

**Report to the 35th General Assembly
FIG Working Week 2012 in Rome, Italy**

FIG Commission 1 – Professional Standards and Practice

Report of Activities 2011-2012

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Report for 2011 for Work Plan 2011–2014

1. General

Commission 1 will continue the work on the changing nature of surveying work and the role of the professional, work at connecting with other like professional commissions operating in regional organizations, building supporting knowledge and materials for surveying professionals. The Commission will continue its work in the Standards and Young Surveyors Networks.

In general the 2011-2014 work plan aims to:

- Share understanding on the challenges facing professional practice in a changing environment of work and within a changing world.
- Provide opportunities for an ongoing exchange of information around issues on professional standards and practice using new technologies.
- Share knowledge of professional practices around ethical delivery of services.
- Connect with other groups in member associations that promote and develop surveying professional standards and practice to share knowledge and develop possible joint activities.
- Work with Commission 2 to develop ongoing pathways of professional education that support the concept of ongoing professional development.
- Promote cooperative development opportunities and the development of new initiatives by growing knowledge from working together with other commissions on the current and future role of the surveyor, the definition of the surveyor as well as the age-structure within the profession.
- Build activities with world wide standards development and certification through the Standards Network.
- Build activities with Young Surveyors through the active support of the Young Surveyors Network.

The Commission will host the inter-commission working group to consider the current and future role of the surveyor, the definition of the surveyor as well as the age-structure within the profession. The other joint working group hosted by Commission 1 will study the

technological, methodological and practical as well as legal aspects on the demarcation of international boundaries.

2. Commission activities 2011-2012

Working Week 2011 – Bridging the Gap Between Cultures – Marrakech, Morocco. May 18-22 2011

I attended the working week along with Vice Chairs Robyn McCutcheon, Australia and Brian Coutts, New Zealand.

The Commission held its annual meeting at the FIG Working Week at Morocco with close to 20 people attending. The group heard about the Work Plan for the next four years and contributed ideas to the implementation of the Plan. Delegates attended representing the Young Surveyors group, the Standards Network and the FIG Council.

Four Technical Sessions were held that attracted good audiences who were engaged with the topics. Our colleagues in Morocco provided very enthusiastic professionals to assist with chairing and reporting for the sessions. They produced very comprehensive reports for the sessions where they were rapporteurs.

A number of successful joint sessions were held:

- Young Surveying Professionals and Students – joint session with the Young Surveyors Network
- Organisational and Legislative Issues – joint session with Commission 7
- Boundary Delineation Issues: From Parcel to Country Level – joint session with Commission 7
- Surveyors and Different Ways of Service Delivery

The joint work with YSN and Commission 7 provided a good opportunity to discuss professional issues that are complex and affect a number of aspects of professional life. This type of awareness of the need to deal with many issues from a variety of angles, ie: as a professional running a business, working on behalf of the community and also dealing with technical aspects of the task

The last session proved very successful and the local association was thrilled with the content. This was very popular as it looked at surveying practice from across the world and gave a flavor of FIG as a international organization allowing professionals to share understanding of how others systems work in a range of countries. It was a good way to gain ideas that might be able to be taken on by others across the world.

Working Week– Rome, Italy. May 6-10, 2012

A number of very good papers and abstracts were received and this will allow the Commission to run some informative technical sessions. It is very pleasing to be able to work across Commissions to tackle some of the more complex issues and questions facing the profession.

There are four technical sessions planned. Once again there will be some joint sessions to develop professional activities across a broader sphere. They will allow the themes of a range of our working groups to be developed.

- The Changing Work Environment of the Surveying Professional – Looking towards 2020.

This will explore the work being done by Working Group 1.1 and also 1.5 considering the role of social media in how we work.

- Cultural Diversity of Work and the Surveying Professional – joint session with Commission 2 and the Young Surveyors Network

This will support the worldwide surveying profession analysis work being undertaken by Cecilia Lindén, Sweden for working group 1.1 and work undertaken by Robyn McCutcheon, Australia, on the status of women in the spatial industry.

- Setting the Boundaries for Large and Small Territories – joint session with Commission 7

This will continue the work from the last working week for Working Group 1.4. Vice Chair Haim Srebro, Israel, has progressed the FIG publication on boundary issues and is close to having this completed.

- Professional Work Environment – Associations, Ethics and Practice

This is a similar session to the very successful one held in Morocco and covers a wide range of issues across countries. It should prove to be a very good way to gain ideas from the expertise that exists in our profession from across the world.

Meetings and Attendance at Conferences by Commission Members

I have provided an overview of the activities of our Commission office holders. (This does not include all activity by all our Vice Chairs.). It gives a snapshot of the activity and opportunities for our people to network with the larger professional community.

Robyn McCutcheon and I attended the local Victorian SSSI summit in September and the Institute of Surveyor's Victoria end of year function in December.

Robyn McCutcheon, is also chair of the SSSI in Victoria, Australia. She had an active year in 2011 attending the 25th International Cartography Conference in Paris in July, spatial@gov the national conference in Canberra in early November and the biennial Surveying and Spatial Sciences Conference 2011 in Wellington, New Zealand in late November. Brian Coutts was one of the organisers for the Wellington Conference.

Robyn also attended the invitation only 4th Land Administration Forum for the Asia and Pacific Region – Beyond Spatial Enablement, 5-7 October in Melbourne. Robyn and I met with our FIG President in Melbourne as he also attended this meeting. We discussed Commission 1 activities for the year and ways to continue building the work of the Commission. We also discussed the development of an international conference/working session to build the work of Working Group 1.1, in Australia in 2013.

Speaking Engagements

Robyn and I will speak at the Land Surveying National Conference, April 18-21, 2012. Robyn on 'Women in Spatial' and I will speak on Commission 1 activities.

Special Achievements

Vice Chair, Brian Coutts was recognized for his work for the profession in New Zealand and awarded the Fulton Bequest Class A.1 award. Congratulations Brian.

General Commission Activities

LinkedIn sub group - Work progressed with building Commission 1 membership and its activity program. Robyn McCutcheon creative a Commission 1 group on LinkedIn as a sub group to the FIG group. There are regular messages posted on this group.

Analysis of the Topics from FIG working weeks and congresses - Commission 1 investigated the topics that have been covered by FIG working weeks and congresses over the last 5 years. Robyn McCutcheon created some word clouds of all of the topics listed on the FIG website. Looking at the results of these analyses for Commission 1, Robyn, found there was a lack of attention to gender issues. This may be because the last newsletter delivered by the taskforce into Under Represented Groups in Surveying was published in 2008. Robyn believes that the issues around gender have not been resolved and decided to write a paper to update FIG Commission 1 members on the state of gender issues in Australia.

The paper will report on the results of a survey carried out by the SSSI Women in Spatial group in 2011. The survey was a follow up from a previous survey performed in 2005 in Australia and New Zealand and indications are that the surveys show little change in the situation for women in the surveying and spatial industry in Australia and New Zealand. Robyn believes that this issue cuts across the topics covered by Commission 1 and 2 in relation to the issues of diminishing numbers of surveyors, the age structure of the surveying industry and how to attract young people to study the surveying and spatial sciences. This work was developed for all of the FIG Commissions and sent to them to assist them in analyzing the topics over the last years and considering what was and what was not presented. This is often a good way to consider what are developing themes and what could be issues of the future.

Cecilia has worked on the survey on the demographic composition of the FIG member organizations and I encourage you all to participate in this research as it will be an excellent resource for our work on an ongoing basis.

Commission officer news – Brian Coutts has moved to be a Vice Chair in Working Group 1.1. This leaves a vacancy in Working Group 1.2 that has yet to be filled. Work Robyn McCutcheon is doing can be seen to be part of the activity of Working Group 1.3 as it is about tackling issues of concern for the larger professional community and as she outlined provides information of interest for other Commissions especially Commission 2 and the YSN. Curtis Sumner, USA has been involved in national issues and has not been available for Working Group 1.1 however I have been talking to him and asked him to nominate if he is available later in the term of office.

Once in a lifetime events - There are some very significant historical and natural events occurring this year with Victoria, Australia celebrating 150 years of the Torrens Land Title System and the astronomical phenomenon of the Transit of Venus on 6 June.

3. Working groups

Working Group 1.1 - Changing Nature of Work and the Role of a Surveyor (Joint Working Group with Commission 2)

Co-chairs:

Winnie Shiu, Hong Kong SAR, China
Curtis Sumner, USA
Brian Coutts, New Zealand

Activities in 2011

Papers produced for Working Weeks on this issue. Brian Coutts has moved into this Working Group.

Curtis Sumner currently not active due to other work demands and I have asked him to rejoin when work allows.

Cecilia Lindén age structural survey project within FIG progressing well and will provide valuable information for the work of this group.

Working Group 1.2 – Regulation approaches that provide secure tenure

Chair:

Brian Coutts, New Zealand (Now moved to Working Group 1.1 – vacancy to be filled.)

Activities in 2011

Papers produced for Working Week in Morocco on this issue. Brian Coutts has moved into Working Group 1.1 and a new Vice Chair is being sought.

There is lots of interest in this topic being generated by members and there are a range of related papers on these topics for Rome.

Working Group 1.3 – Community of Practice on Professional Standards and Practice

Chair:

Stephen Djaba, Ghana

Activities in 2011

Robyn McCutcheon's work on the Commission 1 LinkedIn discussion group and the development of the analysis of issues across FIG based on past conferences and Working Weeks has provided a lot of useful research to develop a common shared interest around the lack of balance around age and gender profiles in the profession.

Working Group 1.4 – International Boundary Settlement and Demarcation (Joint Working Group with Commissions 4, 5 and 7)

Co-chairs:

Dr. Haim Srebro, Israel
Dr. Bill Robertson, New Zealand

Activities in 2011

This group is working very efficiently and Haim Srebro has reported they are close to developing a publication for FIG that will be able to be published in 2012.

Working Group 1.5 – Social Media and Surveyors (Joint Working Group with the Young Surveyors Network)

Interim Chair

Leonie Newnham, Australia

Activities in 2011

This group is evolving and there will be a paper given at Rome. There seems to be a lot of interest from across the world and some emerging experts or local champions in this area. Commission 1 work with the LinkedIn discussion group is a way of developing further skills and ideas on how this might work.

4. Co-operation with Other Commissions and organisations

Commission 1 is co-operating with the two FIG networks on standards and young surveyors.

Leonie Newnham
Chair, FIG Commission 1

29 February 2012