



International Federation of Surveyors
Fédération Internationale des Géomètres
Internationale Vereinigung der
Vermessungsingenieure

Commission 2
Professional Education

Newsletter March 2004.

To the Nacional Delegates

To the Academic Members

To the Corresponding Members

Dear Colleague,

First of all let me give my excuses for the lack of a newsletter along the last year; several causes made impossible to adequately prepare it and with a bigger delay than I would have liked, at least, here is the first of this year; it is our purpose to send some others along the year.

Past events.

Because of the Department of Geodesy, in the Delft University, has disappeared, or very drastically reduced activities, Prof. Kenselaar, Chair of the WG 2.2 “Curricula and CPD”, had to left his commitments in the FIG and asked to be replaced by any other candidate.

As in Mayagüez (Puerto Rico) was decided to create a new WG on “The studies of Surveying in Latinamerica”, chaired by Prof. Loyácono, it was accorded that this last WG would be in the future the new WG 2.2, with the same Chair and splitting the commitments of the old WG between WG 2.3 and 2.4 chaired, respectively, by Dr. Plimmer and Prof. Markus; so we can attend the issues assigned to the old WG 2.2; all of you interested in topics of Curricula and CPD can address your mails to Prof. Markus or Dr. Plimmer, respectively.

In the same sense it must be said that Prof. Henrik Haagren, from Finland, has left his duties as Chair of the WG 2.1 “Virtual Academy” and the new Chair is the past Co-Chair Prof. Esben Munk Sorensen, from the Aalborg University (Denmark); our warmest thanks to both for the excellent work made in the past and that to be made in the next future.

Educational Network in Latinamerica

In February 2003 there was the first meeting of the WG 2.2, held in Córdoba (Argentina), with the attendance of all elected members.

It was designed a questionnaire to be sent to all the Educational and Professional Institutions in all Latinamerican countries to get information from all of them and study this information in the following steps, in such a way that, at

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the end of the process, we could get a map of the “state of the art” in the Educational and Professional fields in the continent; with this map we will be able to edit a report to be addressed to the National and International Authorities related to our Profession and Education asking for their support to solve the lacks and needs detected in the process.

This network has been born with the spirit of permanence and is not a circumstantial organization to solve, here and now, a problem; on the contrary, its spirit is to continue working for the profession in the future trying to make easier the contacts among all colleagues in the Educative and Professional fields.

The continent was divided in several regions and assigned each of them to the different members nominated in Puerto Rico.

Guatemala meeting

Last June, organized by the UN, there was the first regional meeting in Antigua Guatemala (Guatemala) on “Land Administration” inside a programme to develop Cadastre, Land Management, Land Administration, Land Tenure, etc. in Central America. This was the first of several meetings developed later in different regional countries. Commission 2 was invited to participate and Chair of the Commission and of WG 2.2 gave two and one paper. The meeting was a real success, with many participants, mainly from the region, with a high level of papers and very interesting conclusions. There was a special meeting with the representatives of Universities in the region and it was decided to strength the links between Commission2 and the different Universities, mainly in order to establish the studies of Surveying in the countries where these are not taught, that is, in all countries except Costa Rica and Panama; nevertheless, it should be said that not all of them are ready to start just now; only Guatemala is going on with the intentions of starting as soon as possible. All information about this meeting can be seen in www.bivicat.org . Several other meeting has been afterwards held in other Centralamerican countries.

Joint WG 2.4 (Com2&3) - Knowledge Transfer in SIM

Commission 3 co-sponsored and contributed to GIS Summer School (GISS) that was organised by University of West Hungary, College of Geoinformatics (Bela Markus) in August 2003 in Szekesfehervar, Hungary, with lectures and practical training contributed by Commission 3 (Gerhard Muggenhuber, Reinfried Mansberger) and Commission 7 (Paul van der Molen).

GISS gathered about 50 students and 10 tutors in Székesfehérvár, in one of Hungary's historical towns. The international group of students decided to spend 5 days dealing with GIS applications in Land Management, land administration, cadastre, land use planning, land consolidation, land development, data integration, change detection and analysis, environmental management and nature protection. Special emphasis was given to the impacts of the EU accession.



The wide spectrum of topics, which of course can not be covered in 5 days, so the GISS carefully divided the students into four working groups. These were:

- WG1: Land Administration and Cadastre
- WG2: Land Management and Rural Development
- WG3: GeoInformation in Nature Protection

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- WG4: Lands and Mapping - Impact of the EU accession

Based on cooperation with other WG and other Commissions this WG will :

- Develop methods and share experience on **education, training in SIM**
- Develop a position paper on a regional approach for a NSDI.

Fiji islands

During the last Working Week held in Paris there were established the first contacts with the representative of that country, Mrs. Angina Prasaad. In the paper given by her in one of the Comm. 2 Technical Sessions it was shown the situation of the Profession and its studies in the country with absolute lack of any kind of University education in our professional field. After Paris we were contacted by Prof. Greenwood, from Fiji, who sent us information about a project they wanted to start to get the first native professionals, although at not University level, for the moment; later on, Prof..... sent the last news about this project and now Prof. C. Hoogsteden, leader of the Liaison Group for the South Pacific, is, representing the Comm. 2, the FIG person attending this project.

Second FIG Regional Conference in Marrakech (Morocco)

Between 2 and 5 December last year there was the 2nd FIG Regional Conference held in the old and beautiful city of Marrakech (Morocco). The conference was an absolute success from the technical, social and organizing points of view; the warm atmosphere, the enormous human quality of our hosts will never be forgotten for the lucky attendants to the meeting.

There were two technical sessions in Comm. 2 and a “Roundtable on Surveying and GIS Education in Africa”, chaired by the President of FIG Prof. Magel. This roundtable was organized because of a letter sent to the FIG Authorities by Prof. Heinz Rüter, from South Africa, explaining the situation and asking for support in order to improve the very low conditions of University Education in that continent.

During the roundtable it was shown the difficult situation in most of the African Universities, mainly in the Sub-Saharan continent; in many of them there are poor conditions for Professors and Teachers (lack of suitable and modern docent equipment, some times; lack of good and modern training of the teaching staff, in some other Centres; very low salaries, what makes very difficult the full time teaching...), few students in most of the Universities; in this sense it was very clarifying the talk given by a Kenyan student who, among many other interesting things, said that “... the number of new students is coming down very quickly because the studies are very difficult, the profession very hard and dangerous and the salaries very low...” .

As a consequence of the above mentioned roundtable Comm. 2 organized a meeting with experts from the continent to organize a FIG Educational Network for Africa. There were nominated two Coordinators: Prof. Heinz Rüter for the Sub-Saharan Africa and Prof. Semlali, from Morocco, for the North Africa and Arabic, the Middle East and the Gulf countries.

The main aims of this Network, as it is in the Latinamerican one, are the following:

1.- To make a “field work” contacting university and professionals colleagues in the different countries to know “the state of the art” in each of them.

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- 2.- To get information about the educational situation getting the syllabuses, docent facilities, teaching staff, students, resources, etc.
- 3.- To get information from the professionals to know which are the needs, in education, in every country, according to their knowledge of the situation.
- 4.- To analyze the information and make a “map at large scale” of the situation in every country and, with that of all countries, to get a “map at smaller scale” of the situation in the continent as a whole.
- 5.- These maps will give us a picture of the reality, the needs, the lacks, the positive things, etc.
- 6.- We will design a very flexible syllabus of, at least, BAC+3 years, which could be tailored for every country, but assuring that a minimum level of knowledge would be acquired by the graduates.
- 7.- When all this information has been studied, analyzed and organized we will prepare a document explaining the situation, the steps to be given, the costs of this “operation” and everything which could be of interest.
- 8.- This document, once finished, will be sent to the FIG Authorities for them to know and to the National ones, for them to know, as well, the problem, the importance of having a good education and good professionals in Surveying in every country for their welfare and the benefit of their inhabitants. The FIG Council, or Office, should send this document to the international bodies (UN, WB, etc) for their knowledge and for getting funding from such institutions to put in force this project, whose costs will be evaluated in the document.

Next events.

Latinamerican Network meeting.

Since 13 to 15 next April there will be the annual meeting of the Educational Network for Latinamerica in Costa Rica, held by the Costarriquean Association of Surveyors (Colegio de Topógrafos de Costa Rica).

The main aim of this meeting is to study and realize a first analysis of the collected information from the different countries, to try to get such information from that countries that have not yet sent it and, later, prepare a global report about the situation, the needs, the solutions,... to be sent to the national and international authorities in order to get their support for solving as many problems as possible, in the same sense as we have fixed for the African Network. This global report should be prepared to be given in a Regional Conference to be organized in Latinamerica next year, or, if this is not possible, in a FIG Comm. 2 Seminar to be organized in that continent.

Athens Working Week.

As most of you know, since 22 to 27 May there will be the annual Working Week in Athens, where it is expected that a big number of representatives of the different Associations attend the event.

Commission 2 there will have three Technical Sessions, one together with Commission 1 and two alone; the number of papers have been 18.

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On Sunday, the 23rd, there will be a Delegates meeting, since 15:00 to 17:00, to which all of you are very warmly invited; the room number will be announced in the place once we know; if needed there will be a room free for Commissions meetings from Sunday to Thursday; it would be excellent if we can bring students to this meeting.

For more information, please, visit www.fig.net/figtree/ww2004

Jakarta meeting.

Since 3rd to 7th October this year there will be the 3rd **Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific – Surveying the future – Contributions to Economic, Environment and Social Development**, to be held in **Jakarta** (Indonesia) whose programme will be sent to the National Associations and where will have several Technical Sessions to which you are invited. The main data are: Deadline for abstracts **31 May 2004**; authors will be informed by **20 June 2004**; deadline for full papers **31 July 2004**. Full information in www.fig.net/figtree/jakarta. It would be excellent to have many abstracts from everywhere but, mainly, from the region.

Cairo Working Week 2005

According to the FIG Authorities and the Local Organizing Committee, during the WW to be held next year in Cairo (Egypt), 16 – 21 April 2005, Commission 2, and mainly WG 2.1, will organized a Symposium on “Virtual Academy”; information about it will be sent on time by Prof. E.M. Sorensen and myself in the due time.

Elected Chair

According to the new internal rules and organization, this year, during the Athens WW, the General Assembly will chose the “Chair Elected”, who will be nominated Chair of the Commission during the Munich Congress in 2006.

I hope that most of you will be attending the Athens WW and, as always, you have open my mail and my time for everything you could need from Commission 2 or myself.

My best wishes

Prof. Pedro J. Caverio
Chair

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