

Strategy for Organizing a Smart Department of Geomatics in Nigeria – a Case Study

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SUMMARY

The department of Surveying is the engine room for the production of smart surveyors and surveying knowledge. The simple set up of traditional department incapable of producing smart surveyors because of challenging and changing geospatial market, technology, knowledge and the unpredictable environment. The limited resources in Nigerian universities further exasperate the problem, and also very limited support from outside the university. It is further hard for an entirely new department in which case there will be low grade academic staff and harder if the university is situated in the Borno state of Nigeria where there is insurgency going on – very difficult to attract high calibre lecturers. This work reviews the tradition setting of surveying departments and the minimum benchmark required by Nigerian Universities Commission (regulatory body) in order to examine their capacity to produce a smart surveyor for the Nigeria market and to survive as a department.

The work will use personal experience of how a typical surveying department such as Department of Geomatics, A. B. U. Zaria is organised. And compare how the departments are structured in Europe and America. A further literature review is carried out on university standard virtual courses and collaboration that can be adoptable in surveying training.

The results will involve coming up with courses that will produce smart surveyors, course that could be taught virtually, hence the department must not have staff on ground, and courses that must be taught directly on ground. The nature of diplomas to be issued. The literature review will show the advances in organising and delivery of courses, and researches needed.

Department of Surveying can no longer be organised in the traditional way if it wants to survive and produce smart surveyors. Geospatial knowledge is ever increasing in demand far beyond the

traditional surveying, this work provides a direction to department of surveying on how it could transform with limited facility.

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