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AAK | PROMOTING EXCELLENCE
IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY **NEWSLETTER**

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AAK | PROMOTING EXCELLENCE
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 Change of Guard
- 2 Communication
and Advocacy
- 3 Working Groups
- 4 Meetings and
Engagements
- 5 Upcoming Activities



CHANGE OF GUARD



New AAK President Arch. Florence Nyole and Vice President Arch. George A. Ndege

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK) was held on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at the Serena Hotel in Nairobi. During the AGM, Arch. George A. Ndege was elected as the new Vice President of the Association and is now the convener of the R&A committee, taking over from Arch. Florence Nyole, who is now the president of the Association. Exciting developments are on the horizon, but for now, let's take a look at our activities over the past month.

COMMUNICATION & ADVOCACY

01

UNSTOPPABLE COMMONWEALTH WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE

COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS
Women Leaders
Celebrates Women's History Month
Unstoppable

Annette Fisher
CAA Trustee/Formal Alternate VP Europe
UK/Nigeria

Sumita Singha OBE
RIBA Board of Trustees for Education
UK

Maira Khan
CAA Executive Director
Pakistan

Mina Hasman
CAA Chair of Practice
UK

Florence Nyole
AAK Vice President
Kenya

Curisa Smith
ABIA President
Antigua and Barbuda

Camille Stephenson
JIA President
Jamaica

Sithabile Mathe
Former CAA Chair of Validation
Botswana

Jacquiann Lawton
Head, CSA, UTECH
Jamaica

Linda Moore
Chair, ACSAC
Barbados

Neomie Tavernier
BIA President
Barbados

Zainab Faruqui Ali
Chair, Architecture BRAC University
Bangladesh

Join Our Live Panel Discussion
MARCH 29TH, 3PM BST
EVENTBRITE:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/4ADAP94C](https://tinyurl.com/4ADAP94C)

The Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) Women Leaders is a collective of trailblazing Women in Architecture from all across the entire Commonwealth. In honour and celebration of International Women's Day, these phenomenal women, including the president of the Association Arch. Florence Nyole, held a Pecha Kucha session to celebrate their journeys in the built environment.

02

INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD)

On Wednesday, March 08, 2023, the department held an Instagram Live session to celebrate IWD. It adopted the form of a panel discussion followed by a plenary session. It had a total of 50 live attendees and 440 views. It provided a platform for participants to share experiences and insights, of different generations of women including the challenges they have faced and the solutions they have developed to overcome them. The report is available and has been uploaded to the AAK website (<https://aak.or.ke/download/instagram-live-rapporteur-report-intergenerational-dialogue-international-womens-day-2023/>).

THE ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION OF KENYA INVITES YOU TO
Instagram Live
Intergenerational Dialogue celebrating
International Women's Day 2023

08 March 2023, 7:00pm-8:00pm
Virtually on IG live, @arch_Ke

Speaker
Arch. Mugure Njendu,
Immediate Past President, AAK

Speaker
Plan. Juliet Rita,
Network Coordinator, African
Network for Walking and Cycling

Speaker
Yassin Munyanya,
Graduate Architect & Former
Students' Rep in AAK Council

Speaker
Rehema Kabare,
Urban Assistant at the GoDown
Arts Centre, Graduate Construction
Manager

Moderator
Brenda Ngoya,
Graduate Urban Designer and Blogger

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03

AAK BUILDHUB



Access to information on development approval, either a building permit or planning approval, remains a significant challenge in the country. This is despite the reality that each County's Processes for obtaining the documents differ, and no County has documented its processes. The lack of clarity in the processes involved in the application for these documents makes the application for completing an application unpredictable, long, and tedious.

Following this, AAK commissioned research on the above processes in select counties in Kenya with the aim of providing the public with the information. As a result, AAK has now made it much easier for you to obtain a Building Permit or Planning Approval in Kenya by providing information on step-by-step procedures, the duration for approval, and fee charges for obtaining these approvals.

The portal is still being updated and we have data on 33 counties so far. We have also uploaded all the relevant legal and policy frameworks to the Hub, making it a one-stop shop for all the information you need in the approval processes. Find out more: <https://buildhub.aak.or.ke/>

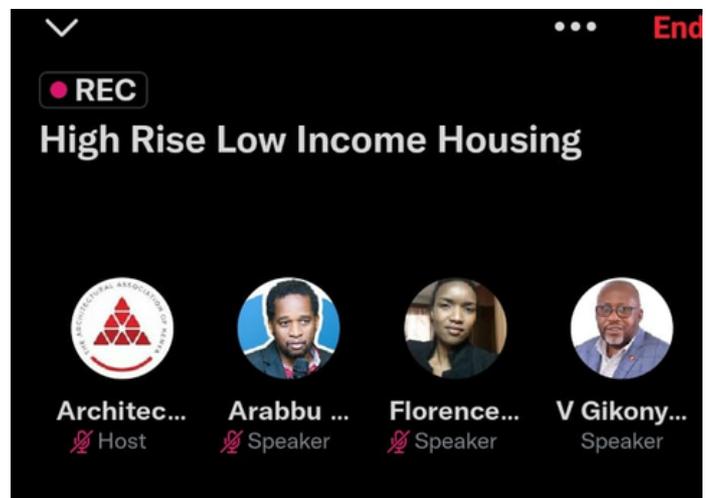
04

TWITTER SPACES

AAK has adopted the use of Twitter spaces as a useful tool for advocacy as it provides a platform for people to connect and engage in real-time conversations about important issues affecting the built environment. It also provides a platform for amplification and community building. By leveraging the power of social media, we can connect with a larger audience and drive meaningful change in the industry. AAK has so far conducted 5 Twitter Spaces on different issues:

1. Kenya We Want
2. Affordable Housing Under the Big 4 Agenda; Lessons for the New Government
3. Inclusive Urban Mobility: Less Highways, More Walkways
4. Envisioning Nairobi Streets of The Future (In conjunction with UN-Habitat & the Public Space Network)
5. Dialogue on High-Rise Low-Income Housing in Kenya

In May, AAK will be conducting a twitter space on the Integrated and Inclusive Infrastructure Framework (3iF). The exact date TBC.



WORKING GROUPS

01

WORLD URBAN CAMPAIGN (WUC)



The WUC Steering Committee Members in consultation with UN-Habitat have decided to make the WUC a more integrated campaign for all with a common target: **Improve 1000 Cities 1 billion Lives by 2030**. In addition, five new working groups have been proposed to increase collaboration on thematic priorities and allow substantive dialogue and content creation to better influence policies and generate impact: Housing for All, City Climate Action, Urban Crises, SDG Localization and Vision, Governance and Communication. AAK is part of the 5 working groups. The groups will meet regularly to discuss progress, share ideas, make decisions and organize focused Urban Thinkers Campuses in partnership with UN-Habitat.

Please check the new WUC flyer that summarizes the revamped campaign and its thematic tracks on the lead to World Urban Forum 12 (Cairo, 2024) - https://www.worldurbancampaign.org/_files/ugd/13b76e_1bc4989347cd41879a57c0f6c01cde82.pdf

02

UN-HABITAT ASSEMBLY (UNHA) ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Arch. J.N. Mwaniki will be representing the association in the UNHA organizing committee to plan for the second UNHA in line with the resolution of the first Public dialogue, and UNHA held in May 2019. The University of Nairobi will host the 2nd Public Dialogue to be held at the Chandaria Auditorium on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

The dialogue adopts the theme of the 2nd UNHA; "A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises". Central to this theme is the accelerated implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA). The specific theme assigned for the 2nd Public Dialogue is; "A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective stakeholder partnership: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises."



Towards 2nd UN-Habitat Assembly

A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective stakeholder partnership: achieving the Sustainable Development

MEETINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY (NCA)



On Tuesday, March 14, 2023, the team had a meeting with the Training and Capacity Building Department at NCA headquarters to discuss and establish a partnership for conducting the Healthy Homes Training. The meeting covered various topics such as the training curriculum, the target audience for the training, the incorporation of the training calendar with existing NCA training, resource sharing, and the need for training of trainers to learn from the experience of the NCA team.

PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

On Thursday, March 09, 2023, the department held a meeting with PSN to introduce both organizations and their respective work, and to explore potential areas of collaboration. The outcome of the meeting was an agreement between the two organizations to establish a partnership, which will be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).



PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

TRAINERS ROUNDTABLE



On Wednesday, March 22, 2023, AAK organized a Trainers Roundtable, which aimed to engage the trainers responsible for conducting the Healthy Homes Training across the country. The session focused on building a pool of competent instructors who will further develop the draft curriculum and teach the beneficiaries in the long run. The roundtable prepared the instructors to deliver the training effectively, understand their target audience, respond to participant questions, and lead activities that reinforce learning.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

01

HEALTHY HOMES GUIDELINES AND CHECKLIST TRAINING



AAK, in partnership with HFHI, released the Healthy Homes Guidelines and Checklist framework. The framework provides for and demonstrates a pathway to achieving healthy and resilient housing at a household and community level in simplified form.

This year AAK will be conducting training in partnership with NCA on the guidelines in several counties in Nairobi, Machakos, Kajiado, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nyeri, and Kakamega. We are also planning to tie this activity with the 2023 AAK Je, Una Mjengo? Campaign.

AAK is also completing a related assignment to prototype an ultra-low-cost and vector-proof housing solution that will be implemented by Habitat for Humanity and in collaboration with the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) in the coming months.

The team is working on a dissemination plan to ensure the information reaches wider audiences. Read the guidelines:

<https://aak.or.ke/download/aak-healthy-homes-guidelines-and-checklist/>

02

3IF BY KDI



The Association, together with Kounkuey Design Initiative and other partners launched the Integrated & Inclusive Infrastructure Framework (3iF) for Kenya (specifically for informal settlements) at the AfriCities9 in Kisumu in May 2022. The 3iF is a practical guidebook for infrastructural provision in informal settlements in Kenya.

The framework can be applied by actors in projects geared towards informal settlement upgrading. It plays a huge role as a guide in developing policy and plans, designing and implementing infrastructure upgrading projects, and ultimately reducing inequality and promoting shared prosperity.

We have now rolled out the second phase where we will focus on contributing to the production of 3iF academic output, organizing a 3iF design competition, including testing and application as well as promoting the framework among professionals and policymakers in the country. Read the 3iF: <https://www.3if.info/>

03

SAFARI GREEN BUILDING INDEX (SGBI)



In recognition of the growing concerns related to climate change, AAK, through its Environmental Design Consultants Chapter technical team, developed and launched the "Safari Green Building Index"- a green building rating and certification tool. The Index clearly elaborates localized benchmarks and guidelines for assessing efforts to address climate change and environmental degradation through buildings.

AAK has completed incorporating a company limited by guarantee and to be known as Safari Green Building Index (SGBI). The operational activities for the tool are already on course with the appointment of a board and committees, development of manuals and acquisition of tools and equipment for the index being among the main activities. In addition, pilot projects will be identified and rated with the tool for demonstration purposes.

04

GROW-A-CLASSROOM PROJECT

The Grow-A-Classroom project aims to facilitate and empower public schools to grow a mix of timber, fruit, and ornamental trees. Upon maturity, the timber trees will be harnessed to build and retrofit classrooms for resilience and adaptation to climate change, the fruits produced will be incorporated into the school diet, while ornamental trees will improve the school landscape. The project responds to the classroom space needs due to the escalating student population.

The Architects Chapter and Landscape Architects Chapter are working on a plan to start the project this year.



05

URBAN THINKERS CAMPUS (UTC) 8.0!



The Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) is an initiative of the World Urban Campaign driven by UN-Habitat. The UTC is conceived as an open space for critical exchange between urban researchers, professionals, and decision-makers who believe that urbanization is an opportunity and can lead to positive urban transformations. It is also intended as a platform to build consensus between partners engaged in addressing urbanization challenges and proposing solutions to urban futures.

AAK has been approved by the World Urban Campaign to host UTC 8.0 this year. Our theme for this year's UTC is **Smart, Sustainable, and Just Cities**, and the tentative dates for the campus are **14 to 16 June 2023**. AAK has in the past hosted UTC 6.0 under the theme *Designing a Multihazard Resilient City* and UTC 7.0 under the theme *Essentials of City Building: Managing Urban Development*. The reports of the various UTCs can be found on our website: <https://aak.or.ke/>



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