

**Report to the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
FIG Congress in Munich, October 2006**

**FIG Commission 1 – Professional Practice and Standards**

**Report of Activities 2002-2006**

**1. General**

Commission 1 looks back to a very successful period 2002 – 2006. Many presentations at all FIG events were made. Lots of discussions took place and mutual understanding between colleagues from different regions and cultures have been strengthened. Not all our wishes of an ambitious work plan have become reality but there is always another term.

Thanks to the very active vice chairs commission 1 achieved a lot as you can see below. But there remains one problem: How to get more surveyors active in commission work? Sometimes it looks like depending on the place of venue whether it is attractive or not, whether expected discussions in that region are worth going there or not.

All members of commission 1 took benefit out of the fact widening their own horizon, seeing different cultures and learning how surveyors in different regions solve their problems in different ways. All members of commission 1 should receive a big thank you for their commitment to FIG and to the work in commission 1.

**2. Achievements**

**2.1. Working Groups**

**Working Group 1.1 – FIG Standards Network**

The last four years have seen very significant consolidation and maturing of FIG's work in a number of standards-related areas as summarised in this report. The Network has played a key role in raising the profile of standards in FIG, and the profile of FIG in standardisation activity. The imminent submission of FIG work on the core cadastral domain model to ISO for progressing to an international standard marks a further development. The Network intends to continue the process of developing a clear shared understanding of FIG's priorities and required actions in the area of standardisation, and will continue to shape this as a common agenda with the Commissions.

The commitment of the Council and of the Commissions to this ongoing work is appreciated and acknowledged.

Iain Greenway  
Chair, FIG Standards Network

## **Working Group 1.2 – Professional Practice and organisational structures**

In the period 2002 – 2006 papers have been regularly presented. The main aspect was put on the development policies and the role of FIG as an expert NGO.

The legal framework of all issues concerning land management can be examined but no influence on the legislation is possible for an expert member of FIG - the politics of the countries is too far away to be reached by FIG.

As a general conclusion it has to be stated, that also in the surveying business, the “revenue oriented business” is the most important goal. This is not surprising in developed countries – but in less developed countries this attitude leads to uncontrolled and uncoordinated activities – as could be seen in many countries.

The role of FIG should nevertheless be to impose itself as a leader and expert NGO in Land Management issues. To achieve this, a further FIG Commission has to be established just to follow this goal and to coordinate independently the work in lesser developed countries.

Experiences: Due to difficult collaboration and experiences made by other working groups all work and finding have been done by one person in the working group.

Michael Keller  
Chair Working Group 1.2

## **Working Group 1.3 – IT Management and professional communication**

The most important event was that we were able as commission 1 to open wide the gate to new cultures and regional groups to present their different views to the profession with variable levels of ethics and standards.

Looking to these varieties I started a project financed by USAID and AMEDEAST “Surveyors and development, new vision for codes of ethics and standards”. This project, that I will develop to try to make it an international reference from Commission 1, included about 24 presentations all around Lebanon then many presentations in Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Also I have organized the second international Conference in Beirut on September 2004 with the participation of 12 Arab delegations and about 6 other European from France, Germany, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Cameroon and Italy.

In this conference I have launched the first initiative to the new Commission 1 Work Plan with my presentation “Role of Surveyor, a Human Vision beyond the Technique”.

Commission 1 was also present and active in the regional conference in Ghana where vice chairs Dietmar Sperling, Leonie Newnham, Iain Greenway and Stephen Djaba were participating to that event as well as the chair-elect Yaacoub Saade representing the Chair Klaus Rürup and Commission 1 presented a summary about the next work plan and organized a workshop that introduced this commission to new members and African organizations that welcomed the new visions of Commission 1 and supported the issues that we are defending.

During that event we had a meeting of the new Francophone Federation (FGF, Fédération des Géomètres Francophones) and we were able to convince this young federation to cooperate with FIG and Commission 1 in the development of its issues regarding the liberal practice of the profession. Waiting for the term of office 2006-2010 to launch the new work plan of our commission we will try to make from FIG and Commission especially a professional reference for the humanism of the profession to conserve the real and glorious character of the role of a surveyor.

Yaacoub Saade  
Chair Working Group 1.3

### **Working Group 1.4 – International project management (Joint Activity with Commission 10)**

The International Project Management Working Group has been concentrating on exploring the management of change and innovation through project management. To this end a number of papers were produced over the four years involving those involved in industry change and development using case studies to identify key issues that might be relevant for professionals as they participate in the continually evolving land management environment.

The model of the land management paradigm (Enemark, 2004) has been used as an organising vehicle to explore changes in policy frameworks, land information infrastructure and land administration functions. This has encouraged debate and discussion around these areas across Commissions and has involved Commissions 1, 2, 7 and 10 throughout the four year term and other organisations such as the Australian Spatial Sciences Institute.

The working group has created a core group of those interested in innovation and change across the world and my thanks go to them for their valuable contribution through this period.

At the congress in Munich in October 2006 a joint paper for Commission 1 and 10 will review cross country comparisons exploring change management issues in large land management projects titled 'Changing the World We See Through Land and Building Project Management'. This will clarify the importance of land management professionals in implementing major changes and the importance of their roles as change agents. Another paper will publish a guide for professionals in managing change issues consolidating things learned from the last 4 years.

Leonie Newnham  
Chair Working Group 1.4

### **Working Group 1.5 – Under-represented Groups in Surveying**

Beneath the quarterly Newsletter ( [http://www.fig.net/underrep\\_groups/index.htm](http://www.fig.net/underrep_groups/index.htm) ) the main task of the Joint Commission Working Group 1.5 on Under-represented Groups in Surveying during the last year was the preparation of Guidelines to Enhance the Representation of Under-Represented Groups in FIG. They are a result of consultations and the efforts of a number of experts and contributors, led by the Chair of the Working Group. The Guidelines

contain FIG Gender Policies, FIG Young Surveyors' Policies and FIG Minorities Policies as well as Case Studies and Good Practices.

The Working Group 1.5 and the Task Force before have undertaken several initiatives, such as the quarterly newsletter promoting the participation and perspectives of women, youth and minorities, demonstrating its increasing commitment to diversity in representation and plurality in perspective. However, it can learn from case studies from surveying organisations around the world which provide good practices in this respect. In this section, examples of best practice from professional associations, public institutions and universities from a number of countries across the globe are showcased. It is not intended to be a representative sample, but rather a collection of experiences from countries in which FIG representation has been easy to obtain.

The Draft Guidelines are adopted by the Council of FIG and will be presented during the FIG Congress 2006 in Munich.

Gabriele Dasse  
Chair Working Group 1.5

## **2.2 Cooperation**

### 2.2.1 Cooperation with Other Commissions

During the last four years there was a close cooperation with commission 2 on one hand and commission 8 and 10 on the other hand. In addition to that working group 1 (standards) and working group 5 (underrepresented groups) are cross commission activities anyway.

### 2.2.2 Cooperation with Sister Organisations

None.

### 2.2.3 Cooperation with UN

None.

### 2.2.4 Cooperation with other organisations and institutes

Because of good experience in the past commission 1 intensified cooperation with CLGE (European Council of Geodetic Surveyors). Due to the fact that the acting persons in both organisations are more less the same the cooperation went very smoothly.

Recognising the importance of cultural and regional diversity commission 1 gave special support to the Arab Union of Surveyors. Contacts started on 11<sup>th</sup> of September and deepened in Marrakech at the FIG Regional Meeting.

A one week lecture at the state academy in Novosibirsk (Siberia) about education, professional bodies on national level and necessity of international commitment to FIG were held.

### **2.3. Events**

Commission 1 activities could be noticed at all FIG congresses, working weeks and regional meetings.

### **2.4. Publications**

Commission 1 published a newsletter twice a year to inform members about commission 1 activities after FIG Regional Meetings and after FIG Working Weeks.

### **2.5. Other Notable Achievements**

Successful conference with CLGE in Brussels.

**Klaus Rürup**

Chair Commission 1

July 2006