

REPORT ON THE YOUNG SURVEYOR EXPERIENCE AT THE 7TH YOUNG SURVEYORS CONFERENCE AND 27TH FIG CONGRESS 2022 IN WARSAW, POLAND

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FIG Congress 2022 – Young Surveyors Grant Recipient*

Acknowledgments

First and foremost, I would like to express how grateful I am to Yahweh for the great opportunity which He accorded me through the FIG Foundation to participate in the 2022 FIG Congress.

I will forever be grateful to the FIG Foundation and would like to thank them for granting me this opportunity to attend the FIG Congress in 2022. This was my very first international conference, and it was a remarkable experience, filled with enriching activities and events that were educational, eye-opening, amazing, and inspiring. It opened my eyes to the great technologies and improvements that can be done in the mining industry in Zimbabwe, my home nation.

During the conference, I was greatly honoured to meet some of the brightest minds in the survey profession. All this was made possible by the FIG Foundation and Mr Wilson Mhuri, my home institution's president to whom I would also like to extend my gratitude.

Preparations

I remember receiving the email with the bold words,

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive an FIG Foundation grant to attend the XXVII FIG Congress and 7th FIG Young Surveyors Conference in Warsaw, Poland, 11-15 September 2022.

I read the email sometime around midnight and I remember rising from my bed and praising the Lord Jesus, Yahweh Adonai for this opportunity. I then forwarded the email to my parents and siblings who were all exceedingly excited.

This was my very first time travelling to Europe, and I was elated!

The FIG office was very helpful in providing support during the visa and preparatory process. When the day came for me to travel to Warsaw came, everything went smoothly, thanks to the organizing committee.

The Young Surveyors Conference

Upon arrival in Warsaw, Poland, the first two days were taken by the Young Surveyors conference running under the theme: “*Volunteering for the Future: Smart Surveyors for Social Good*”. This was a great learning opportunity, and it was very exciting to meet most of the young surveyors in person after having met them online for the 6th YSN Conference.

As a member of the Volunteer Community Surveyor Programme (VCSP), I had the opportunity to participate in sessions led by the VCSP and meeting some for the first time after so many online meetings. In one of the sessions, we had group discussions on how to make the VCSP even better in the future.

The FIG Foundation President, Mr John Hohol whom I met for the very first time, did the certificate presentation to all- grant recipients. He is greatly concerned with the future of the profession, and it was a great honour and privilege to meet him.

Later in the afternoon there was an outdoor event where I participated in the **Leica AP-20 AutoPole** competition organized by the Leica Geosystems.



Figure 1: Young surveyors after the Leica AP-20 Auto pole competition.

The Leica AP Pole is a great technology that I was all too excited to use for the very first time.

Next on the list was a tour of the *Polish Vodka Museum* for some history and a vodka tasting. I was delighted to learn the rich history behind different kinds of vodka produced in Poland and exported all around the world.

The first day was rounded off with an evening planned and sponsored by Leica, topped with some tastes of Polish cuisine, and crowning of the AP pole competition winners.

The second day of the Young Surveyors Conference was an activity day which included activities such as the Charity Event (Ballroom dance), a treasure hunt, Old Warsaw Palace tour, and concluded by the Welcome cocktail in the evening.



Figure 2: Outside the Polish Vodka Museum



Figure 3: Young surveyors at the Old Warsaw Palace

The treasure hunt was based on GPS to locate the next clue, and my team did well in the treasure hunt.



Figure 4: Takudzwa at the Old palace grounds

The FIG Congress, Congress Dinner, and General Assembly

With around four-hundred people in attendance, the Hilton hotel was a buzz of activity and networking over the next couple of days.

I attended sessions related to my profession as a mine surveyor especially the Commission 6 sessions on geohazards monitoring, and the VCSP sessions including VCSP workshop on the Land Tenure on Mars competition which as a competitor gave me insight on what needed to be done, and I also attended the keynote sessions.

Touring the exhibition stands gave me a glimpse of the technological paradise which we are yet to explore in the mining industry in Zimbabwe.

The *FIG Congress Dinner* was another chance to network and experience the culture and cuisine of Poland. It gave me the chance to converse with some of the most brilliant minds in my profession and I will forever be grateful for this opportunity.

Lastly, the FIG Assembly came, and all the 2022 grant recipients were called to share our future ambitions and to introduce ourselves.



Figure 4: At the FIG Assembly

Concluding Remarks

My experience at the FIG Congress in Warsaw prompted me to advise mine surveyors, particularly, the Association of Mine Surveyors of Zimbabwe to join the FIG as this would give the young mine surveyors a chance to apply for the FIG grant and the seasoned mine surveyors get the opportunity to mingle with great minds in the survey profession.

It is my encouragement to other applicants and future grant recipients to grasp these great networking opportunities as a chance in their careers to foster long lasting work relationships that could bring them even more opportunities. Volunteering is also a great way to learn and improve oneself and should never be taken for granted.

Takudzwa Nyekete

Zimbabwe