Building a Young Surveyors Network – A way to rejuvenate the profession?

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Chair of the FIG Young Surveyors Network

Background
What is the average age of a Surveyor in your country?

- Age group 30-35: 1 answer
- Age group 36-40: 2 answers
- Age group 41-45: 3 answers
- Age group 46-50: 8 answers
- Age group 51-55: 2 answers
- Age group 56-60: 2 answers
- Age group 61+: 1 answer

Average age within the response group: 44.04 years

How long have you been chair/president of your national organization?

- 0-5 years: 7 answers
- 5-10 years: 22 answers
- 10-15 years: 3 answers
- 15-20 years: 1 answer
- More than 20 years: 1 answer
What is your gender?

Number of answers

- Male: 5
- Female: 28

In your personal opinion is the YSN of importance to FIG?

Number of answers

- Yes: 2
- No: 22
 Comments

I believe that a young surveyors' network is beneficial to the entire international surveying industry, not only to FIG.

They are the future of our profession; without them not future at all.

The Young Surveyors group can help pave the way for the next generation of surveyors in the market. It can show the current surveyors what the next generation is thinking, and what directions they wish to go. This is something that is easy to forget for those of us with decades of experience.

Young professionals are escaping traditional organizations leaving them to "old farts". This development should be slowed and tuned.

It is important for any organisation to have members from different age groups! It is a must for the survival of the organisation.

 Is it of importance to your organization to have a working YS organization within your country?

Number of answers

- Yes: 2
- No: 21
Yes, to motivate them to build international contacts and collect experiences.

Discussions on how to interest more young folk in the industry is discussed regularly.

They all ready working in our Country, in many different areas, and that has a very special meaning for us.

I think so, but at the moment there are many difficulties.

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**Do you as a national chair/president work actively to involve YS in your organization?**

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We have an annual information meeting with the students in their last semester, explaining them the step into the professional life. This is rather successful. We know each other and this is a reason for joining the organization.

We have a younger meeting with them, every year. Where we analyze plenty of aspects of our profession, and the future of it.

The work is under way but it is demanding does not seem to bring any quick results. One problem is possibly that we older ones do not quite understand what makes the young to tick.

Very much so! We have contact persons on universities graduating land surveyors.

Do you have a working YS organization in your country?*

- There are no formations of YS in my country
- There are formations but not working that well
- There are formations but not connected to the NA
- There are formations and they are connected to the NA

* A YS Organization might be at the universities or a sub group the national organization.
Comments

There is a sub-committee on "Education and Young professionals".

There are probably some but I have not heard of them.

These are mainly/maybe only student organizations.

In Australia there is the Young Professionals within the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI). They have representation on the Consultative Council and the Board. They are made up of surveyors and other spatial professionals.

We have individual student members in our organization, and Student Chapters within several universities.

Would your organization be willing to support a YS delegate to be active within FIG?

Number of answers

- Yes: 6
- No: 17
Comments

Not financially but otherwise
If we find an interested person
We are new members of the FIG, so we have to work that issue in a better way
Within our economic possibilities, yes. Involving the young is something we have tried to keep going on.
Needs discussion and budget implications
Financial reasons. But other ways – yes.

Comments, suggestions and input to the YS Network

It is a good idea and would allow young surveyors to feel involved and to be motivated to get involved with the professions in surveying. Funding active involvement would be difficult so other mechanisms for interaction should be investigated such as online conferencing.

Go on with your work, but take into consideration, that the situation is differing over the world.

To be in better connection with the older generations.

Young Surveyors Network, as every organization, should be constant in its work, solid before any problem and generous in time and effort with profession.
A vision for the future mechanism

FIG Member organization with YS Delegates

Universities and national YS organizations

FIG And the Young Surveyors Network