

FIG Foundation Grant Report – FIG Working Week 2025, Brisbane-Australia.

Introduction

Being part of the FIG Working Week 2025 in Brisbane, Australia was an unforgettable chapter in my journey as a young surveyor. Having previously attended the FIG event in Accra in 2024, this second opportunity felt even more meaningful. As a recent graduate in Geomatic Engineering, receiving the FIG Foundation Grant was not only an honor but a huge encouragement. I'm sincerely thankful to the FIG Foundation, the Ghana Institution of Surveyors, and especially to my family, whose constant support has made all the difference.

Preparation and Travel

This was my first trip outside Ghana, and though it took more than 30 hours to get there, I was filled with excitement from start to finish. Every airport I passed through seemed to tell a story, and I couldn't help but feel a sense of wonder. I'm deeply grateful to Maria Bargholz and Tony Wheeler for their assistance in making the whole traveling process so smooth. I also want to thank Mr. Stephen Djaba, David Elegbede, Chair of YSN Africa, and Gustav Kplom Asamoah (GhIS), for their guidance and encouragement.

Arrival and Welcome

Arriving at the hotel and being welcomed by Mr. John Hohol, President Emeritus of the FIG Foundation, was a warm and affirming experience. That moment made me feel truly seen and appreciated. I'm also thankful to Mr. Djaba for making sure my room situation was sorted out quickly so I could settle in comfortably.

Young Surveyors Network Conference & City Tour

The YSN Conference marked a joyful beginning to the week. Seeing familiar faces from Accra 2024 and meeting new ones brought a sense of community. I was especially moved by the presentations from various regions; it was inspiring to see the progress others are making and it strengthened my desire to contribute to YSN Africa.

The Scavenger Hunt that followed gave me my first real tour of Brisbane. Alongside fellow young surveyors, I explored the city and discovered the fascinating history of its bridges, planning, and architecture. Seeing how much of the city's beauty could be traced back to the work of surveyors gave me a new level of pride in our profession.

Technical Sessions and Paper Presentation

I was honored to present my paper, 'Flood Detection and Analysis: Case Study of Akosombo Dam Spillage 2023,' during the Spatial Planning and Disaster Risk Management technical session. It was both nerve-wracking and exciting to share my work on an international platform. Attending other sessions broadened my view of the profession, showing how geospatial technology is being used around the world to solve real problems. My first

experience as a rapporteur for the session Leveraging Geo-Spatial Intelligence for Spatial governance. This role deepened my understanding of geospatial data informs public policy and governance. It was interactive and insightful.

Cultural Exchange and Gala Dinner

The Gala Dinner was a true highlight. An evening filled with joy, music, and connection. It was a celebration of culture and collaboration, reminding us that while we come from different places, our shared goals unite us.

Key Learnings and Reflections

One of my biggest takeaways from the week was how surveyors can influence not only infrastructure but policy and education as well. I was especially struck by how seriously gender inclusion and youth engagement are taken in Australia. It made me think about the changes I'd like to advocate for in Ghana. We may be the 'invisible engineers,' but our work shapes the world in visible ways.

Future Goals

Motivated by my experience, I plan to start a local outreach campaign to promote surveying in Ghanaian high schools. I also want to become more active in Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce and YSN Africa, supporting young professionals like me to innovate, lead, and grow.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the FIG Foundation for making this life-changing experience possible. I'm also grateful to the Ghana Institution of Surveyors, my mentors, my family, and everyone who supported me through this journey.

Photo Highlights



Receiving grant award from John Hohol



Picture with John, other grant winners



YSN Charity Event: Me with Scavenger Hunt Group Members



Paper Presentation at Commission 8.



At The Exhibition Booths



At the FIG Gala Dinner



A Visit to Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary with Fellow Surveyors

Angela Bubune Bleboo

FIG Foundation Grant Recipient 2025

Ghana