

Date

Tuesday 14th July 2009

Title of session

Workshop: Capacity Building

Name of presenter/chair

Dr Chukwudozie Ezigbalike, Secretariat, African Centre for Statistics, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa - Chair

Professor Fraser Taylor, Geomatics & Cartographic Research Centre, Canada - Contributor

Name of rapporteurs

Jevon Snell & Gillian Horner

As two presenters were absent Professor Fraser Taylor kindly stepped in to give us a valued insight into his experiences in Africa.

Fraser has been involved in capacity building for an incredibly long time, he worked in Kenya building schools and using GI, basic overlays to begin with and he did his PhD in Rural Development.

Capacity Building – what can be done to tackle the challenges?

A bottom up approach must be taken, not a top down, as it is important that you understand the realities on the ground and build up from there. Fraser believes there is great variation within Africa where he has experience; he is not able to comment on the worldwide situation.

Land registration – is an issue with only 10% of land in Africa being registered and owned. Land reform and registration is good – but again it must be based on the reality of what is on the ground.

Fraser believes that capacity building is best done by the people in the country and not by an outside consultant, who does not always understand the issues or culture.

Solutions have to come from local people and they have to buy into the ideas and live with them in the future.

NMCAs do have a role to play in helping countries develop capacity – but they need to change their business models. In order to do that:

- They need to spend more time on thematic mapping.
- Be able to demonstrate one or two concrete examples to government that exemplify how mapping can help, thus building up links between the NMCA and local government departments.
- Get into local schools and start educating at a young age. Overseas scholarships are often provided, but the trained individuals often work for NGO or other world organisations and this does not benefit the community.
- Stop underestimating the role the community can play in mapping, for example NMCAs do not pay enough attention to local knowledge.
- Have a realisation that mapping is a means to an end not an end in itself.

Fraser again emphasised the need for a bottom up approach, and that solutions need to come from inside the community or country and not outside.

Questions/Comments	Answers
<p>Muhammad Bashir Nuhu - Nigeria</p> <p>Agreed with Fraser. He explained that many of the countries referred to had never even heard of ICT. He suggested people on the ground could carry out the surveys.</p>	<p>Dr Chukwudozie Ezigbalike – Could you in Nigeria do a National Survey?</p> <p>Muhammad Bashir Nuhu – Yes – we have the contacts and information it is possible if we have the tools to do it.</p> <p>Dr Chukwudozie Ezigbalike – Can we take this forward then?</p>
<p>Belete Tirfie - Ethiopia</p> <p>Research is encouraging, but we need to do and update of the research and pas the findings out to those on the ground as output is useful to both.</p>	<p>Dr Chukwudozie Ezigbalike</p> <p>Can we make research a continuing process?</p>