



Task Force on: FIG Scientific Journal

Task Force session on Wednesday 20.5.2015 11:00-12:30

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17–21 May 2015, Sofia, Bulgaria

The forum agreed on the following points:

- The issue of publishing the high quality technical and policy papers in a peer-reviewed journal is very important to FIG in general and to its academic members in particular. The issue was thoroughly addressed.
- The Task Force should consider various alternatives of developing a high-level scientific publication. Proposals made:
 - foundation of a new FIG Journal;
 - cooperation with existing scientific journals for publishing special issues;
 - separate individual agreements between the various commissions and specific scientific journals;
 - a dedicated FIG mini-site for publishing high-level papers.
- There are topics within the FIG umbrella which are not covered by existing journals (e.g. land surveying)

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- Investigating the establishment of an open-access journal is preferable.
 - Due to the expensive subscription fees of journal membership mechanism, scholars (mainly from developing regions) will not have access to published papers.
 - This will also encourage young scholars with limited means to publish in such open-access journal.
- We have difficulties with the current peer-review process of papers submitted to our annual events
 - many papers (62 for Sofia, more than 100 for 2014 congress) and not enough reviewers.
 - in addition, we still do not have enough high-level academic papers due to the fact that we are not in SCOPUS, as well as the level of the review process is not sufficient and hard to monitor.

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- Selection of very high-level peer-reviewed papers from our annual events may serve as candidates for publication in scientific journals
 - revised versions based on widening and adding new materials to the papers.
- In 2009, the ACCO and few of the Council members discussed the issue of publishing a FIG scientific publication, and the discussion is documented.
 - The Task Force should take the summary of that discussion into consideration.
- It is important not to negatively affect the current peer-review process at our annual events.
- A cost/benefit analysis should be done by the Task Force.
- Our final target should be defined – improving the “brand name” of FIG or motivate academic members in FIG (and preferably – achieve both).

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- Medium-term and long-term targets should be defined.
- A substantial time will be required from the individuals involved in the process (chief editor, members of the editorial board, reviewers, etc.).
- Adding a new journal to the indexed databases (SCOPUS, ISI, others) is not an immediate process – but still should be considered since it will encourage academic scholars, mainly young, to publish their research work, together with attracting scholars who until now did not consider publishing in FIG events.

It was concluded that the issue is important to FIG and the recommendation of the one-year Task Force work should be presented and discussed at the 2016 GA in Christchurch.

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Proposed Work Programme

- 05/2015 – the TF is presented at the FIGWW'2015 GA
- 06-12/2015 – relevant data to be collected, discussions among the TF members via emails
- 01-02/2016 – optional - face to face meeting of the TF members (probably at a council meeting)
- 02-03/2016 – preparing of final report and recommendations
- 03/2016 – FIG council decision on the report
- 05/2016 – the report and recommendations to be presented at the GA in Christchurch for discussion

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