

EDITORIAL

We are delighted to publish this new Issue of the African Journal of Built Environment Research (AJOPER) (www.waberjournal.com) which is the official journal of the West Africa Built Environment Research (WABER) Conference (www.waberconference.com). This February 2019 Issue is the first Issue of the Journal for 2019 and comprises of four research papers on an interesting array of topics.

In the first paper by AbdulAzeez *et al.* the authors discuss the skills shortage in the Nigerian construction industry with a specific focus on the multi-skilling of construction workers. Simple random sampling was used in selecting 140 sampled firms. Two sets of questionnaires were administered to the most senior professional and craftsman in each of the 140 firms sampled. One of the major findings in their study was that there is shortage of masonry, plumbing and painting skills in the building construction firms. The main reason for this being the lack of proper apprenticeship schemes which would have provided the workers with proper skills while at the same time providing opportunities for multi-skilling.

Risk is inherent in construction projects and effective risk management is an essential key to achieve intended project outcomes. The second paper by Zailani *et al.* focuses on examining the key barriers to risk management implementation in small construction projects in Nigeria based on 98 questionnaire responses from contractors in Kaduna, Abuja and Kano. A lack of knowledge and the requisite experience, time constraints and project cost emerged as the major barriers to risk management implementation by the smaller contractors involved in the study.

Those who invest in property such as event centres may do so with an expectation to achieve returns on their investment. However, property markets are dynamic and a range of factors including location, management, and economic conditions influence returns. The third paper by Ezeokoli *et al.* looks at the influence of some macroeconomic variables on return on investment for 18 event centres in Akure, Nigeria. The two main economic variables that have a significant effect on property returns of event centres are inflation rate and exchange rate.

Effective leadership and management are essential for the success of all enterprises including construction projects. Those who manage construction projects require an ability to lead and manage effectively. The last paper by AlShamisi *et al.* looks at leadership and management traits of construction project managers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) based on a questionnaire study of 90 project managers. The respondents were asked to evaluate themselves based on 13 comparative leadership and management traits. An overwhelming majority of project managers rated themselves to possess more leadership traits than management traits. This seems interesting given that these professionals are certified to “manage”.

Overall, we have four papers on diverse and interesting topics. The Editors would like to thank all authors of these interesting research papers that we are delighted to publish in this February 2019 issue of the African Journal of Built Environment Research.

Finally, we are happy to announce that WABER Conference, which publishes this journal, is now a member of Crossref. From now on, we will assign Crossref DOIs to all papers we publish and you will realise from the papers that we have done this. We will register the metadata with Crossref. This metadata will then be distributed widely by Crossref, helping with discoverability of your content. This new step we have taken will provide greater online visibility for all our authors!

Editors

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