

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

**FIG Young Surveyors Network
Report of Activities 2011-2012**

1. General

The FIG Young Surveyors Network Work Plan 2011 – 2014 supports the FIG Council Work Plan 2011 – 2014 in its aim of *Engaging the Challenge: Enhancing the Relevance*.

The mission of the YSN is two-fold:

- To promote international opportunities and experiences for young surveyors.
- To improve the global image of surveying

These are broad-sweeping aims, but they emphasise both an internal focus for the network (the skills of young surveyors, enabled through FIG) and an external focus (being the image and role of surveying). These are intrinsically tied together.

The 2011-2014 goals for the YSN are thus to represent, provide awareness and support via:

- Representing young surveyor interests within FIG
- Improving young surveyor awareness of and involvement in FIG
- Supporting local, regional, national and international networks of young surveyors by providing a forum for sharing knowledge, skills and experience.

2. The YSN Committee

The FIG YSN is open to all to join, contribute to and be a part of. The activities of the YSN are, however, focussed on 'young surveyors' who meet the following criteria:

- 35 years of age or under; and/or
- surveyors who have graduated from a bachelor or masters degree within the last 10 years

The YSN Committee consists of a core group of individuals who have been nominated by their FIG membership body and who contribute enormously to the running of the YSN. For 2011 the committee consisted of:

- Kate Fairlie (Chair, Australia)
- Chris McAlister (Vice-Chair, Australia)
- Cemal Ozgür Kivilcim (Vice-Chair, Turkey)
- Jens Andre Paffenholz (Treasurer, Germany)
- Eva-Maria Unger (Secretary, Austria)
- Daniel Helmricks (US Representative)
- Kenny Chan (Hong Kong Representative)
- Paola Ronzino and Andrea Massaro (Italian Representatives)
- Benedicta Ugwulebo (Nigerian Representative)

Many of these committee members will remain so for the entire period of 2011-2014, but not all, given the nature and constant change within young surveyors as a category.

3. YSN Achievements

The 2011 achievements of the young surveyors will be discussed in the context of the YSN aims.

3.1 Representing young surveyor interests within the FIG

Engagement with the UN-Habitat Global Land Tools Network

The YSN participated in and presented at the UN-Habitat GLTN workshop to *Explore the Youth Dimensions of the Global Land Tool Agenda*, held in As, Norway from 24-25 January 2012. Enabling youth engagement and involvement in land policies is an emerging focus of the FIG YSN, and young surveyors are particularly enabled to contribute to such an initiative. This work is in its infancy: following the workshop a final scoping study is due out in March 2012. The YSN Committee will be identifying further opportunities during its 2011-2014 term – immediate actions include following up with workshop attendees and including GLTN in the Young Surveyors Conference.

African Task Force meeting

The 2012 African Task Force theme was young surveyors and women – particular, promoting the *recruitment and involvement of young surveyors and women - concentrating on ways and means to breaking down entry barriers for young people and women*. The YSN actively supported this ATF event, sourcing funding for young African surveyor attendees, and contributing to the running of and follow up to this event. Attendance at this event greatly increased the network and engagement of young African surveyors, with new active young surveyors engaging with the network from Botswana, South Africa, Kenya and Ethiopia.

The FIG YSN hopes to build on achievements so far in Africa by

- having a representative attend the First Edition of the Yaounde International Conference and Surveying Week in Cameroon; and
- supporting a 2012 Nigerian Young Surveyor conference to precede the 2013 FIG Working Week

Other activities will continue to be scoped to best engage young African surveyors.

3.2 Improving young surveyor awareness of and involvement in FIG

4-5th May 2012 First FIG Young Surveyors Conference

This event will host up to 150 young surveyors for two days of paper presentations and workshops relating to a surveying 'vision for the future". The will be held over the two days preceding the full FIG Working Week. Reduced registration fees for Young Surveyors Conference attendees have been realised, and the event should provide a strong and

confidence-building introduction for young surveyors to engage fully in the succeeding Working Week.

Four FIG Foundation Young Surveyor Fellowships

Were additionally created to facilitate young surveyors from low- and middle- income countries to attend the FIG Young Surveyors Conference and Working Week. The FIG Foundation is an ongoing and substantial supporter of the FIG YSN, and has fully funded these Fellowships.

Six sponsored positions to the FIG African Task Force and Global Land Tools Network workshops, held in Cape Town, South Africa 28th Nov – 3rd December

Together with the FIG Foundation, 5 young African surveyors (from Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Botswana, Nigeria and Kenya) were sponsored to attend. This provided a significant opportunity to broaden young surveyor networks in the African region, and to ensure the messages from the workshop were spread as widely as possible. Of those attending, at least two will be attending the 2012 FIG Working Week, and 5 applied for the FIG Foundation Young Surveyor Fellowship, demonstrating the continued engagement of those sponsored within the FIG. Each sponsored participant has completed a report for the event, and these will be posted on the FIG YSN website. Further discussions have ensued on the YSN Facebook page.

3.3 Supporting local, regional, national and international networks of young surveyors by providing a forum for sharing knowledge, skills and experience

Next Young Surveyor Newsletter to be published in March 2012 (previous newsletter available at www.fig.net/ys). These newsletters provide young surveyor profiles, website information, contact information, information on the FIG Commissions and reports from FIG and local/regional events internationally. The latest newsletter is the most professional yet!

YSN Facebook page (FIG Young Surveyors) is starting to see more regular posting, and now has over 400 members.

YSN LinkedIn page membership is rapidly increasing and has now reached over 300 members. This page has traditionally not been used as much as the Facebook page, but there are opportunities in the future to promote job vacancies and university scholarships via this forum.

Wider engagement with other young surveyor bodies

2012 has seen much greater outreach by the YSN, with lines of communication set up with:

- ICES – Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors
- IGSO – International Geodetic Students Organisation
- YGNSS – Space Generation Advisory Council, Youth for Global Navigation Satellite Systems
- ISPRS – International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

In the future the YSN hopes to make these communication ties more formal, to ensure ease of cross communication, and continue to source new youth groups to link with.

Kate Fairlie
Chair, FIG Young Surveyors Network
www.fig.net/ys/

February 2012