

Developing digital competence for emerging Surveyors

Obiageri Juliet Asogu (Nigeria)

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SUMMARY

Developing Digital Competence for Emerging Surveyors

The surveying profession is entering a new era, where technology is no longer optional, it is the backbone of modern practice.

From digital construction management and cost automation to geospatial intelligence and AI-driven decision making, today's projects demand surveyors who are confident, curious, and digitally skilled. As the global built-environment continues to transform, the next generation of surveyors must be empowered to lead with technology, innovation, and ethical responsibility.

This paper explores how emerging surveyors especially young professionals can develop strong digital competence for a fast-changing industry. It highlights practical pathways for growing skills in Building Information Modelling (BIM), digital quantity surveying, data analytics, automation tools, remote sensing technologies, and collaborative project platforms. Beyond tools, it focuses on mindsets: adaptability, problem-solving, leadership, and a culture of continuous learning.

A key emphasis is inclusivity. Every young surveyor should feel welcome and supported in this digital transition, regardless of background, gender, or location.

Digital transformation must not leave anyone behind. Instead, it should create opportunities for young talent across Africa and the world especially in emerging markets to contribute, innovate, and lead.

When trained and empowered, young surveyors become drivers of efficiency, sustainability,

transparency, and professional excellence.

The paper also outlines how FIG, its Commissions, and the Young Surveyors Network can shape this journey through mentorship, training, research support, policy guidance, and global knowledge exchange. It builds on the ongoing global conversation around youth development, diversity, and professional evolution strengthening the foundation for a smarter, more inclusive digital future.

By preparing young surveyors today, the profession secures its relevance and impact for tomorrow. Digital competence is not simply about learning tools; it is about shaping confident future leaders who can build better cities, promote sustainability, and deliver value to society.

The future of surveying is digital and the future leaders are already here.