

**FIG (INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SURVEYORS)
LIAISON REPORT TO ISO/TC211 PLENARY
VERBANIA, OCTOBER 2004**

Introduction

FIG has continued over the last 6 months to play an active part in the work of ISO/TC211, and expects to continue to do so into the future. The Federation remains keen to continue to develop its strong relationship with TC211. Efforts within FIG to raise the profile of standards and standardisation issues are continuing to bear fruit, with most of FIG's 10 technical commissions now involved in aspects of standardisation work.

Coordinating FIG's standards activity

The FIG Standards Network continues to coordinate standardisation work in FIG. The scope of the standardisation work spreads beyond ISO/TC211, for instance to ISO/TC172 SC6 on survey instruments, and the work of the International Valuation Standards Committee (IVSC). FIG also continues to work closely with sister societies to ensure that work is progressed to best effect. A table of current FIG activity in standardisation matters, and of those sister societies that have provided such information to FIG, is maintained in the Standards Network area of the FIG website (www.fig.net).

The Network met in May at FIG's Annual Meeting (held in the same week as TC211's meetings in Kuala Lumpur) to review progress and plans. Recent work has included reviewing the work on GPS standards taken forward by ISO/TC172 SC6, and reviewing the existence of and need for standards in the field of hydrographic surveying. A questionnaire covering how FIG's national Member Associations link with national standardisation activity, to improve coordination at all levels, elicited disappointingly little information. This will be taken forward further in due course, as relationships between national survey associations and the national Member Bodies of TC211 would seem to provide a rich source of input to standardisation matters, and a channel for outreach activity.

Priorities

Within its limited resources and funds, FIG recognises the ongoing need to prioritise its activities. At the annual meeting, the following priorities and outline plans within the scope of ISO/TC211 were agreed/ confirmed:

- Agreement of a cadastral domain model: a second workshop in this area is planned for late 2004/ early 2005. FIG remains active in this area and continues to link with other relevant activity;
- Standardisation in the area of geodesy and geodetic surveying (both in TC211 and TC172 SC6): FIG is concerned to ensure that the standards developed are both coherent, and practicable for practising surveyors. In this regard, FIG is concerned about the apparent lack of coherence in the TC211 suite, particularly between 6709, 19111 and 19127, and has responded to N1685 listing its concerns;
- Ensuring that standardisation of sensors is covered effectively in the TC211 suite of standards – this relates to 19130 in particular, where a number of fields are not at this stage covered;
- Continuing to play a leading role in the development of practicable methods for validating the capability of surveyors, to allow them to work across national borders, ensuring that the methods used to do this do not stifle the ongoing development of the profession (as committee

members are aware, FIG does not believe that standardisation provides the optimal solution). A high-level roundtable on mutual recognition is to be held in the FIG conference in Jakarta in the same week as the TC211 meetings in Verbania, to determine how to progress work in the area, building on the significant progress that has been made within ASEAN, particularly in Malaysia;

- Location-based services, where FIG's Commission 3 has a particular interest: FIG will continue to play a role in this work; and
- Continuing the Outreach work that has made such good progress over the last year.

Outreach

FIG remains keen to further the work of TC211's Outreach Group, in which Iain Greenway and Gerhard Joos are both active FIG members. FIG and GSDI have agreed that a full-day workshop on standards will be included in the joint conference to be held in Cairo in May 2005, and discussions in Verbania will continue the process of developing the detailed content of the day.

Other areas

Aside from the work of TC211, FIG remains keen to progress work in many other standardisation fields, including:

- The valuation standards being developed by the IVSC: FIG has been offered a seat on their Standards Board and is searching for the right individual to take up this position;
- Influencing the development of standards in the construction and spatial planning areas;
- The work of ISO/TC172 SC6, where Professor Hansbert Heister leads for FIG, particularly those standards being developed for the calibration and testing of GPS, which FIG believes are impractical and inappropriate in their current draft forms; and
- The development of a repository of good practice through a Surveyors' Reference Library. The infrastructure for this has been developed and population of it has started. It will be available over the Internet and provide an invaluable reference for surveyors, and for others involved in the work of the profession, to keep abreast of developments.

Final words

FIG is pleased to be playing a role in developing the profile of standards, including those of ISO/TC211, seeing standardisation as a vital component in developing the services provided by surveyors to their various clients. It intends to continue to work closely with TC211, and is happy at any time to receive further ideas on areas and ways in which this might be achieved.

Iain Greenway

Chair, FIG Standards Network and Lead Liaison with ISO/TC211

18 September 2004