



Keynote Address: Tailored for Young Quantity Surveyors and Industry Stakeholders

Title: From Cost Experts to Conflict Solvers:

The Next Generation of Quantity Surveyors



Opening:

Good morning, future leaders of the construction industry!

It's inspiring to see so many young Quantity Surveyors, alongside seasoned professionals, here today.

You are the ones who will redefine our role in an era of smart cities, climate-resilient infrastructure, and complex contracts.

Today, we're tackling a game-changing theme:

Enhancing Quantity Surveyors' Capacity in Contracts, Dispute Management, and Resolution.

Let me start with a hard truth: The industry no longer needs Qs who just measure and bill. It needs strategists who prevent disputes, navigate contractual minefields, and resolve conflicts efficiently. How do we rise to this challenge? Let's break it down.

1. Contracts: Your New Superpower

(Young Qs! This is where you add unmatched value.)

Modern projects (think mega-dams, PPP highways, or green energy plants) run on contracts like FIDIC Yellow Book or NEC4. But here's the gap: Many Qs dread legal jargon. Let's change that.

Action Steps:

- Decode Contracts Like a Pro: Focus on key clauses (e.g., termination, suspension, and dispute resolution procedures).
- Risk Radar: Use tools like contractual risk matrices to flag liabilities early.
- Tech Edge: Apps like *ContractExpress* or *Aconex* can automate compliance tracking.

Real Example: A junior QS in Lagos recently averted a \$2M claim by spotting an ambiguous variation clause—proof that detail-savvy Qs save projects



2. Dispute Prevention: Be the Project's Guardian

How many of you have seen disputes derail projects? well check you will see many. We have few across the road.

Disputes don't explode overnight; they simmer. Your role? Turn down the heat.

How? Deploy your arsenal in:

Toolkit for Prevention:

- Daily Site Diaries: Photos, emails, and meeting notes are your armor in disputes.
- Early Warning Systems: Under NEC, you must notify risks within 8 weeks—miss this, and your claim dies.
- Collaborative Mindset: Partner with engineers and lawyers to pre-empt conflicts.

Case Study: A QS team in Kenya reduced disputes by 40% just by holding monthly contract health checks with all stakeholders.



3. Dispute Resolution: From Fear to Confidence

Raise your hand if ADR training was part of your degree.

Most QSs panic when disputes escalate. But imagine being the ‘go-to expert’ who resolves them. Here’s how:

Skills to Master:

- Quantum Analysis: Break down claims like a forensic accountant (e.g., time-impact analysis).
- ADR Fluency: Mediation (win-win), Adjudication (fast-track), and Arbitration (binding).
- Expert Witnessing: Courts need QSs to explain delay cost and variations in plain language.

Pro Tip: Take a short course on Construction Adjudication—it’s a career differentiator.



4. The Future: AI, Ethics, and Global Relevance

The QS of 2030 won't rely on Excel alone. They'll use:

- AI Tools: Like Dispute Resolution Bots that predict claim success rates.
- Blockchain: For tamper-proof records of delays or approvals.
- Ethics: Avoid being the “yes man” to contractors or clients—your signature carries liability.

Warning: A QS in Dubai lost their license for certifying a fraudulent claim. Integrity > Profit.





Closing Challenge: To build Capacity, So, where do we start?

1. Micro-Learning: Dedicate 30 mins/week to studying a contract clause or case law.
2. Mentorship: Find a dispute-resolution expert in your firm and shadow them. In fact stalk them.
3. Certification: Pursue courses like the *RICS Conflict Avoidance Practitioner*.

To the young Qs here: You're not just cost consultants—you're the industry's peacekeepers. Let's build a future where disputes are rare, and Quantity Surveyors lead the conversation.

Do you know what the best way to predict the future is to create it. So Qs lets create ours

Thank you!

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