

New CASLE President and regional presidents appointed

CASLE is delighted to announce that **Dr Charisse Griffith-Charles FRICS MISTT** (Trinidad & Tobago) is the new president of CASLE for the period 2025 - 2028. She takes over from Joseph Segun Ajanlekoko (Nigeria).

Dr Charisse Griffith-Charles Cert. Ed. (UBC), MPhil. (UWI), PhD (UF), FRICS MISTT holds a PhD in Geomatics from the University of Florida, Gainesville, USA and is currently Senior Lecturer in Cadastral Systems, and Land Administration and Head of Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, where her research interests are in land registration systems, land administration, and communal tenure especially 'family land'. She places importance on professional membership and is a Registered and Licensed Cadastral Surveyor with the Land Survey Board of Trinidad and Tobago, fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (FRICS) and member of the Institute of Surveyors of Trinidad and Tobago (MISTT). She has also been a Member of the Land Survey Board of Trinidad and Tobago, President of the ISTT, President of the Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE) Atlantic Region, and President of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FAATT).



*New CASLE President,
Dr Charisse Griffith-Charles*

Regional representation

At the CASLE General Assembly on 22 November the following regional presidents and vice presidents were elected to the board (please see page 2 for more details on the General Assembly).

	Regional President	Regional Vice President
Africa	Alozius Gonza (Uganda) (whole of Africa)	East Africa: Nelly Mbugua (Kenya) Southern Africa and West Africa TBC
Asia	TBC	TBC
Atlantic	Michelle St. Clair (Barbados)	Walter Anstey Scott (Barbados)
Europe	Dr Jim Mason (UK)	Grazyna Wiek-Roy (UK)
Pacific	Joeli Varo (Fiji)	Michelle Blicavs (Australia)

The CASLE Management Board is mostly complete, with a small number of regional seats to be filled.

Other members of the CASLE Management Board are:

Officers

Secretary General – James Kavanagh MRICS

Hon Treasurer – Max Crofts FRICS

CASLE Task Force – TBC

Joseph Segun Ajanlekoko (Nigeria), Max Crofts, Tony Westcott, Dr Abdul Majeed-Mahamadu, Dr Patrick Manu, Dr Mike McDermott (Australia), Professor Chitra Weddikkara (Sri Lanka)

CASLE is looking forward to 2025 and the new management board is keen to engage with our members and member institutions, with this in mind – we are planning a CASLE meeting and event at FIG Brisbane April 2025, and are also excited by the launch of the new CASLE website (please see page 2).

Congratulations to Charisse and the new management board representatives, and many thanks to Joseph, Susan and all those who have served with distinction on the previous incarnation of the management board. CASLE could not exist without your tireless support, guidance, energy and expert insight.

CASLE General Assembly November 2024

The CASLE General Assembly (GA) was held on Friday 22 November. Over 40 delegates from across the commonwealth joined the first online CASLE GA, and the first since the 2020 pandemic. The GA was also the opportunity to renew the CASLE management board, and welcome the new board members and new president (please see page 1). The GA was opened by CASLE President Joseph Segun Ajanlekoko in his last GA as president after many years of outstanding service to CASLE.

The GA featured a wonderful keynote address and lecture by Dr Eugene Seah (Singapore).

How Surveyors can secure their future and unlock their potential
CASLE (Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy) 2024 General Assembly

Dr. Eugene Seah
CEO, DLS Consultancy Pte Ltd
Chairman, ICEC Council
Chairman, South East Asia Board, RICS
Member of APAC World Regional Board
Seah.eugene@dlsconsultancy.com

Participants: James Kavanagh, DLS, Seah Hui-Min Eugene, Max Crofts, Mike McDermott, Tony West, Joseph Segun, Governor, Susan Spe...

[Dr. Eugene Seah](#) is a celebrated entrepreneur, business leader, and philanthropist from Singapore. He is COO of Meinhardt Singapore, which is one of the most respected Asian-based engineering companies in the world. Eugene is a pioneer in the field of construction and civil engineering industries and has been involved in numerous initiatives to promote the industry globally. A brief synopsis of Dr Seah's lecture is below and the CASLE GA were delighted that he was able to give his time and expert insight into a very exciting and fast moving sector.

How surveyors can secure their future and unlock their potential

Synopsis - The way surveyors conduct their business today, compared to say 30 years ago, is very different. There are many considerations to take note of, from having the core knowledge, understanding digital technologies, keeping up with AI and the changes of processes to remain relevant and even understanding the ever-changing needs of clients. Many disciplines in the surveying industry have witnessed a decline in enrolments or are trying to ensure there is no leakage of talent to other industries. The discussion provided suggestions as to how the surveying profession, in general, can remain relevant, studying what is needed in the future and providing the courses today. There also needs to be a four-partied collaboration between Governments, Private Sector, Institutions and Universities or Institutes of Higher Education.

You may also be interested in this recent RICS report - [Digitalisation in construction report 2024](#). The report captures the evolving perspectives on digitalisation in construction, highlighting progress and well-documented persistent challenges.

New CASLE website live

The [New CASLE Website](#) is now live. On the website you can find the CASLE newsletters, details about upcoming events, information on the surveying profession in the Commonwealth, how to become a CASLE member and lots more. Many thanks to Dr Jim Mason for all his hard work in getting the new website up and running.



Viewpoint on transparency in valuation

The FIG article of the month in November 2024 was a new position paper from FIG Commission 9 (Valuation and the Management of Real Estate) written by Peter Ache, Grazyna Wiejak-Roy, James Kavanagh, Eva Katharina Korinke, and Bastiaan Reydon. The [Viewpoint on Transparency in Real Estate Markets](#) paper provides an excellent basis for clearly and definitively defining and measuring the concept of transparency in the real estate market.

International Land Management Conference - 2025

The Land International Network for Knowledge (LINK) in collaboration with the University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE) and CASLE has received a record number of abstracts and presentations for the 4th International Land Management Conference (ILM4) that will be held online, on 27 and 28 February 2025. Researchers, practitioners, representatives of governments, NGOs, and professional bodies will all take part and contribute to the conference. CASLE has been involved with this event since its inception and we are delighted to watch it grow into a major part of the land management global conference programme.

This year the themes are:

Theme 1: How can secure land rights benefit climate action?

Theme 2: How can we maintain effective land systems within zones of conflict and land dispute?

Theme 3: How can effective land administration increase transparency and what are the benefits?

Theme 4: Early Career Professionals and Junior Researchers - Innovations in Land Research and Practice

For further information and delegate booking please visit our website: [4th International Land Management Conference, 27-28 February 2025 – LINK \(landinternational.network\)](#)

Carbon markets offer opportunities as well as complexity

RICS' practice information paper [Impact of carbon markets on the rural economy](#) provides surveyors with a useful framework for understanding the growing role of land in carbon capture and their pivotal role in the UK's transition to sustainable land management. Please also see, [How will carbon markets affect the rural economy? | Journals | RICS](#)

To help rural landowner clients capitalise on carbon markets, surveyors need a foundational understanding of voluntary carbon markets (VCMs). Although the concept may seem familiar, the complexity of carbon markets is often underestimated; they have been likened to sausages: everyone's heard of them, but few know what they're made of.

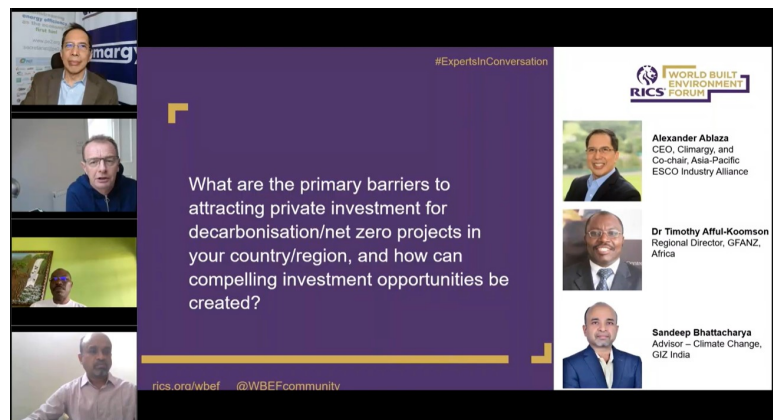
VCMs are largely driven by the Paris Agreement's goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. They allow participants to reduce or offset emissions by purchasing carbon credits, which can be sourced domestically or internationally. These credits must adhere to a standard – a set of rules, criteria and quality assurance processes that ensure carbon offset projects provide measurable and verifiable emissions reductions or removals.



Local approaches for global decarbonisation

A recent World Built Environment Forum (WBEF) webinar explored the specific investment challenges being encountered in neighbourhood decarbonisation initiatives in parts of Africa, India and Southeast Asia, and how are these being overcome? You can watch the webinar and read the accompanying article here, [Attracting investment into net zero neighbourhoods: local approaches for global decarbonisation](#)

Each month, WBEF, the thought leadership vehicle of RICS, runs free webinars on topics such as sustainability, digitalisation and other themes relevant to the built environment. Visit [World Built Environment Forum](#) to catch up on previous webinars, view the upcoming programme and delve into WBEF's rich catalogue of articles.



Surveyors Australia: a busy 2024

Surveyors Australia is the leading industry body representing almost 600 surveying businesses in Australia. Its purpose is to promote, represent and support surveyors and their businesses across Australia. Known for its dedication to supporting surveyors through education, advocacy, and innovation, the organisation plays a pivotal role in addressing the profession's challenges and shaping its future.

2024 has been a busy year for the organisation, with the expansion of courses offered through the **Surveyors Australia Business Academy**. This is a key initiative aimed at equipping professionals with essential business acumen. Designed for surveyors at all stages of their careers, the Academy provides training in leadership, financial management, and strategic growth. By enhancing these non-technical skills, it ensures that surveyors are well-prepared to thrive in competitive markets while maintaining the highest standards of practice.

To meet the growing demand for skilled survey technicians, the organisation established the **Surveyors Academy**, a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) committed to delivering high-quality, nationally accredited training programs. The Academy focuses on equipping aspiring and current surveyors with the practical skills and theoretical knowledge required to excel in the field. By offering tailored courses that align with industry standards and technological advancements, the Surveyors Academy bridges the skills gap and creates a pipeline of qualified professionals. Through this initiative, Surveyors Australia is ensuring the long-term growth and sustainability of the surveying industry.

The **2024 National Congress** was a landmark event, bringing together surveyors, industry leaders, and policymakers from across Australia. The organisation travelled across the Tasman and held the conference in Queenstown, New Zealand. The congress featured keynote speeches, technical workshops, and networking opportunities, addressing critical topics such as technological advancements, sustainability, and workforce development. Surveyors Australia is looking forward to the 2025 National Congress to be held in Darwin, Northern Territory from 14 - 16 July.

Surveyors Australia also leads robust advocacy efforts to ensure the profession's needs are recognised. By engaging with government, regulators, and stakeholders, it champions reforms to attract new talent, update legislation, and promote the vital role of surveying in infrastructure, environmental management, and urban planning. Its work ensures a thriving and future-ready profession.

For further information about Surveyors Australia, please contact Michelle Blicavs, Chief Executive Officer, Surveyors Australia

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Business Academy graduates from NSW



Surveyors Australia students in the field



2024 National Award Winners

20th Anniversary celebration of the establishment of the Women Association of Quantity Surveyors of Nigeria



The cutting of the cake at the 20th Anniversary celebration of the establishment of the Women Association of Quantity Surveyors of Nigeria [WAQSN] in Port Harcourt in Rivers State of Nigeria. The association was established in November 2004 when Joseph Segun Ajanlekoko was President of the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors. He is the association's Life Grand Patron. More information about the association can be found here, [WAQSN – NIOQS](#)

FIG Working Week 2025

FIG Working Week 2025 is being held from 6 - 10 April 2025 at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC), Australia. The overall theme for the Working Week 2025 is: *Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience: Championing a Digital Generation*. More information can be found at, [Invitation to FIG Working Week 2025 in Brisbane, Australia](#)



Season's Greetings

On behalf of the President and the CASLE Management Board, we would like to thank you for your continued support and to wish you all the best for the upcoming holidays and the new year.