

Surveyors discuss roles in good governance

By
Cliff Ekuful

THE fifth Regional Conference of the Federation of International Surveyors (FIS) opened in Accra on Wednesday.

The Conference, which is under the theme "Promoting Land Administration and Good Governance," is the first to be held in West Africa and the third in Africa after Kenya and Morocco.

Ghana was selected to host the conference when it won the bid it put in on the basis of vibrance and achievements of the GIS.

Opening it, Senior Minister J.H. Mensah, said the theme for the week-long conference had been the preoccupation of land administrator.

He noted that land represented the single most important asset of humanity and a precondition for sustainable development.

Mr Mensah said that rapid urbanization had resulted in accelerating damage to the environment and that had become a phenomenon worldwide.

He said that though land administration and management was fairly new in Ghana, it had lots of experiences to share with other coun-

tries.

He said that the government had over the last three years, been putting in place a policy document that would help regulate land administration and its management in the country.

He said it was important for people who managed land in the country to have the requisite knowledge and technology and to achieve that, the government was putting in place a pool of modern equipment for surveyors in the country.

Mr Mensah urged surveyors to collaborate with land administrators to ensure that the desired benefit was derived from the land.

The president of the FIG, Professor Holger Magel, said that Africa's demographic boom, rapid urbanization and large scale migration posed new challenges to achieving the United Nations Development Goals.

He therefore stressed the need for a more integrated approach to sustainable urban development based on the twin pillars of good urban governance and good urban management.

Prof. Megel that said the FIG was committed to Africa in her quest for securing a proper land administration and was prepared to share experience with other continents.



MR J.H. Mensah (third from right) chatting with Odeno Gyapong Ababio II, President, National House of Chiefs after the opening of the meeting in Accra. With them include Prof. Dominic Fobil, (second from left), Minister of Lands, Forestry and Mines, Ms Theresa Tagoe, Deputy Minister, Lands, Forestry and Mines, Prof. Holger Magel (second from right), President, International Federation of Surveyors and Dr B.E.K. Prah, (third from left), President, Ghana Institution of Surveyors.

Picture: Seth Adu Agyei.

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