



Africa Association of Quantity Surveyors

AFRICA QS VOICE

Newsletter Date

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The Executive Committee of the AAQS recently met in Kampala, Uganda on 13th August, 2015. The meeting was attended by 9 Exco members and 8 institutional representatives, including the Presidents / Chairpersons of the Uganda, Malawi and Tanzania national bodies.



Committee Work

1. The AAQS has recently played an active role in the development of an International Construction Measurement Standard (ICMS). Over 30 professional bodies from around the world attended an inaugural development meeting at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) headquarters in Washington D.C. on 15 – 17 June, 2015. The Immediate Past President of the AAQS, Michael Frimpong, represented the AAQS (in addition to his ‘home’ institution in Ghana) in the deliberations relating to this matter.

Important Forthcoming Events

The 2015 annual Council Meeting will be held in Lagos, Nigeria at Oriental Hotel, Lekki Peninsula Road, Victoria Island on Tuesday, 17th November. 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. The theme of the NIQS programme is "Politics, Policies – Role of Professionals". Congress organizers have advised us that they anticipate the event will be well attended by Government officials right from the President, Vice President, Governors, Senators and Business Leaders. 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.



He is seen signing the concluding declaration of the ICMS Coalition at this meeting.

A community website has been set up specifically to provide information to those interested in this initiative. If you are interested in the initiative, then please register for the community website to keep up to date with developments and to participate in the online discussions. The website address is:

(<https://communities.rics.org/connect.ti.icmscoalition/view?objectId=14279365>).

2. The Education, research and training board is investigating the way forward in a number of initiatives. Firstly, there is the possibility of entering into formal accreditation arrangements with universities providing quantity surveying programmes in East Africa. Initial contact has been established with these institutions, and detailed discussions and potential action are planned for 2016. The board is also involved in establishing a platform for 'E-Learning' opportunities. It is evident that there are numerous opportunities to develop targeted programmes for national institutions which can develop and support basic educational and training needs, CPD and similar seminar-based activities, and even APC / TPC requirements.
3. The Services and model documentation board has historically been the most productive section of our organization. Some exciting developments are due under the auspices of this board. Firstly, the PROCSA documentation current available is due for revision within the next few months. In addition, the committee responsible for compilation of the Guide to Elemental Estimating & Analysis, which is freely available on the AAQS website, is considering production of a revised / improved edition in the near future. The board is also collaborating with the developers of a new financial viability programme called 'Viable' in terms of providing informational tuition to potential users. A major development is the imminent production of the new Standard Method of Measurement of Building Work for Africa (SMM Africa) which will be made freely available on the AAQS website during September. At the same time, a model bill of quantities will similarly be made available.
4. The AAQS is actively seeking to broaden its membership base and enquiries are currently underway to investigate potential membership of parties in Rwanda.
5. Discussions are presently taking place to extend the content of the AAQS website. At a recent joint meeting of the Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Kenya (IQSK) and the QS Chapter of the Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK) it was suggested that content such as a library of standard forms of contract used in various countries, and a section dealing specifically with academic matters should be considered.



The President of the AAQS, Prof. Rob Pearl is seen with members of the 2 delegations at the conclusion of the meeting in Nairobi.

6. At the Kampala meeting, it was proposed that the Awards committee investigate the possibility of initiating two new AAQS awards. The first suggestion is that of an "AAQS Quantity Surveyor Practice of the year" award. The initial suggestion promoted the idea that this should be limited to Practice Members of the organization. Another award to be considered is that of 'Young African Quantity Surveyor of the year'. Decisions related to this will be made at the forthcoming Council meeting in Lagos.

Steering Committee/ Liaison Office

By the time of this newsletter being published, it is expected that the liaison officer of the AAQS, Mrs. Vanessa Ralph will have given birth to a new family addition. She will be on maternity leave until the end of 2015 – we wish her well in this exciting time for her family. The committee has made alternative arrangements for handling normal daily business during this time.

We are sad to lose the services on this committee of longtime AAQS Council member Thabo Senyolo, due to conflicting business and personal commitments. In recent years, in addition to serving on the Secretariat Steering Committee (SSC), he has overseen the publication of AAQS newsletters.

Attention has been given in recent times to improving the administrative management of AAQS financial matters, particularly that relating to Institutional and Practice Membership. Monthly statements are now being issued to all parties which reflects up-to-date details of accounts.

There is an ongoing drive for Practice Membership of the AAQS. Practice Membership is open to quantity surveying practices in Africa and who are registered members of, or are endorsed by, an Institution Member of the AAQS in the applicable country. Practice Membership does not have any voting rights, but such practices may, through one representative, attend AAQS council and general assembly meetings as observers and participate fully in all discussions.

The benefits to quantity surveying practices becoming members of the AAQS, *inter alia* include the following:

- Exposure to the practice (within own country as well as the rest of Africa). This may be achieved by widespread exposure on the AAQS website, at all congresses and events organised by the AAQS and in AAQS publications
- Contact with other member quantity surveying practices within the various member countries in Africa. This has often led to collaborative project involvement
- Exchange of information and technology between member practices
- Access to information such as standard model documentation including pricing data, fee structures, building agreements in use, standard methods of measurement in use, etc
- Discounts often being offered to Practice Members attending AAQS-sponsored events

It is notable that one country, which has developed a reputation for being most prominently involved in profitable developments continent-wide has 28 practice members (out of a total of 44). The conclusion to be drawn from this is fairly obvious! Should you wish your firm to be admitted to this exclusive fraternity, please contact us via the address indicated on the AAQS website.

News - "hot off the press"

During a recent visit to Tanzania, it was suggested that the AAQS newsletters should, in addition to being displayed prominently on the AAQS website, be distributed to individual quantity surveyors of the national bodies that are Institutional Members.



The AAQS President, Rob Pearl, is seen at the meeting with senior representatives of the Tanzania Institute of Quantity Surveyors (TIQS), and the Architects and Quantity Surveyors Registration Board in Dar es Salaam.

The AAQS Exco has fully supported this proposal and a pdf copy of all future newsletters will be sent to Institutional Members for onward distribution to their individual members.

At the Kampala Exco meeting, a start was made on the compilation of a Strategic Plan for the future of the AAQS. Institutional Members of the AAQS will shortly be provided with a set of draft proposals / discussion points that emanated from this process. A specific slot has been allocated at the next Council Meeting in Lagos in November 2015 for a detailed SWOT Analysis to occur, and for broader discussion and consideration, intended to lead to the adoption of a 'blueprint' indicating medium-to-long term strategic objectives. Members of Council representing the various Institutional member groups are therefore required to formally discuss the content of the documents that are about to be circulated with their representative organizations in due course. We encourage all national groupings to seriously consider these matters and to mandate their representatives to bring their institutional views to the attention of Council at the Lagos Council meeting.

The AAQS Exco has provisionally identified the countries and approximate dates of the 2016 meetings. The proposals are:

March (likely 2nd week) – Botswana (Exco Meeting)

August (in the first two weeks) – Tanzania: Dar es Salaam (Council)

November (first half) – Rwanda (Exco Meeting)

Of special noting is the Council Meeting in Dar es Salaam. Preliminary plans indicate that this will be an event of great significance / interest to all quantity surveyors, whether you are a consultant, contractor, government official, academic, or office bearer of a national professional organisation. Diarise this event now!



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