Commission 1 Professional Standards & Practice

Farewell Newsletter 2018





Dr Brian Coutts, Chair (2015-2018)

It seems no time at all since I became Chairelect of Commission 1 at the FIG WW in Rome in 2012. Time passes so quickly and especially when you are continually working to deadlines. It seems very much less time since we attended the 'kick-off' function in Athens at the beginning of 2015 when Kwame Tenadu of Commission 8 and I climbed our way up to the Acropolis. Now I am writing this last Newsletter as Chair of Commission 1 late in 2018.

We started the quadrennium with 5 Working Groups (WGs) but lost one along the way, largely through lack of interest by members. That is how it should be – if what seems like a good idea does not match the interests or the needs of the members, then there is no need to force it to continue for 4 years.







2018 Congress - Istanbul, Turkey

WG 1.1 International Ethical Standards



Gary Strong

WG 1.1 Ethics has been led by Gary Strong from the UK. Gary's links to the RICS, and the RICS leadership in the International Ethics Standards Coalition (IESC) has enabled the Commission to be involved with this international initiative.

Unfortunately, procedural issues have delayed the alignment of the FIG Ethics statement with the IESC publication, but it is expected that this will occur at the next general Assembly in Hanoi in 2019. Irrespective, Gary will be continuing his work in raising awareness of ethical issues in FIG through the Commission Work Plan for 2019-22.





Paper Presentation by Gary Strong

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WG 1.2
Women in Surveying



Robyn McCutcheon



Winnie Shiu

WG 1.2 Women in Surveying has been successful in coordinating meetings each year at WWs under the direction of Robyn McCutcheon of Australia and Winnie Shiu of the Hong Kong SAR, China. While it takes time to attract delegates, the interest by female surveyors to have a forum of their own design and input has been building and a very successful lunchtime gathering was held during the recent WW in Istanbul. I am sure that growth will continue under the guidance of the incoming Chair of the Commission.



Paper Presentation by Robyn McCutcheon



Chair of Women in Surveying Session

WG 1.3 International Boundary, Settlement & Demarcation



Don Grant

WG 1.3 International Boundary Settlement and Demarcation was headed by Don Grant of Australia/New Zealand. The final editing of a supplementary publication on international boundaries that continues the work of Haim Srebo is underway at present and will appear in the near future. The work on international boundaries will continue to be extended in conjunction with Commission 7 in the subsequent quadrennial period.

WG 1.5
Mutual Recognition



Kate Fairlie

WG 1.5 the Forum on Mutual Recognition, under the guidance of Kate Fairlie of the UK/Australia. Successful meetings were held during the Working Weeks in Christchurch (2016) and Helsinki (2017) and the topic has been taken up by the Regional Capacity Development Network. This marks the completion of the work of Commission 1 on this topic.

Commission Annual Meeting

The Commission had a fruitful discussion of what has achieved thus far and the Work Plan in the coming term from 2019 to 2022.





Lastly, it has been a privilege for me to provide the leadership of Commission 1 over the last 4 years, including two years as the representative of the Advisory Committee of Commission Officers (ACCO) on the Council during 2015 and 2016. The Commission has grown in strength and relevance during that time, but it could not have happened without the dedication and support of Gary, Robyn, Winnie, Don and Kate. I could not have wished for a better and more supportive team to work with.

I could not conclude this farewell Newsletter without a special mention of my long-time colleague and friend, Winnie Shiu. Winnie, while contributing directly to WG1.2, has also been the Vice Chair (Administration and Communication), through which she has offered both

personal support and encouragement. It is fitting that she should now pick up the reigns of Commission 1 and progress the issues we have begun to explore. I wish her every success over the next 4 years in that endeavour, and that the delegates of Commission 1 continue and grow their support for her and the Commission.

Coming Events

Just a reminder that the programme of annual events in the coming years are as follows:



2019 WW Hanoi, Vietnam



2020 WW - Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2021 WW - Accra, Ghana

2022 Congress - Cape Town, South Africa

Edited by: Winnie Shiu Vice Chair (Administration and Communication) (2015-2018) Chair Elect Commission 1 (2019-2022)