

# The Federation of French Speaking Surveyors

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## SUMMARY

The Federation of French Speaking Surveyors (FGF) is an association created in 2005 which gathers 26 countries. Its main objectives are to bring its members, coming mainly from the African continent, a technical as well as a political support to contribute to the organization of the surveying profession, to guarantee a high level of initial and continuous training and to contribute to the maintain of the use of the French language within international institutions.

Thanks to the commitment of its members and to the support of international organizations such as UN-Habitat or the International Organization of la Francophonie, FGF organized in Niamey (Niger) in October 2010 the first seminar of evaluation of the training needs for the surveyors of the French-speaking countries in Africa.

Also, FGF organized in October 2012 during 3 days the first post-graduate university of French-speaking African surveyors and technicians in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).

The purpose of the presentation is to present the Federation of French Speaking Surveyors, its objectives and actions towards training, women (regarding their access to education, land and property rights) as well as more transparent land governance.

# **The Federation of French Speaking Surveyors**

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## **1. FGF : PRESENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

### **1.1 Creation**

The Federation of French-speaking surveyors (Fédération des géomètres francophones – FGF in French) was created in 2005 in Rabat. The idea was gather the French-speaking surveyors from 3 different continents (Europe, Africa, America) to promote the use of the French language in international organizations but also, and above all, to help the surveyors who cannot speak English take part in international conferences and working groups.

The Federation of International Surveyors (FIG) was created in Paris in 1878 with French as the official language. As time goes by, the number of members grew and English became the working language. But French-speaking African countries found it sometimes difficult to go through the procedures to become members with different commissions and make presentations during the annual working weeks.

In 2009, FGF launched the idea to organize French-speaking sessions during the FIG working week in Eilat (Israel). Fig President, Stig Enemark, very kindly accepted to support this initiative. 10 papers were submitted which was enough to organize 2 sessions which was a real success. French-speaking sessions were then organized during the following Working Weeks : Sydney (2010), Marrakech (2011), Rome (2012) with the support of the past and new president, Mr. Cheehai TEO. French-speaking sessions will also be organized during the Working Week 2013 in Abuja (Nigeria).

### **1.2 Members**

FGF is now composed of 26 countries : Algeria, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Czech Republic, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, France, Gabon, Haiti, Italy, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Quebec, Rep. of the Congo, Romania, Senegal, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia.

According to the statutes, FGF gathers the surveyors designated by their national order or national professional association which are officially recognized by the public authorities.

Individual members can take part in general assemblies or workshops but they have no voting rights. The delegation of each member country shall be of 3 people maximum.

### **1.3 General assemblies**

General assemblies shall take place every two years but in practice a general assembly is

organized almost every year : Prague (2009), Eilat (2010), Marrakech (2011), Ouagadougou (2012).

#### 1.4 General assemblies

FGF is run by an executive Board and a president who are elected for 4 years. The first president was Mr. Alain GAUDET (France) from 2005 to 2009.

Mr. François MAZUYER (France) was then elected in 2009 and his mandate will run until the next GA in October 2013.

The Executive Board, elected in 2009, is composed as follows :

<b>President</b>	<b>Mr. François MAZUYER</b>	<b>France</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Mr. Aziz HILALI</b>	<b>Morocco</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Mrs. Annick JATON</b>	<b>Quebec</b>
<b>Treasurer by interim</b>	<b>Mr. René SONNEY</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mr. Sebti SIDHOUM</b>	<b>Algeria</b>
<b>FGF representative to FIG</b>	<b>Mr. Marc VANDERSCHUEREN</b>	<b>Belgium</b>
<b>FGF representative to the Arab Union of surveyors</b>	<b>Mr. Sarkis FADOUS</b>	<b>Lebanon</b>
<b>FGF representative to the African countries</b>	<b>Mr. Mamadou CAMARA</b>	<b>Mali</b>
<b>FGF representative for training</b>	<b>Mr. Jules POFAGI</b>	<b>Benin</b>
<b>FGF representative for communication and sponsors</b>	<b>Mr. Pierre TESSIER</b>	<b>Canada</b>

#### 1.5 Finances

As regards of the association, each member country shall pay every year its membership fee of minimum 300 Euros. The level of the fee is voluntarily very low to enable every African country to become a member of the association. But the fees do not cover the expenses of the association which can, hopefully, rely on sponsors such as UN HABITAT.

Trimble, the French Order of licensed surveyors, or other French companies.

#### 1.6 Actions

FGF has an important role to play as regards the support that the association can bring to the organization of the profession. Surveyors may find difficult to get support from their national administration and government. It is therefore essential that surveyors are well organized to

promote their activities and recognized for their expertise. This was the case with Madagascar or Burkina Faso for instance. Continuous professional training is another major action of FGF.

## 2. CASE STUDY 1 : THE “FGF” SEMINAR IN NIAMEY (OCTOBER 2010)

### 2.1 The Organization of the Seminar

The Seminar for the Assessment of Training Needs for land surveyors in Sub-Saharan Africa occurred in the Grand Hotel of Niamey on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 with the financial participation of UN-Habitat. The following countries have taken part in the seminar : Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Ivory Coast, Gabon, Ghana (even if this country finally could not join in the seminar), Mali, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Chad and Togo.

Moreover two training centres for the land surveyors, which have experience in the export of know-how, that is to say the “Université Laval of Québec”, which has worked out an online training as regards the forestry, especially on the Congo basin, and “l’Ecole supérieure des géomètres et topographes (ESGT) de France” (French High School for Surveyors and Topographers), which during a few years was decentralized in the Lebanon, have agreed to participate.

Unfortunately the kidnappings occurring in the Northern Niger a few weeks before October 2010 have prevented the invited participants from participating in this seminar.

Nevertheless seventeen countries, including France and Belgium, were represented by more than eighty participants. During the two seminar’s working days, a lot of work was achieved, each country carrying out a presentation during twenty minutes followed by a debate with the audience.

On the morning of the first day, after the opening speeches of the AGEN’s President, the FGF’s president, the FIG’s representative, UN Habitat’s representative and the Minister of Niger for Infrastructure, we directly got to the heart of the matter with the presentations of Benin, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic and the Université Laval. In the afternoon, the presentations of Madagascar, Ivory Coast, Gabon and, during the second meeting, the presentations of Mali and Niger have taken place.

The day after, in the morning, the presentations of Chad, Nigeria, Togo, Senegal and the Democratic Republic of Congo have been carried out.

### 2.2 Relevant Issues

The following facts have emerged from the various presentations and the following debates:

- **a lack of schools**, especially to train engineers, as the training centres for technicians are more numerous and better spread out. Therefore it ensues that studying abroad and especially in Europe is **very expensive**, which implies that, even with a scholarship system, this kind of education is not open by far to everyone ;
- **a lack of qualified land surveyors** per country, in the private sector or in the administration (for instance, in Chad the ESTP has trained 22 topographers in eighteen years and some of them are not from Chad) ;

- a **shortage of know-how** as regards the local **land law**, when the land surveyor has studied abroad. When there are schools in the country;
- a **lack of continuing education for the trainers** has been noticed and the students directly suffer on this account.
- a lack of communication between the trainers and between the schools;
- a **problem in some countries to interest young people in this profession**. There is an even more important problem to interest them in teaching, because of the very low wage level for the teachers in comparison with a job in the private sector with the same level of qualification. This problem even occurs in Nigeria, where four universities are yet located. Surveying engineers with a master's degree (Bac + 5) are there trained, because many lucrative job opportunities are available in the oil industry (Nigeria is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest oil producer among the OPEC). The same problem takes place in Mali with the gold mines. The direct consequences of that situation are an **accelerated ageing of the teachers**, a drop of their level of qualification and an important quantitative shortage. For instance, in Madagascar, only three trainers have a degree. In Bamako's ENI, the average level of the teachers is constantly dropping. For more than ten years there has been no recruitment of civil servants or training of the few remaining civil servants. In ten years the teachers' staff in the geodesy training path has dropped from 5 to 3, with only two engineers and one technician;
- a **lack of interest from States and governments in this training path**, largely due to the fact that, in view of the necessary material for this training, it is more expensive than the study to become lawyer or notary for instance. As an aggravating circumstance this training is only intended for a small number of students;
- a **lack of equipment**, to which large problems as regards the maintenance are added. The trainers would like to teach the computer-aided drafting but they only have drawing pens. Practical work is carried out on devices dated from the sixties (for instance : T1, T2, RDS) and in order to have GPS, contract military workers must come with their own material.

### 2.3 The Proposals issued at the Seminar

The land surveyor's part within the society is too important to be practised by people, who do not have the required level of competence.

The synthesis of the answers to the preliminary question paper as well as the synthesis of the various presentations and following debates lead us to the following observations and proposals.

#### 2.3.1 To help to organize the profession in the countries, where it is not organized, in order to :

- have only one interlocutor for the public authorities, to better communicate about the profession and to attract the young people to that training path.
- to check the practise of the profession, the diploma allowing to practise, the quality of this practise, to fight against the illegal practise and the risk of trade in false diplomas as well as a better involvement in the elaboration of programs of initial and continuing training .

- but the orders must not reveal themselves as being paralyzing or protectionist. On the contrary they must help to open this training path and the internal promotion, which can be a great solution to the problem as regards the renewal of the staff. Which better land surveyor than the one who has the knowledge, started at the bottom of the ladder and who, by working and improving his level of practise, can reach positions of great responsibility ? This will also help to accelerate the feminizing of the profession.

### **2.3.2 To harmonize the conditions of access to the profession**

especially the minimum level of study required to practise, in order that the profession will not be practised by people, who do not have the required level of competence.

### **2.3.3 To set up a training system of reference for the land surveyors**

a common base for all countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, which can also be adjusted according to the degree course (technicians and engineers, who are not land surveyors). To create the opportunity of a diploma acknowledged by the Ministry of Education of each country of this area (government diploma).

### **2.3.4 Another priority will be a better training of the trainers**

(initial and continuing education). A profile must be set up. Then a network of trainers must be created possibly by the FGF, in order for them to share their experiences and meet each other. A list of the trainers must also be set up. This Working Group was led by Roch Bah from Benin and the Working Group deposited his conclusions in 2012.

### **2.3.5 Upgrading and continuing education of the land surveyors as well as technicians:**

- To set up Summer Universities for the area under some conditions to be defined and with the participation of international experts;
- To use the online training

### **2.3.6 Problems as regards the equipment, which cannot be solved without first solving problems as regards the maintenance.**

To get in touch with the manufacturers and bring them into contact with the universities, which can train technicians in the maintenance field.

## **2.4 The Conclusion of the representative of UN-Habitat**

- Problem as regards the new strategies and the land policy – system of reference –

which requires an update of the land surveyor's knowledge;

- Training for what and for whom? Definition of the rights beyond the title deed, customary law... ;
- Having a critical view on oneself – not waiting for everything from other people;
- Starting from the existing structures before doing anything else: point of reference and excellence in the area ;
- UN-Habitat can only support regional strategies and not individual ones;
- Everyone must work together and has space for oneself, civil servants as well as people from the private sector;
- Waiting with interest for the conclusions and the recommendations of the seminar in order to compare them with the values of UN Habitat and to see how to contribute to the development of the training of land surveyors in Africa.

### **3. CASE STUDY 2 : THE SEMINAR IN OUAGADOUGOU (BURKINA FASO), (OCTOBER 2012)**

#### **3.1 The Organization**

“The Country members” present were (in alphabetical order):

- Belgium
- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Democratic Republic of The Congo
- The Côte d'Ivoire
- France
- Gabon
- Mali
- Switzerland
- Togo

Moreover, was also present a non-member who participated for the first time in the work of the FGF : Republic of Congo Brazzaville.

Before the opening of the General Assembly, spoke: David Ouedraogo, President of the “Ordre des géomètres-experts” of Burkina Faso, CheeHai Teo, President of the FIG, International Federation of Surveyors, Rémy Sietchiping, representative of UN-Habitat,

François Mazuyer, President of the FGF and also Chairman of the OGE (“Ordre des Géomètres” of France). The Minister of Housing and Urban Development in Burkina Faso, Yacouba Barri, made also a speech.

Without going into details of the various speeches that were made, the President of the “Ordre des géomètres-experts” - Burkina Faso, David Ouedraogo, pointed out that it is thanks to the support of the FGF and of the “Ordre des géomètres” of France that the establishment of an Ordinal Organization respect to the surveyors of Burkina Faso was possible, namely the creation of the “Ordre des géomètres-experts” of Burkina Faso. This implementation has been possible with the right attention of the Minister of Housing and Urban Development in Burkina Faso.

During the statutory part of the General Assembly, the President referred to the moral report of the FGF and called the members of the new Board. Note that this General Assembly was open to all persons, namely: + / 120 people from a dozen countries. Subsequently floor was given to Heads of Delegations from different present countries. Note that a country member has requested an opportunity for government agencies having a direct link with the profession of surveyor (example : such as national mapping agencies) to adhere to the FGF. A modification of the statutes will take place during the General Assembly 2013. It is also planned for 2013, to formalize a Code of Ethics, which will be proposed at the General Assembly of 2013.

The second part of the General Assembly was a non-statutory part, several presentations were made on the subject of ethics, in particular by Dominique Pécaud, French sociologist who communicated on ethics. A communication was also made on professional liability insurance. Several presentations were made on the following themes: urban land management, mapping in Africa, agricultural water, the new chaintopo at 2iE (school in Burkina Faso), the evolution of the profession of surveyor DRC ...

### **3.2 University of Improvement, which were Held on 24<sup>TH</sup> and 25<sup>TH</sup> October 2012**

Between 80 and 100 people are attended to these universities (depending on the sessions.)

The themes were, among others, the following:

- Land governance;
- The cadastre;
- Mapping;
- Of the condominium;
- Management of a firm of surveyors.

Margins of universities and general assemblies, different contacts were made:

- Working session by the President of the FGF, the delegation of Burkina Faso and the representative of UN-Habitat with the Minister of Housing and Urban Development in Burkina Faso.

- Audience with the First Minister of Burkina Faso, the President of the FGF, the President of the FIG, the representative of UN-Habitat, and the representative of Burkina Faso.
- Interview between the President of the FGF and the Director of the School of Engineering 2iE, which has developed in his school, a section called "topo".
- Interview with the representative of UEMOA (Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa).

### **3.3 Conclusion of the Seminar**

The seminar succeeded by the number of participants, attendance to participate in discussions, the quality of interventions and exchanges.

It was proposed by the President of the FGF, François Mazuyer, that members of the Federation adopt the Ouagadougou Declaration announcing the engagement of the FGF in the development of a code of Ethics that should be adopted in Yaoundé in 2013. This statement was adopted unanimously by the Assembly.

Recognition of the FGF by institutions and organizations such as UN-Habitat, FIG, other political authorities in Burkina Faso is to strengthen.

It is planned that one of the theme of the General Assembly in Yaoundé will be “women's access to land and education” and will be followed by the second university.

### **4. CASE STUDY 3 : GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FGF AND UNIVERSITY OF IMPROVEMENT PLANNED IN 2013**

The 2013 General Assembly of the FGF and University of Improvement 2013 are set out in the month of October 2013 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

It is expected that such events take place over 3 days with the possibility of technical visits the 4th day.

It is expected that one day is devoted to the General Assembly of the FGF with a statutory part and a technical part with 3 training to know about GPS, VRD, GIS.

It is planned that the sessions of day 2 are held in conjunction with members of Commissions 2 (Professional Education) and 7 (Cadastre and Land Management) of the FIG.

This common session will address women's access to land and education with the testimony of three African women surveyors and with an intervention of Diane Dumashie, Chair of the Task Force Africa FIG. It is expected that the rest of the day is spent and hosted by UN-Habitat and FIG with a subject of “pro Poor Tools” as well as women's access to land.

As for the third day there is a joint symposium FGF / Commissions 2 and 7 of the FIG also organized jointly with colleagues from Cameroon. The proposed themes are:

- Ethics and professional online
- Climate change and natural disasters.

On the 4th day, organized by the FIG, consist of technical visits. Agreement with the authorities of the FIG, it is proposed that members of the FGF may also participate in these visits.

Remember that it is only a project at this stage and that the program may be subject to change.

## **5. OTHER PARTICIPATIONS OF THE FGF IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS**

### **5.1 Organization of two French sessions during the FIG Working Week 2012 in Rome.**

The FGF was invited by Diane DUMASHIE to participate in the FIG Task Force Africa workshop of the FIG, held in conjunction with the Working Week in Rome in May 2012.

### **5.2 Participation of the FGF in the Network's activities of professional French associations (RAPF)**

- Organization of **the first symposium in March 2012** on the theme of RAPF professional French-speaking.

The FGF participated in the organization of the first conference of the Network of French associations. This conference, held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012 for the occasion of the International Day of the French-speaking, which was placed under the patronage of the Secretary General of the French-speaking Abdou Diouf, aimed to introducing the network of professional associations and giving voice to economic actors. The topics discussed to the contribution of the French-speaking in globalization, the role and contributions of the French-speaking professional actors.

- Participation of the FGF to the **Global Forum of the French language**, which was held in **Quebec City** in July 2012.

Annick Jatton represented the FGF Global Forum of the French language, held in Quebec City from 2d to 6th July 2012 by the OIF and the Government of Quebec. This conference allowed the French professional associations to pursue concrete collaboration through a shared space for exchange and active participation in various events and debates. A working session was organized during the conference to discuss the continuing vocational training and the promotion of the French language.

11 professional organizations are now part of the Network.

### **5.3 Participation in the 1<sup>st</sup> international conference on land titling organized by UINL in**

## **January 2012 in Ouagadougou**

François Mazuyer participated in the international conference organized by the Land International Union of Notaries Notary of the Supreme Council on 25th and 26th January 2012 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on the theme "Land Titling in the Service of Peace and Social Development of the African Continent." On this occasion François Mazuyer presented the French system of land identification and returned to the importance of land titling in African countries to secure the property rights of the people.

### **5.4 Participation in the Week of Surveyors of Cameroon in April 2012**

Alain Gaudet, outgoing president of the FGF, represented the FGF during the week of Surveyors of Cameroon held in Yaoundé from 10th to 14th April 2012 under the theme: Contribution of the surveyor in land management and sustainable development of Cameroon. " On this occasion, the FGF was invited to participate with the FIG and the Order of Cameroon to a radio program to explain the role of surveyors internationally.

### **5.5 Enhancing the experience of ownership in sub-Saharan Africa during the Congress of the OGE in La Rochelle, France, in September 2012**

The order of the surveyors of France (Ordre des Géomètres-experts de France) wanted to enhance the experience of co-ownership in sub-Saharan Africa on the occasion of its 41st Congress held in the city of La Rochelle from 11th to 13th September , 2012. Mr Jérôme Zampou spoke at the forum of the Congress on the evolution of ownership in Burkina Faso.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

The Federation of French Speaking Surveyors (FGF) to bring its members a technical as well as a political support to contribute to the organization of the surveying profession, to guarantee a high level of initial and continuous training and to contribute to the maintain of the use of the French language with international institutions.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

### **François MAZUYER**

Practice:

- Land surveyor dplg – Institute of Topometry
- Liberal practice in PEYREHORADE ( LANDES ) since 1980

National responsibilities:

- OGE President since 2011

- Member of OGE's international commission since 2003
- President of OGE's international commission since 2009

International responsibilities:

- President of the « Fédération des Géomètres Francophones » since 2009
- OGE delegate to the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors since 2009

**Marc VANDERSCHUEREN**

Studies : Surveyor certificated by the Belgian State

Practices : In 1978-1979, Surveyor in an Artillery Regiment (Belgian Army)  
In 1982-1983, Private Surveyor in London, UK

A present : - Director/Surveyor of the Fiscal and Technical Directions of the Belgian Cadastre (General Administration of the Patrimonial Documentation – Cadastre, Registration, Public Property, Mortgage Service)  
- in Charge of the International Relations (for the General Administration of Patrimonial Documentation)

- Professor of :  
- Property Law,  
- Cadastre  
- Town Planning  
- Immovable Valuation  
in High School for candidates

Surveyors in Brussels

- Delegate of the “Patrimonial Documentation Administration” of Belgium to FIG (member Affiliate FIG)
- Member of the Board of the FGF (Fédération Internationale des Géomètres - Federation of French Speaking Surveyors)
- Member of the Board of UGEB (Union des Géomètres-experts de Bruxelles – Union of the Surveyors of Brussels)
- Member of the Board of UBG (Union Belge des Géomètres-experts – Belgian Union of Surveyors)
- International Expert in Cadastre for the Democratic Republic of Congo

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