

**FIG (INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SURVEYORS)
LIAISON REPORT TO ISO TC211 PLENARY,
BANGKOK, MAY 2002**

Introduction

Standardisation activities, including the work of TC211, continue to gain a higher profile within FIG. This report provides information on structural changes within FIG to handle standards activity and liaison better, other events at the recent FIG Congress (Washington, April 2002), and FIG's plans and ideas for furthering its links with TC211.

Structure

The FIG Task Force on Standards has been replaced with an FIG Standards Network. This change recognises that Task Forces should only have a limited life. The other key change is that the Network consists of an active representative of each of FIG's 10 Technical Commissions. By this means, FIG intends to link the relevant work of the Commissions more closely with standardisation activity. Iain Greenway is the chair of the Standards Network, which has the following terms of reference:

- Building and maintaining relations with the secretariats of standardisation bodies;
- Proposing priorities on FIG's standardisation activities, including advising the Council on priorities for spending;
- Setting up necessary Liaison relationships with standardisation bodies;
- Ensuring that lead contacts to Technical Committees etc are in place;
- Maintaining an information flow on standardisation to FIG members, including through the FIG website and FIG Bulletin, and more directly to relevant Commission Officers;
- Maintaining the Guide on Standardisation, and related material on the FIG website;
- Working with other NGOs, within the framework of the MOUs signed by the Council; and
- Advising FIG's officers and members on standardisation activities as necessary.

The Network held a constructive first meeting at the FIG Congress. As its first task, each Commission is providing a brief summary of its activities and plans related to standards, to ensure that appropriate linkages are made within FIG. In parallel, FIG's sister societies (ISPRS, ICA, ISM etc) are sharing this information with FIG, to ensure appropriate collaboration between the different societies. A further strand of this joint activity was a session of presentations by the societies of their current activities related to standardisation. One possible outcome of this work might be an article in the ISO Bulletin, so that the various communities within ISO are aware of professional body activity and linkages can be built.

Outreach

FIG remains committed to participating in this vital activity. Although no formal FIG member of the TC211 Outreach Group has so far been named, it is hoped to rectify this situation during the Bangkok meetings. FIG will certainly participate in the Outreach Group meeting in Bangkok.

A large number of papers linked to or referring to TC211 work were presented at the recent FIG Congress. Speakers included Olaf Ostensen, Bob Maher, Thad Mauney and Hans Knoop. In this

way, FIG continues to attempt to assist TC211 in building its profile amongst FIG's 250,000 members.

Qualification and Certification of Personnel

This was the subject of a technical paper and a roundtable discussion in Washington. Participants in the roundtable included the Presidents of FIG, ICA and ISPRS, as well as Bob Maher and Stig Enemark. A useful sharing of views took place, building a common understanding of the different work in this area. In addition, an emeritus professor of sociology, who has long taken an interest in the whole concept of professions, attended and provided some external insight into the issue.

FIG was also pleased to be able to host a meeting of the 19122 Project Team. FIG supports the plan to bring closure to the current report, and stands willing to participate in and assist in organising a 'sectoral conference' on this vital area, the timing perhaps in the spring of 2003 but dependent on the timing for formal completion of the Technical Report.

FIG Statement on the Cadastre

Further to TC211 resolution 203, an FIG Working Group (7.3) on advances in modern land administration has begun work under the chairmanship of Winfried Hawerk. Commission 7 is an extremely active FIG commission, with strong links with the UN. This working group will take forward FIG's review of the basic contents and design of a cadastre including reference to the ISO 19100 series of standards. FIG will keep TC211 informed of progress.

In addition, FIG's working group 7.3 will develop the idea put forward by two academics from ITC in the Netherlands to create a standardised model for the cadastral domain. The individuals have linkages to OGC, allowing a broad range of the GI community to be involved in this work. In this way, the vital area of security of land tenure can be actively linked with the TC211 standards.

Terminology

FIG has continued to explore how the terminology in the FIG Multi-Lingual Dictionary (MLD) may be of use within a standards arena. This work now includes FIG's professional sister societies. Further discussions will take place during the Bangkok meetings.

FIG is therefore pleased that ISO 19104 is framed quite broadly, allowing the inclusion of non-ISO 191xx terms within the Terminology Repository proposed.

Other areas

The FIG Standards Network is currently agreeing its priorities for activity in the three areas of:

- Promoting published standards and educating professional surveyors on their use
- Influencing the work of standardisation bodies to create workable, timely standards
- Inputting items for possible development into standards

The situation should be clearer by the summer of 2002. Current areas of active interest include:

- International Valuation Standards
- Instrument standards (ISO TC172 SC6)
- TC211, particularly
 - Cadastre and standards (FIG Commission 7)
 - Certification of personnel
 - Geodetic codes and parameters (FIG Commission 5)

- Location based services (FIG Commission 3)
- Terminology
- Underpinning spatial data infrastructures (FIG Commission 3)
- Hydrographic standards
- Influencing the development of standards in the construction and spatial planning areas

In addition, FIG Publication 28 – FIG Guide on Standardisation – has now been formally ratified by the FIG General Assembly. It is of use to all involved in the standardisation area and is available at www.fig.net, under ‘publications’.

Final words

FIG remains committed to supporting the work of TC211. It believes that it can provide a useful resource and channel for spreading more information on the work of TC211 and the impact of the ISO 19100 series of standards. It hopes that TC211 will provide the material and guidance needed for FIG to contribute more in this area.

Iain Greenway

Chair, FIG Standards Network and Lead Liaison with ISO TC211