

# Growing the profession-a comparative study of professional associations in Southern Africa

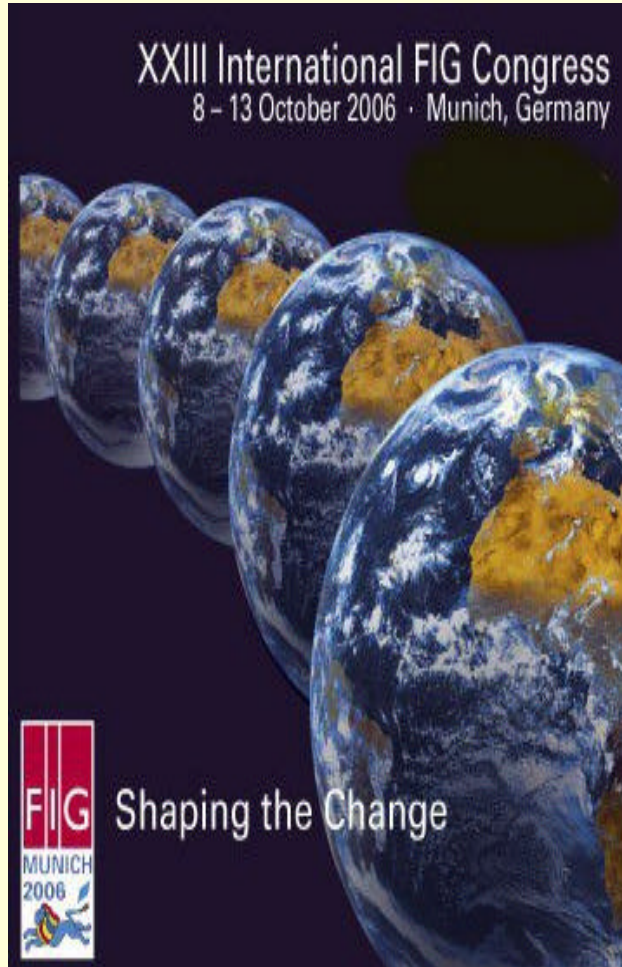
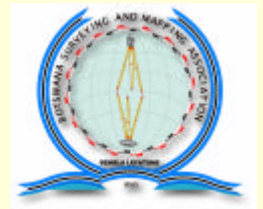
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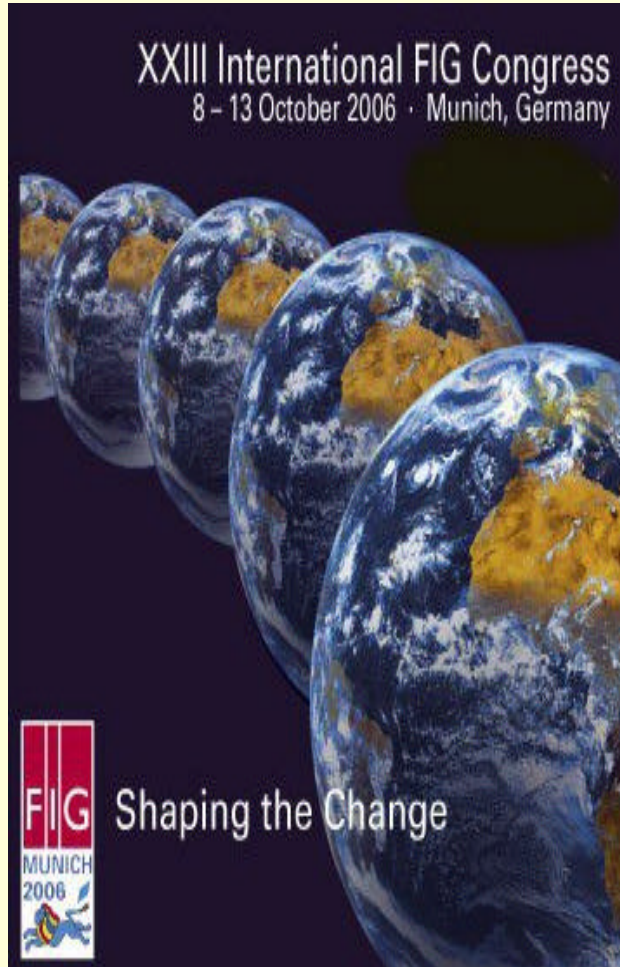
# Outline of Presentation



- Introduction
- Role of a professional body
- Professional Survey bodies in the region
- The study
- Results and analysis
- Conclusion



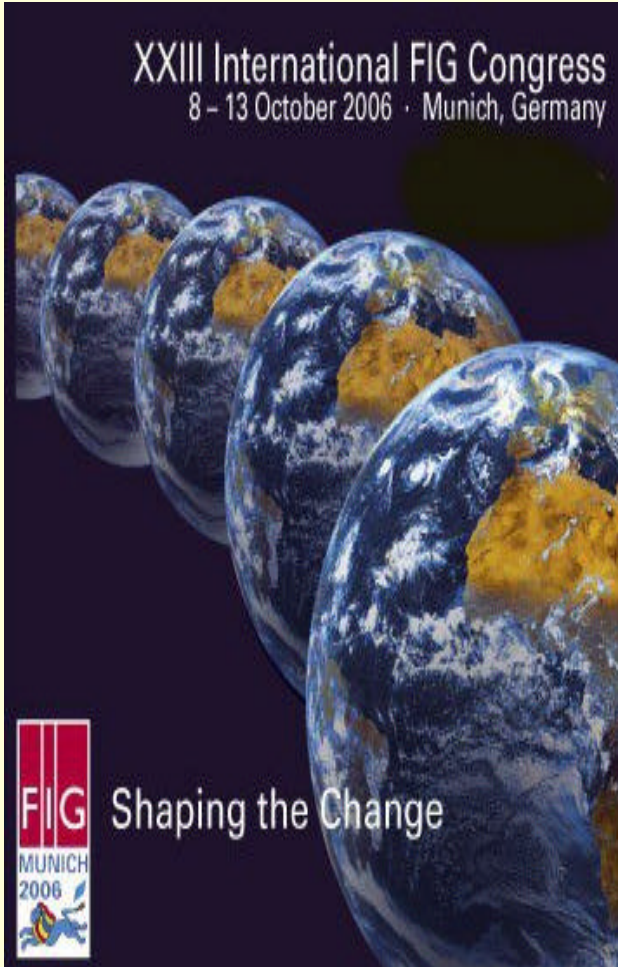
# Introduction



This is a study of survey  
Professional associations  
in Southern Africa with the  
focus on Botswana  
Surveying Mapping  
Association



# Basic concepts



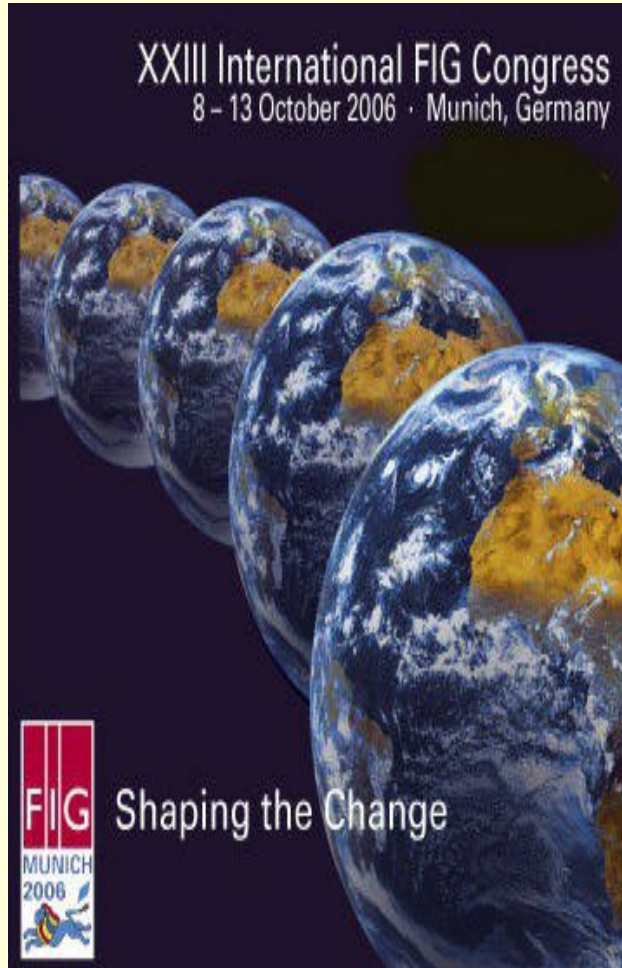
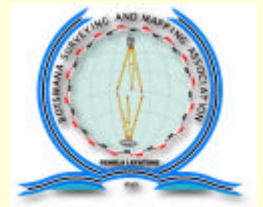
- Professionalism

*is the intangible, yet very practical cloak of integrity, altruism and culture that shrouds and protects a body of men whose conscious purpose in life is to serve humanity and who are willing to give spiritual values an even chance with material things in life.*

B. Robinson



# Basic concepts

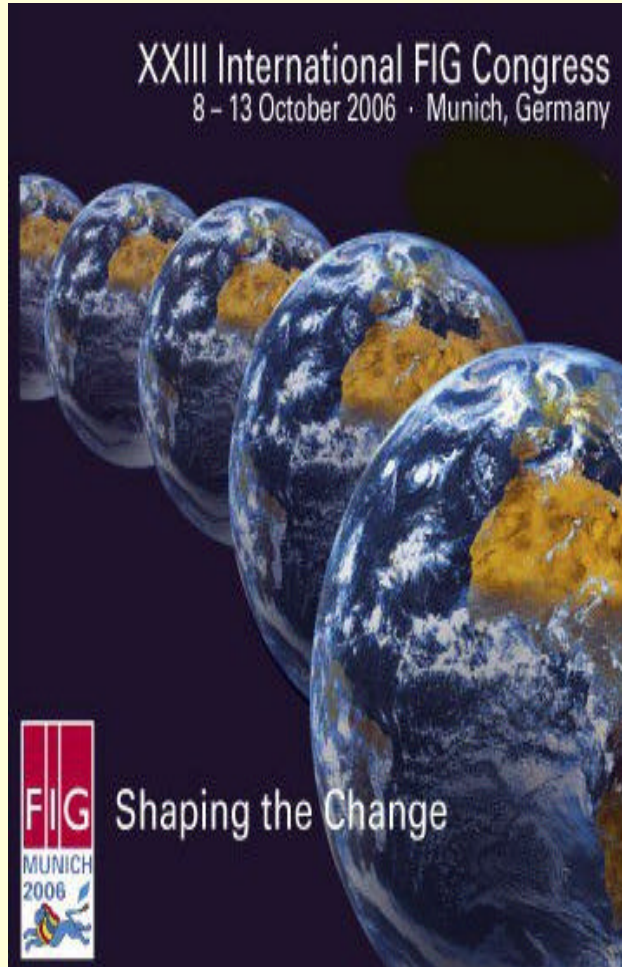


## Professional organisations

- Some goals of professional organisations (FIG Pub16)
  - To unify the profession
  - To provide continuing professional development
  - To act on behalf of the profession and
  - To contribute to society's well being.



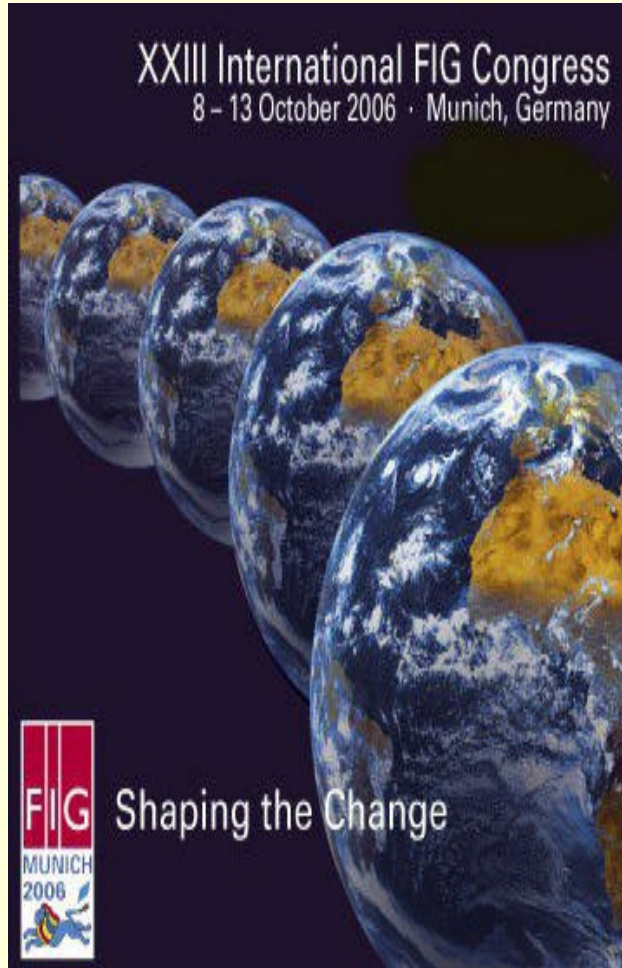
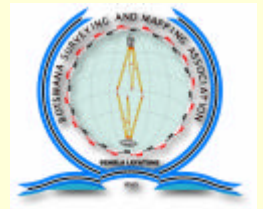
# Common fns of Prof. Org



- networking,
- representing,
- promoting,
- educating,
- setting standards,
- producing products and services,
- providing professional and technical advice



# State of professional bodies in Southern Africa

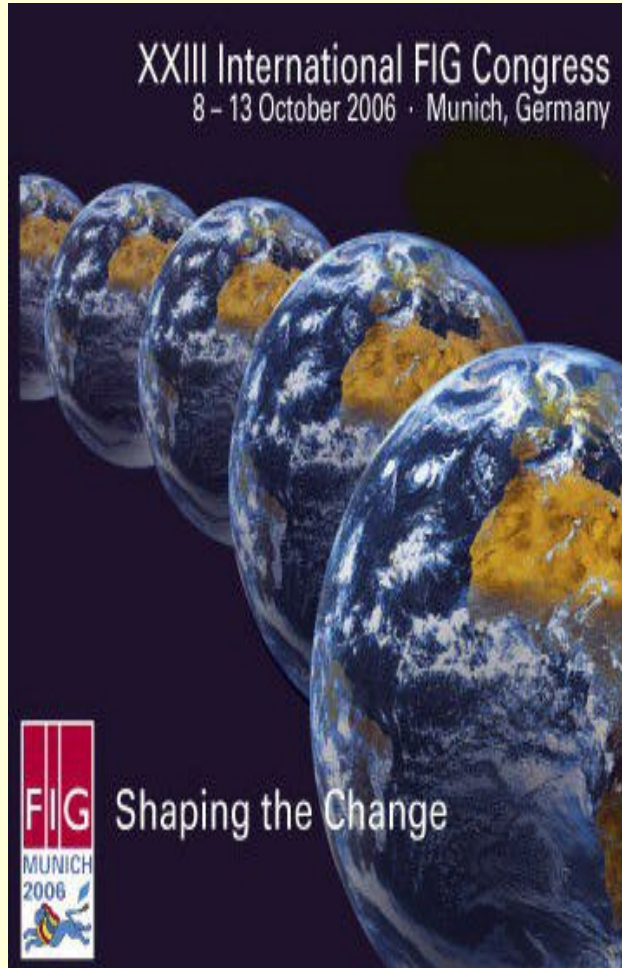
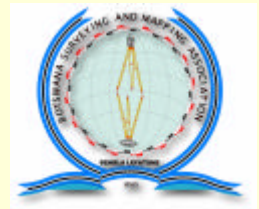


- Zambia

- Represented by the Surveyors Institute of Zambia.
  - Has 3 chapters
    - Lands
    - Quantity
    - Valuation
- } Own Registration Boards
- The practice of the professions governed by Acts of Parliament. The professional Association does not really play a part in the registration of surveyors



# State of professional bodies in Southern Africa



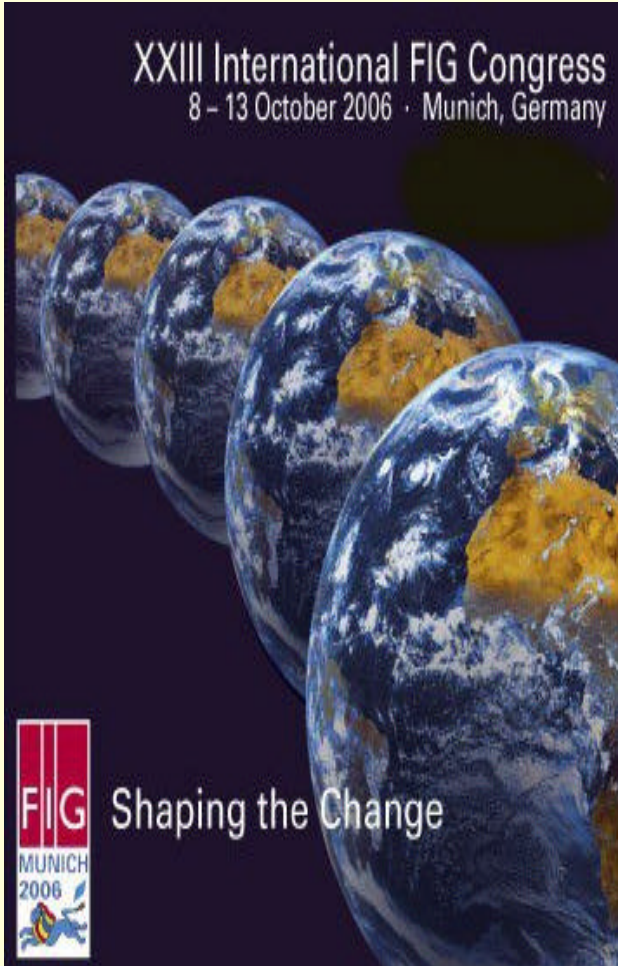
- SIZ has seen dwindling membership and loss of activity because one can practice without being a member.

So, why should one join and pay membership fees?





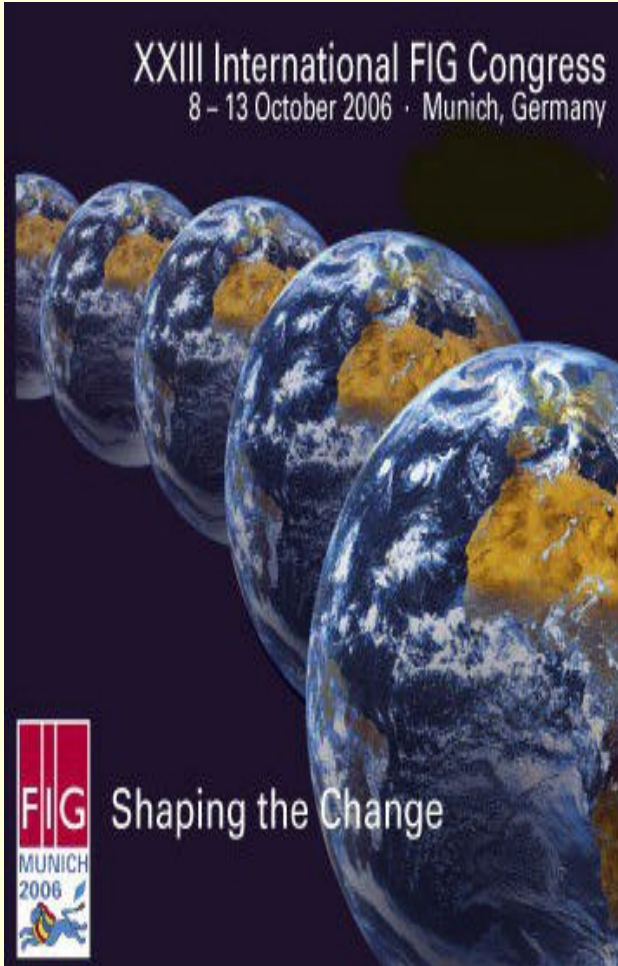
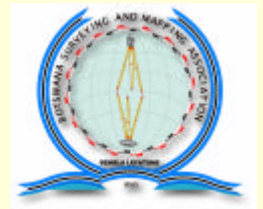
# State of professional bodies in Southern Africa



- South Africa
  - South Africa has had a relative mature surveying profession in the region
  - PLATO- South African Council for professional and Technical Surveyors (Statutory body). It ensures registration of surveyors by verifying qualifications, quality, ethics and experience ( A kind of registration board)



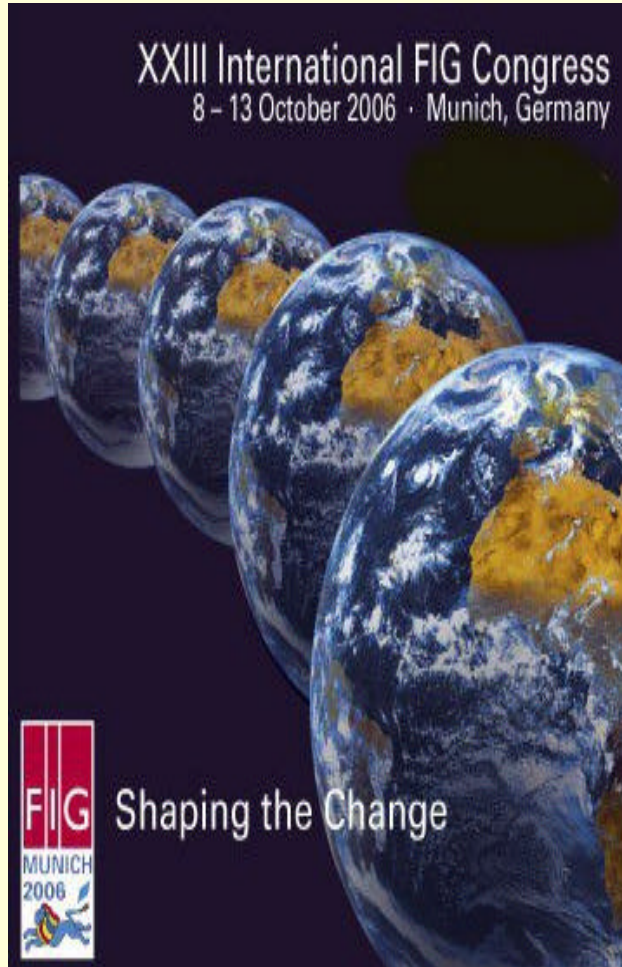
# PLATO



- PLATO has over 1000 registered surveyors in various categories.
- PLATO's mandate is more to do with protecting the public by ensuring that those that profess to be professionals in the field meet the minimum requirement in terms of their qualification
- The responsibility of issues such as education-continuing education, workshops, conference and marketing of the profession are left to the professional Institutes such as South African Geomatics Institute



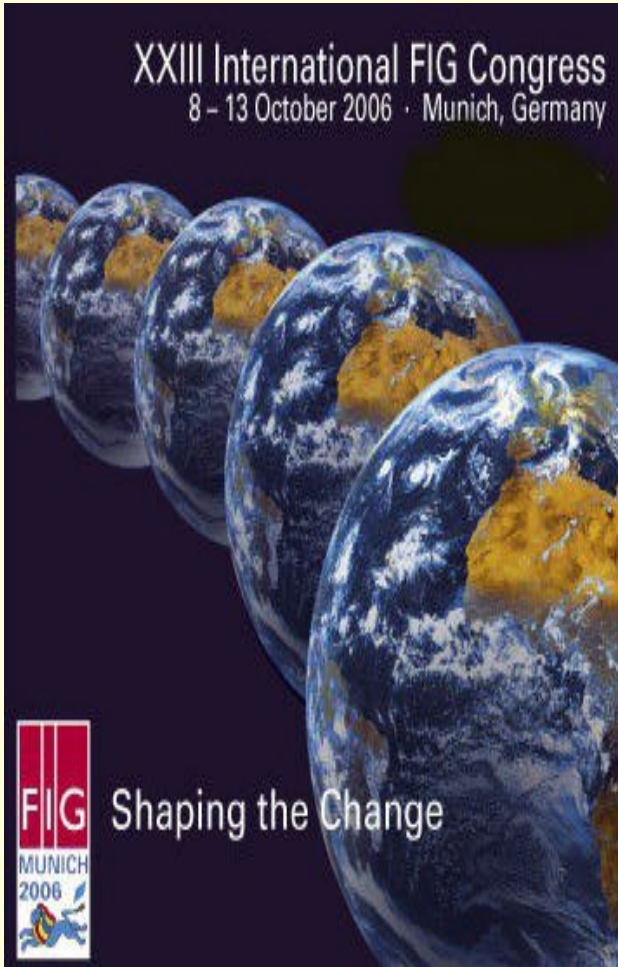
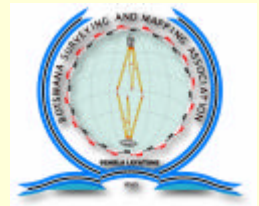
# SAGI



- A new creation to tackle professionalism.
- Embodies a broad range of members in the Geomatics area
- All members (except corporate and outside SA) must be registered with PLATO
- 80% of PLATO members have joined



# SAGI charter



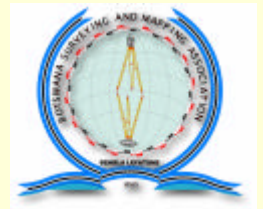
Has very nice ideals e.g.

- Align our services with the needs of the nation as expressed, *inter alia*, by the people through the Integrated Development Plans (IDPs).
- Promote solutions for land delivery, land reform and land management challenges facing the country and the continent.
- Facilitate the resolution of spatially related challenges facing the country and the region through geo-spatial and design information.
- Develop capacity amongst members and user communities.
- Encourage global competitiveness and “world best practice” amongst our members
- Promote representation within the geomatics industry to be in line with South African demographics.

Unfortunately most of these are simply ideals



# BSMA



XXIII International FIG Congress  
8 - 13 October 2006 · Munich, Germany

*Did Professionalism have an almost stillbirth?*

Registered in 2001

Main Objective

“to secure the advancement and facilitate the acquisition of that knowledge which constitutes the profession of surveying and mapping”

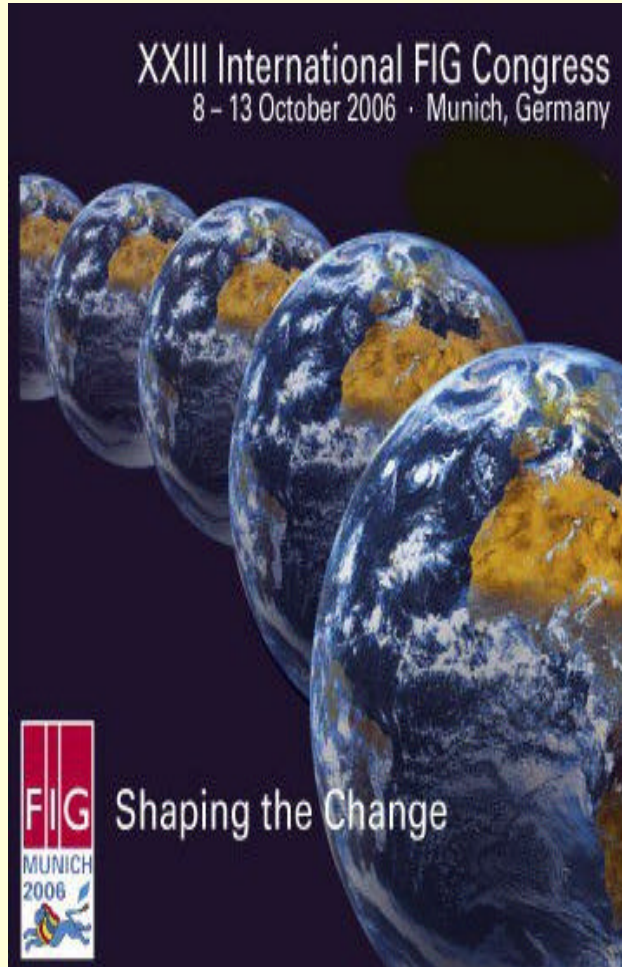
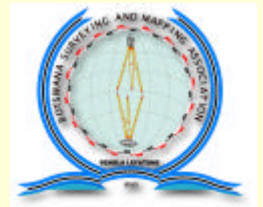
Driven initially by the private sector surveyors.



Shaping the Change



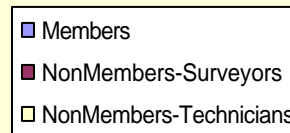
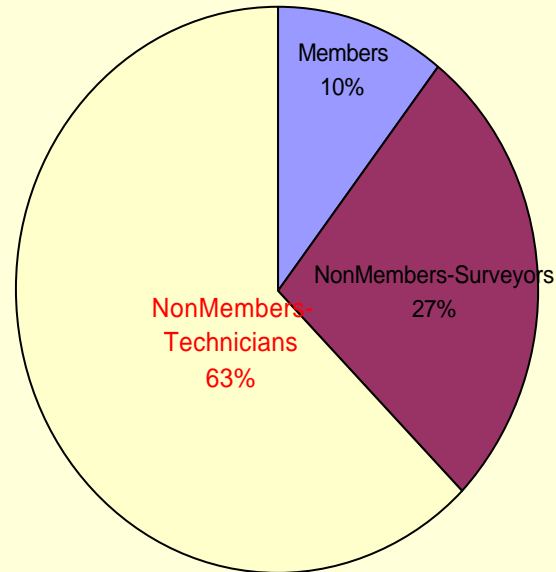
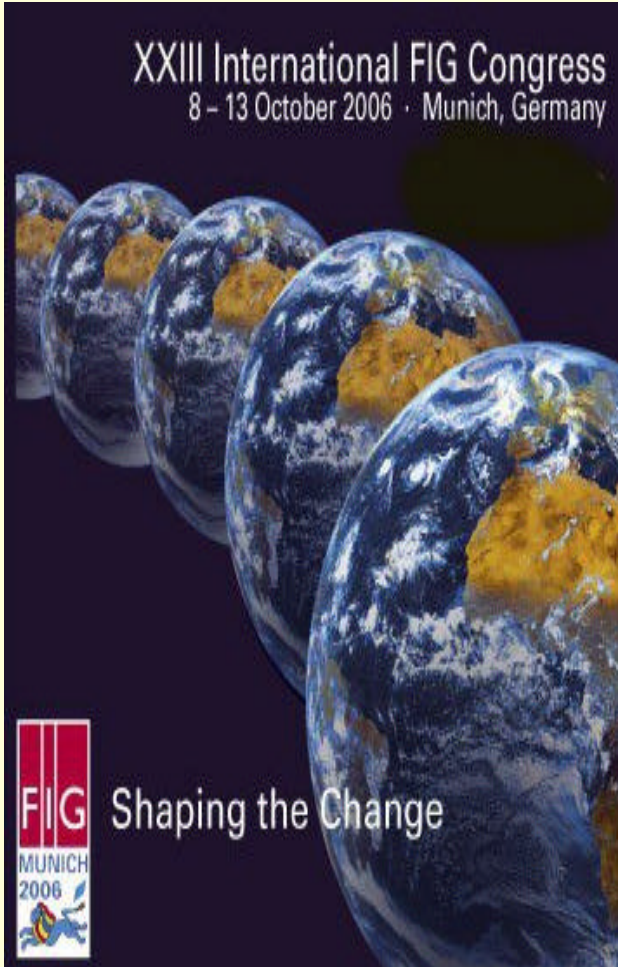
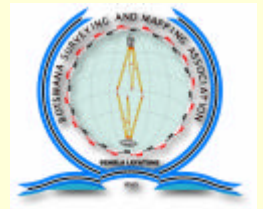
# Membership of BSMA



- BSMA has an “active” membership of 20 surveyors mostly from private surveyors and academia.
- Government surveyors hardly participate in the activities of the association



# Percentage of members



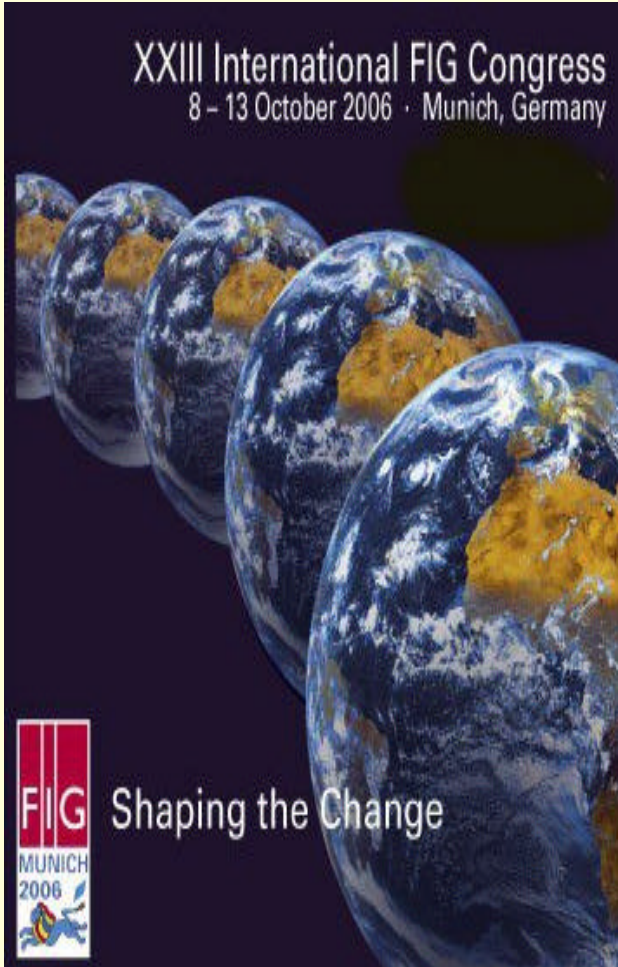
# Geographical spread







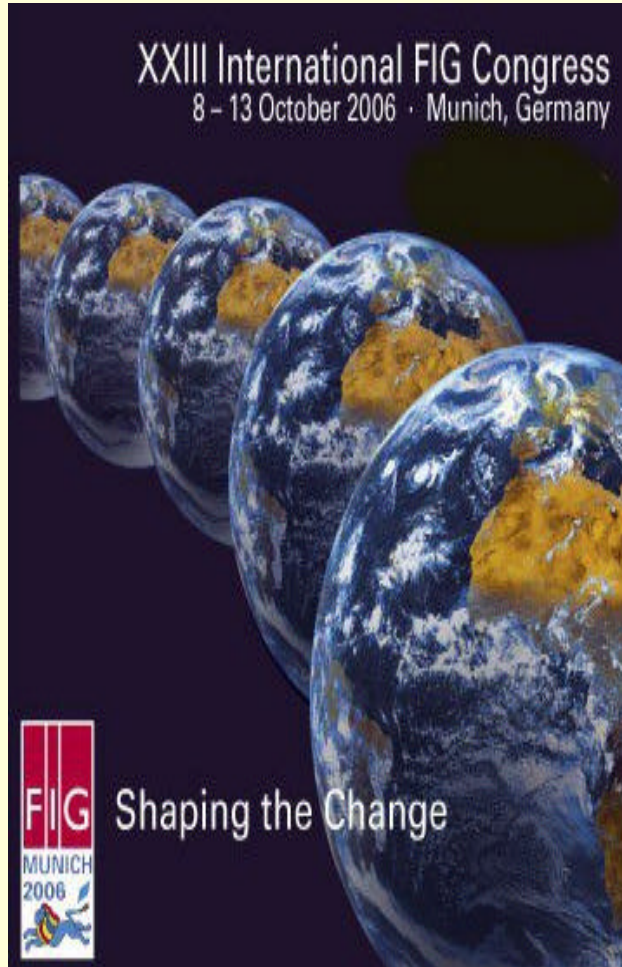
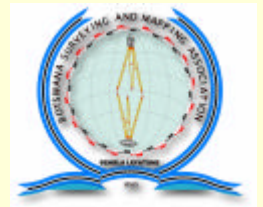
# Why the small number of members?



- 50% of the surveyors and 20% of the Technicians interviewed indicated that they did not know how to join BSMA
- 22% of the surveyors and 60% of the Technicians stated that they did not know about BSMA
- 5% of the Surveyors and 20% of the Technicians stated that it would not make a difference to their professional life



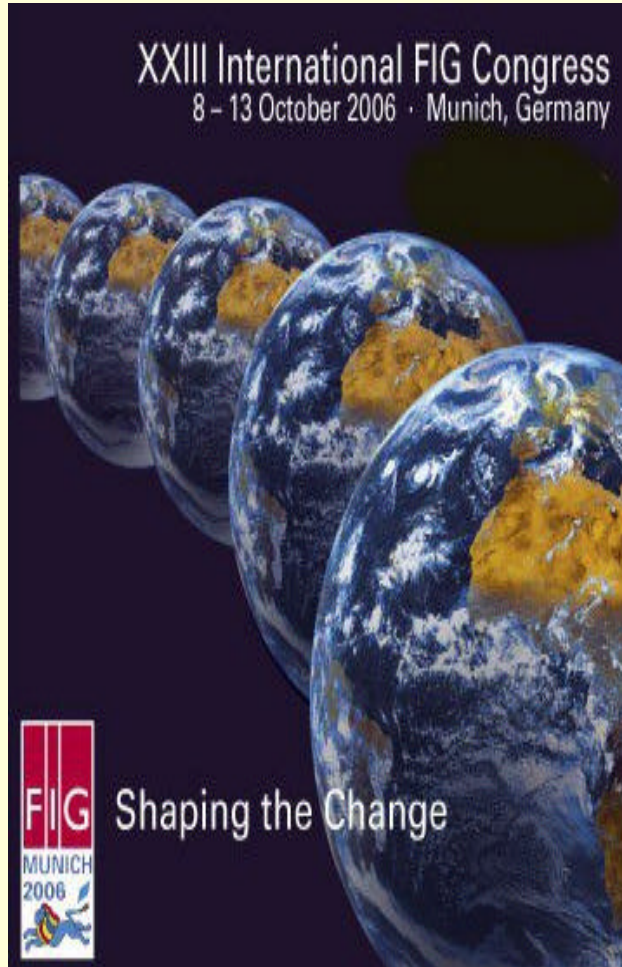
# Lessons learnt



- Issues to address
  - 70% felt we needed to address registration and regulate the profession
  - 86% felt the need for CPD
  - 76% wanted policy issues to be raised
  - All respondents indicated willingness to participate in promoting the association
  - 80% felt that BSMA should be organised regionally



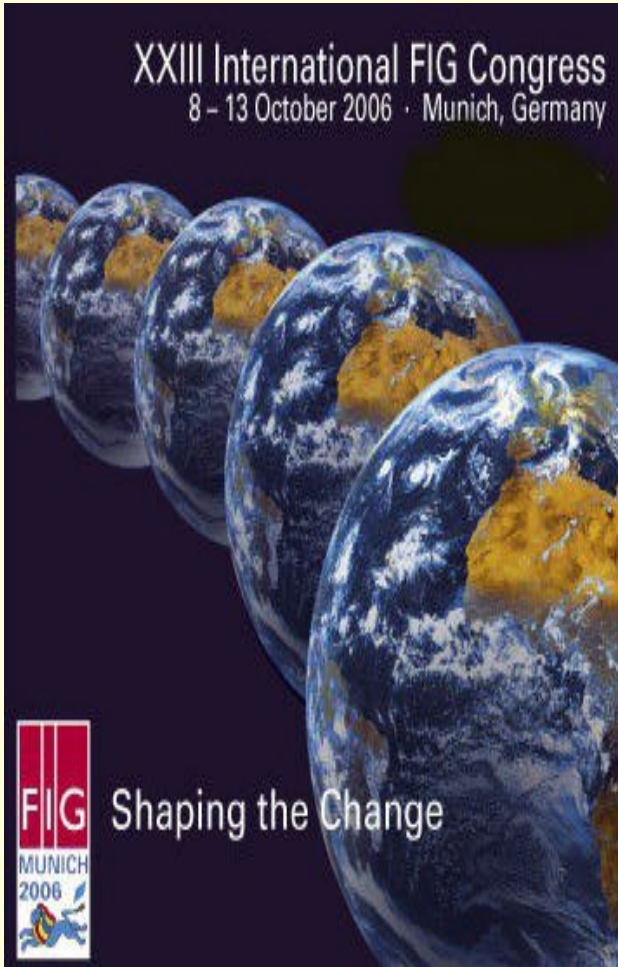
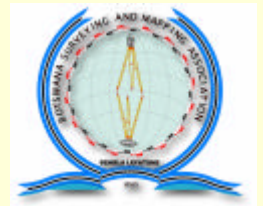
# Lessons learnt



- Need to market the profession within the profession and other stakeholders
- Promotion of professionalism by insisting that all who practice as surveyors belong to a professional body
- Need to gain legal status



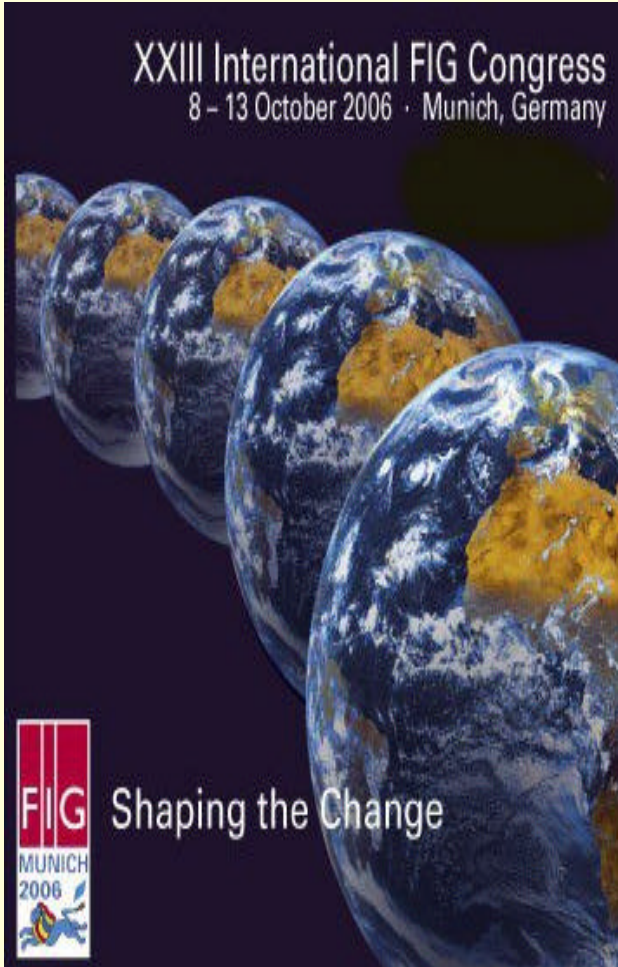
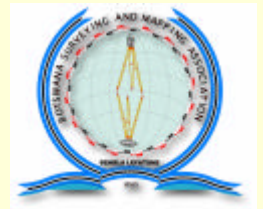
# Success Factors



- Successful organisations are those whose members value their membership
- The organisation should market itself
- The organisation should add value to its members and society
- The organisation should regulate itself and participate in the registration of its members



# Conclusion



- We hope that the FIG can help “almost stillborns” like BSMA to find their feet in the professional world.
- We do not want to be the baby that failed to crawl while the mother watched helplessly.
- Help shape the change in our region!!