I am **Emmanuel Kofi Gavu**, *Dr.-Ing.*, *MGhIS*, *MSc (GIS)*, *BSc (Land Econ.)*, lecturer at the Department of Land Economy, at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana.

The IREBS Foundation for African Real Estate Research has supported me with a research grant to gather data during fieldwork, and travel grants to attend conferences in and outside the African continent.

As incomes are generally low and funding for continuing professional development and research is virtually non-existent for academic staff in Ghanaian universities, many academics like myself would not be able to attend conferences, network with colleagues, and share ideas without some form of financial support. External support is therefore extremely important to keep up with recent progress within the field of real estate.

For me personally, funding from the IREBS foundation has been of immense help in my academic development. Its financial support has opened up for me a wider network to present my research and ideas at conferences, where I have received useful feedbacks on my research and was able to collaborate with other researchers on common areas of interest.

The IREBS Foundation has provided me with a platform to share my research experiences with other young career researchers and persons within my professional circles. Research contributions are hosted on the IREBS Foundation website that has a wider readership.

I am especially grateful to Prof. Dr. Karl-Werner Schulte, the founder and chairman of the board of the IREBS Foundation for African Real Estate Research, for being a mentor and co-supervising my PhD studies.