

## AREA-Uganda Hosts First Women's Conference



A panel of leaders at the Uganda Women's Conference



A group work session at Instructor Howie Gelbtuch's training session



A conference guest is awarded a certificate of participation



Howie Gelbtuch delivers a training session at the Uganda Women's Conference

### EMPOWERING WOMEN IN UGANDA REAL ESTATE CONFERENCE

KAMPALA, UGANDA | NOVEMBER 30, 2012



The Association of Real Estate Agents of Uganda (AREA-Uganda) and the International Real Property Foundation (IRPF) are pleased to report on the success of the first conference on “Ensuring Home Ownership for Ugandans by Empowering Women in Uganda’s Real Estate Sector.” The conference, organized by AREA-Uganda and IRPF was held in Kampala, Uganda at the end of November and attracted a total of 73 participants, an impressive turn-out for the first ever conference for women in Uganda’s real estate sector.

The event’s sponsors included the Women’s Council of REALTORS® (WCR) who presented a video featuring Margo Wheeler Willis, President of WCR, sharing lessons of the US real estate sector experience. Another event sponsor was the Counselors of Real Estate (CRE), represented by Howie Gelbtuch, who gave a presentation on the role of real estate valuation practices.

Honorable Rosemary Najjemba, The Minister of State for Urban Planning, opened the session, highlighting the importance of women’s roles in the real estate and housing sectors. She commended AREA-Uganda for having had the vision to organize the first Women Real Estate Conference. Other presentations included “Opportunities in Real Estate Development” by the General Manager of Kensington Africa

Ltd, “The Role of Mortgage in Enhancing Real Estate Investments” by the head of Mortgage at Stanbic Bank, “The Significance of the Real Estate Index” by the Bank of Uganda, “Digitizing Land Registries in Uganda” by IGN France, and “The Role of Housing and Real Estate Markets as Drivers of the Economy” by Sylvia Luchini, IRPF Managing Director. Question and answer sessions invited participants to ask relevant questions and deepen their knowledge.

Introduced by Ambassador Agnes Kalibbala, Director for Housing of the Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development, Ms. Rachael Daisy Mirembe, Chairperson of AREA-Uganda’s Women’s Committee and coordinator of real estate program at Makerere University Business

“THE LAUNCHING OF AREA-UGANDA’S WOMEN’S COMMITTEE WILL ALLOW THE ASSOCIATION TO PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN ADDRESSING PROPERTY RIGHTS ISSUES, OFFERING TOOLS TO PROTECT CLIENTS’ RIGHTS, AND SUPPORTING WOMEN’S ENTRANCE INTO THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY BOTH AS PRACTITIONERS AND AS MENTORS.”  
-SYLVIA LUCHINI,  
IRPF MANAGING DIRECTOR

School, gave an inspiring speech while launching AREA-Uganda Women Committee. As a result of her speech, 15 women involved in the real estate sector expressed interest to serve as members of the Women’s Committee. The second day of the conference featured a training on property rights led by CRE’s Howie Gelbtuch. Twenty-eight people attended the session covering the basics of property rights and the main documents that entrust people with property rights. The lecture was followed by a hands-on session where the class role-played, learning how to put into practice the concepts covered. The session also provided the framework and templates necessary to assess property values in a streamlined, efficient fashion. One participant, a valuer, commented after the session that she could now do things in an hour that used to take her an entire day.

Overall the conference was a great success with participants gaining an understanding of challenges and opportunities for women in the real estate sector. The conference also presented participants the key building blocks of a strong real estate industry, networking opportunities, and the opportunity to serve in the Women’s Committee to further women’s participation in the real estate sector.

Gaining on the momentum of the conference, AREA-Uganda and IRPF are harnessing support for the next annual conference as well as various programs in the region that deal with women’s property rights and titling issues.