

THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

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The Canadian Institute of Geomatics is the Canadian national member for major international geomatics organizations. This column provides a synopsis of their current and upcoming activities. To the extent possible, CIG members are urged to participate in these activities.

International Cartographic Association (ICA)

The December 2004 edition of the ICA Newsletter is available in PDF format on the ICA website at <http://www.icaci.org/>. This 20 page document contains the latest international cartographic news.

A reminder that the XXII International Cartographic Conference will take place in A Coruña, Spain, July 9-16, 2005. Book early as the registration fees will be increasing as of April 30.

We are indebted to Janet Mersey, Chair, Canadian National Committee to the ICA and CIG's Technical Councillor for Cartography, for a report on International and Canadian cartographic activities. Her report follows:

International Cartographic Association:

The XXII International Conference is planned for July 9-16, 2005, in A Coruña, Spain. Decisions regarding the selection of abstracts were completed in early February and a preliminary program has been added to the conference website (www.icc2005.org). Information regarding accommodations, social program, and pre and post conference tours is also available on the website. At least a dozen Canadians hope to participate in the conference, and I encourage others to consider attending.

Plans for Canada's contribution to the *ICC 2005 International Map*

Exhibition are well in hand, thanks to the coordinating efforts of Claire Gosson and Diane Lacasse (NRCan). An extra copy of submitted materials has been requested so that the entries can be showcased at the CARTO 2005 prior to the conference in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Entries for the *Children's World Map Competition* have been solicited from schools across Canada. The Canadian competition is being organized by John Fowler (University of Victoria), and is open to all school children under the age of 15. The theme this year is "many countries, one world". The five best Canadian entries will be eligible to compete for the Barbara Petchenik Prize at the ICA Children's Map Competition. Thanks to Focus Corporation, Brault and Bouthillier Publishing, and the Canadian Cartographic Association for their kind financial support for this event.

The Canadian Cartographic Association:

CARTO 2005 will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland, from July 26-29, 2005. The conference is a joint meeting of the Canadian Cartographic Association (CCA) and the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives. Additional information and a call for participation will be posted to their website (www.cca-acc.org) as it becomes available.

The CCA sponsors several student awards including the Norman Nicholson Scholarship, the Carto-Québec Prize, and the President's Prize. Information regarding submissions and deadlines are available on their webpage. If you are affiliated with an educational institution, please take a look at it and help us encourage student participation.

The North American Cartographic Information Society:

NACIS is planning its annual conference for October 12-15, 2005 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Please see their website (www.nacis.org) for additional details as they become available.

International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)

The Technical Program on the 2005 FIG Working Week website at <http://www.fig.net/cairo/> lists an impressive 300 papers in 50 technical sessions. Equally impressive is the number of people from Canada involved in the program as presenters and session chairs. A quick scan of the program shows at least 20, with some involved in multiple sessions. The Working Week will take place from April 16-21 in Cairo in conjunction with the 8th International Conference of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure, (GSDI-8). The theme of the conference is "From Pharaohs to Geoinformatics." This will be the last major FIG conference prior to the FIG World Congress in Munich in 2006. The FIG General Assembly will also meet in Cairo on April 17 and 21. Amongst other issues, the General Assembly will decide on the venue of the 2010 FIG Congress.

The FIG Article of the Month for February on the FIG website is on "Boundary Dispute Resolution in England & Wales—Surveyors and

Lawyers Working Together to Resolve Problems." In this very interesting article, the author states that although there are approximately 21,000,000 separate properties in England & Wales ranging from small suburban houses with tiny gardens to large rural estates covering thousands of hectares, the number of boundary disputes is very small, perhaps less than 0.01% over a 10-year period. What is particularly interesting is that some of the disputes are over less than 25mm. In his experience, the average dispute is over 100mm which, as he notes, is only slightly larger than the width of a fence post.

The 4th FIG Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean in Havana, Cuba, September 26-29, 2005

The FIG Council has announced that the 4th FIG Regional Conference will be held in Havana, Cuba, from September 26-29, 2005, together with UNAICC (Unión Nacional de Arquitectos e Ingenieros de la Construcción de Cuba). This will be the first FIG regional conference to be held in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Surveyors' Institute of Sri Lanka has written to FIG to ask for support from international surveyors' organizations for their survey professionals in Sri Lanka because of the Tsunami. Several members of the association lost all of their belongings and for some, even their survey equipment was washed away. The Institution is asking for support for about ten surveyors to enable them to re-commence their professional practices. Please contact the institution by email at surveyors@eureka.lk to find out how best to help.

International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)

Volume 9, Number 5 of *ISPRS Highlights* (December 2004) is now available on the ISPRS website (<http://www.isprs.org/>). Unfortunately the website does not make it very easy to access the document. After you click on the lovely photo of a wooden Trojan Horse (with some colourfully clad humans clustered around its lower extremities), it opens a larger version of the same photo. Clicking on the hyperlink "Editorial" to the right goes to a "This page cannot be found." You have to click on the next

hyperlink down labelled "ISPRS Society" to open the document.

It is worth the effort though because in the *Highlights* are the obituaries of two prominent Canadians who were eminent in the field of Geomatics, Doctor Theodore (Ted) Blachut and Professor Dr. Yuk-Cheung (Y.C.) Lee. Ted was the founder and long time head of the Photogrammetric Research Section at Canada's National Research Council. He was an outstanding photogrammetric researcher and innovator. Ted died last June and his obituary has also appeared in *Geomatica*.

Y.C. Lee was one of the most respected and loved teachers at UNB. He had been on staff at the Department of Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering since 1987, except for a four year period from 1995 to 1999, when he took up a Professorship at Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Among his many accomplishments, Y.C. was a Special Examiner for the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors and for the last several years had been responsible for setting the Joint Boards of Examiners Schedule II Common Core examination "Land Information Systems and Management." His obituary has also appeared in *Geomatica*. □

**ISO/TC 211
Geographic information/Geomatics
Standards Meeting**

The 21st ISO TC211 Plenary and associated meetings will be held in Montreal from September 12-16, 2005. It will be hosted jointly by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and will be held in the ICAO Conference Center. Members of CIG are invited to attend the Standards in Action seminar on Wednesday September 14, 2005

Canada was one of the founding members of ISO/TC211 and has actively contributed to its progress. Membership now stands at 58 countries with liaisons to another 24 organizations interested in its programme of work, which currently includes 41 projects underway or recently completed.

For more information on the meeting or on the work please contact TC211Info@scc.ca