



## Africa Association of Quantity Surveyors

# AFRICA QS VOICE

Newsletter Date

July 2015

### In This Issue

Committee Work

Steering Committee /  
Liaison Office

Development Activities

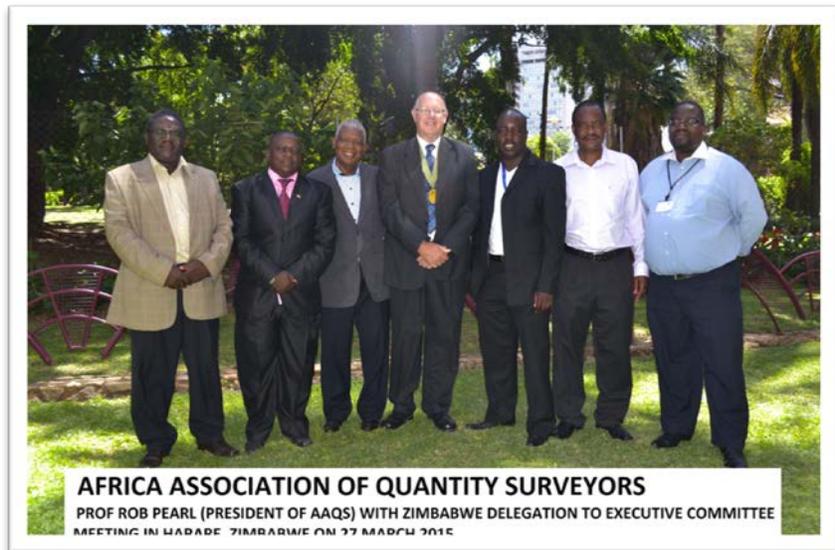
News – “Hot off the  
Press”

Important Forthcoming  
Events

The Africa Association of Quantity Surveyors has, in the recent past, strengthened its position as the international representative of the national quantity surveying professional associations on the continent. Seventeen national organizations are currently active participants, and it is the intention of the Association to increase this number significantly within the next four years. This is not an easy task, considering the vast size of the continent, the diverse cultures and languages that need to be accommodated, and the fact that all AAQS office-bearers finance their activities personally. However, the keen interest of those that have played such a strong role in developing the organization to its present position, and the rapid improvement in IT-based communications worldwide, provide a significant opportunity to achieve this goal.

### Committee Work

The AAQS has been very busy in the past 2 years, having met in Durban, South Africa (June 2012); Mbabane, Swaziland (November, 2012); Windhoek, Namibia (March 2013); Maseru, Lesotho (August 2013); Accra, Ghana (March 2014); and Port Louis, Mauritius (June, 2014), Tshwane, South Africa (November 2014), and Harare, Zimbabwe (March 2015).



Two of these meetings (Swaziland and Lesotho) were specifically scheduled to take place in those countries to finalise ongoing deliberations with local practicing quantity surveyors. As a result, both countries now have formal structures that provide linkage to other national bodies Africa-wide.

## Important Forthcoming Events

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held in Kampala, Uganda at the Hotel Africana on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> August. A seminar to be hosted by the Institution of Surveyors of Uganda will be held at the same venue the following day. We hope to see as many members from East Africa as possible at the Exco meeting and associated seminar.

It is the intention of the AAQS Council to hold their next meeting in Nigeria on 17th November, 2015. This event will take place in conjunction with the Biennial General Meeting of the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS) on 17th to 21st November. This promises to be a special occasion and all members are encouraged to make an effort to attend.

In future, these newsletters will be published three times a year – please do visit the AAQS webpage regularly and keep in touch with our ongoing development and activities.

## Steering Committee/ Liaison Office

Administrative functions of the AAQS have been centralized in Johannesburg, South Africa for the past three years. The office is 'manned' by a part-time liaison officer (Ms Vanessa Ralph), and regular meetings are conducted by a secretariat steering committee comprising Dr. Corne' de Leeuw, Ms. Lydia Carroll, Messrs. Thabo Senyolo, and Egon Wortmann, ably assisted when necessary by the Hon, Treasurer, Mr. Gerhard de Leeuw. On occasion, these meetings are attended by other office bearers who may be available.

This office oversees a number of important functions including website management; newsletters; marketing – particularly in relation to increasing Practice Membership and extending services offered to such; daily financial matters (no small task in a continental organization with numerous currencies and banking differences between members); organization of Exco and Council meetings, together with the associated minute-keeping.

## Development Activities

The AAQS has made progress in a number of areas which will contribute to the further enhancement of the QS status within the built environment, the roles adopted by members. Amongst these, the following are particularly noteworthy:

1. **Client / Consultant Professional Services Agreement.** In association with PROCSA (Professional Consultants Services Agreement Committee), a standard agreement form is now available (electronic format), which is suitable for use by AAQS members.
2. **Guide to Elemental Estimating & Analysis for Building Works.** The above document is now available for downloading, free of charge, on the AAQS website. Copies have been made available to all AAQS Institution and Practice Members. The process of sending the document to Universities and Polytechs throughout Africa that offer courses in quantity surveying, is currently in hand.
3. **Measurements for rental and sales areas.** The AAQS has adopted the SAPOA Method of Measuring Floor Areas in Buildings, but only in respect of the definition of rental and sales areas.
4. **Standard Method of Measurement.** A draft of a document that will be suitable for continent-wide usage is currently being finalized. It is anticipated that the final document will be available in the second half of this year.
5. **Accreditation of Educational Institutions.** A policy document is now in place to rationalize the accreditation process. Adoption of this system will enable graduates to be more effectively evaluated for employment purposes when moving between countries.



*Many of these advancements have been due to the efforts of Dr. Corne' de Leeuw. The outgoing AAQS President, Mr. Michael Frimpong is seen, making a presentation to Dr. de Leeuw at the General Assembly Meeting in Tshwane. A number of other initiatives are similarly being pursued at present. As these come "online", members will be advised of their availability.*

## News - "hot off the press"



The AAQS has recently entered into Co-operation agreements with two prominent international organizations, namely the International Cost Engineering Council (ICEC), and the Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors (PAQS). The AAQS President, Prof. Rob Pearl is seen, together with the Executive of the PAQS at their signing ceremony in Yokohama, Japan. Whilst the three organizations have had a close working relationship for some time, these formal agreements will assist us in deriving the benefits of working together to promote internationally recognized

standards and best practices, and to collaborate and assist, where possible, on research projects and other programs and initiatives to improve our professions. Copies of formal co-operation agreements that the AAQS have with international organizations are displayed on our website.

A number of changes to the AAQS Constitution and By-Laws have been drafted which were approved at the most recent General Assembly meeting. The updated documents are available on the AAQS website. As is the case every 3 years, a new set of office-bearers were elected at the recent General Assembly meeting. Details of the new AAQS Boards and Committees, who will hold office until the end of 2017 are reflected on the website.



## Contact Us

Unit G6, Building 27  
Thornhill Office Park  
Bekker Road  
Vorna Valley, Ext 21  
Midrand 1681, South Africa

Tel +27 (11) 315 4140  
Fax +27 (11) 315 3785  
[www.aaqs.org](http://www.aaqs.org)