and leader.