SLAN launches its newsletter

ANNUAL DINNER:

The Society hosted her first end of year Annual Dinner Party with the theme SLAN Road Map. The event was hosted in collaboration with SLAN Central Chapter Abuja at the Hawthorn Suites, Abuja. The goal of the meeting was to consolidate the trajectory set by SLAN executives for the growth of the Society especially with its pursuit for an Act of Parliament for a Landscape Registration Council that will give Landscape Architects in Nigeria the legal framework for Professional practice and inclusion in the government civil service scheme to enable employment of Landscape Architects across the various strata of government and to act as the regulatory body for the practice of the profession.

Outcomes of deliberations at the Dinner set the Conference and Annual general meeting on full swing. Roles were assigned to members for the attainment of a successful conference that had suffered many set backs previously

4th National Conference of SLAN

SLAN held its 4th National Conference on the 27th-28th. The conference was followed by an Annual General Meeting andelection of new SLAN executives. The conference was well attended by architects, planners, foresters, gardeners, representatives of government and media groups.

First Fellowship Investiture

An important event at the conference was the First Fellowship Investiture of SLAN.

Photo Highlights of the SLAN conference
April is designated as World Landscape Architecture Month (WLAM). A month to celebrate and talk about the importance of landscape architecture in society.

Read more on: http://iflaonline.org/world-landscape-architecture-month-2019/

SLAN Outings at the WLAM

WLAM visited the Director, Parks and Recreation Department Federal Capital Territory FCT, Abuja, Nigeria and Director, Development Control Department FCT Abuja, Nigeria.

OUT COME

The contribution of Landscape Architects is appreciated as a result:
- They will seek for immediate employment of Landscape Architects by government into the two departments.
- There are new policies to come out in two weeks' time in Parks and Recreation Department for the better management of the city's green spaces.
- Development Control policy will begin to insist that landscape design drawings be included in every submission for a development permit, and that it must be done by a Landscape Architect.
- They requested a seminar to educate them more on the profession.
- They will send a reasonable number of their staff to the Conference.

“Benefits of Nature on Mental Health” seminar on “Spatial Design Thinking for Mental Health”.

The Secretary General of SLAN, Amos Alao was invited by AD connect, a multidisciplinary integrated design research based centre to deliver a paper on the “Benefits of Nature on Mental Health”.

The seminar was timely because of the high rate of suicide, anxiety, dementia and other mental health related cases and the dearth of landscape interventions in our urban areas in Nigeria and around the world. It was the first time Landscape Architect(s) in Nigeria were invited to have such a discussion. It was an opportunity for Alao to introduce the public to the importance of landscape architecture on the environment and how a well landscaped environment can impact positively on public health. He also used the platform to advocate for landscape architects to be actively involved in the built-environment in the country.
News from EXCO IFLA Africa Chair, Professional Practice and Policy, Maimuna Saleh-Bala PhD.

IFLA Africa EXCO has worked assiduously these past couple of months and by March had ratified and signed off three important documents that it had been working on a number of years. These documents are the African Landscape Convention, the IFLA Africa Education Policy and Standards and Accreditation Procedure as well as the IFLA Africa constitution and By-Laws. These documents are sent to IFLA Central for information and/or ratification.

On the platform of the Professional Practice and Policy committee, IFLA Africa President Carey Duncan is working to facilitate better communication with the seven representatives of IFLA Africa working groups in order to keep both ExCO and the continent better informed and updated.

The pursuance and the promotion of education of landscape architects is of paramount importance to the continent. To this effect educators in landscape architecture and those in related disciplines of the environment continuously explore opportunities to key into global thinking, research and innovations in planning the landscape. In this regard, a university from Nigeria, Kenya and Ethiopia participated in the first International Geodesign Collaboration (IGC) held at Redlands CA, USA in February 2019.

The IGC has over 100 participating Universities and organisations around the world and is the biggest assembly of Geodesign focussed academic designers with the goal of sharing research and promoting the agenda of collaborative design (www.geodesigncollab.org). The IGC looks at the generic but critical challenges facing nations globally, and how to plan, manage and pay for infrastructure essential to addressing demographic and climate challenges.

These are transdisciplinary problems not being adequately addressed by conventional disciplinary-based approaches. The IGC therefore focuses on landscape-scale environmental planning, resilient and regenerative designs in multi-systems, multi-client and contentious contexts and thereby promotes the agenda of ‘how to organise and conduct the very beginning and strategic stages of designing for longer term changes. This then produces guidance for improved decision making on infrastructure investments as well as solutions on reducing human impacts on regional ecosystems.

The collaborating universities systematically study change in a case study area of their region and share and compared results in order to build new knowledge based on critical comparisons. Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) and the Geodesign Hub have pledged further support through free software and online tutorials for any university in Africa participating in the IGC. IFLA Africa is supporting this endeavour anchored by Professor Carl Steinitz, by encouraging more participation by Africa universities as it is student driven.

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2019 WLAM: LA around the continent Albums

The 2019 WLAM sees IFLA Africa launch a project of getting to know our colleagues and the projects that are being implemented around the continent. The project is ongoing and welcomes more exciting entries of Landscape Architecture projects from around Africa.

https://web.facebook.com/pg/IFLA.Africa/photos/?tab=album&album_id=961305280735482