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**Report to the 48<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
FIG Working Week 2025, Brisbane, Australia**

**FIG Asia Pacific Capacity Development Network (AP CDN)**

**Report of Activities 2024-2025**

**1. General**

The role the FIG AP CDN (the Network) is to support member associations of countries in the Asia and the Pacific to develop the capabilities and capacities (CCs) required for modernised geospatial survey infrastructures (GSIs). From a Network perspective, with the right CCs an organisation will have the opportunity to establish fit for purpose GSIs that realise responsible land governance, administration, management in multiple environments.

To put the above into context –

- Geospatial Survey Infrastructure (GSI) – comprises of people, hardware, technology, software, work processes, standards and practices, legal and policy frameworks, cadastral and geodetic frameworks, and geospatial data.
- Capacity development - means improving the foundations of a geospatial survey organisation (GSO), such as infrastructure, resources, and systems that enable the GSO to achieve the business objectives. It also includes understanding the impediments to development, establishing a GSO culture and environment that facilitates the achievement of sustainable development outcomes, and consists of relevant policies, legal frameworks, as well as financial and technical programs.
- Capability development - means enhancing the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources that enable individuals within the GSO to undertake tasks and activities to achieve business objectives, as well as personal goals. To ensure the success of capability development, a program that identifies the challenges, capabilities, as well as strategies, plans and implementation pathways to build specific capabilities is a necessity.

The activities of FIG AP CDN are focused on (a) addressing the technical and administrative GSI challenges, and (b) advocating how GSIs can influence the socio and economic issues being faced today.

To deliver these remits, and to support GSI workshops, seminars and meetings, the Network will rely on the will to succeed, significant collaboration and relationship building with like-minded agencies and professional bodies, engendering local leadership and action on GSI capacity and capability, and the alignment or harmonisation of expectations, wants and needs with the broader objectives of a country's government.

## 2. About the Network

### 2.1 Our People

Vice Chairs Kate Fairlie and Andrick Lal are the co-leaders of the Network.

The Network membership consists of participants from our Commissions, the corporate sector, professional associations, academic networks, our sister organisations, and affiliated government agencies involved with geodesy, surveying, mapping, and geospatial information management.

### 2.2 Our Mission

Professionals and their organisations have the capacity and capability to modernise GSIs and to address the future geospatial and survey challenges.

### 2.3 Our Performance and Activities

Achieving -

- Participation in forums, webinars, meetings, seminars / workshops, and technical sessions.
- Assisting with the preparation of regional, sub regional, country or organisation based strategic / implementation / operational plans.
- Involvement in UN initiatives, such as the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF), Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), and the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (GGCE).
- Dedicated resources for the Pacific Geospatial Survey Council (PGSC) Partnership Desk; Coordinator, Geodetic, Communications, MEL and GEDSI.
- Delivery of support to the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) and Pacific Geospatial Survey Council (PGSC) with their strategic and implementation plans

Progressing –

- Contributing and collaborating with FIG Commissions / Networks / Task Forces on GSI workshops and publications
- Discovery of existing GSI capacity and capability building material, and suitable platforms for portals to share knowledge, experiences and ideas.
- Ensure more consistent inclusion and assistance from both the academia and corporate sector.
- Create information that clarifies the role of FIG AP CDN and its partners.
- Source communication material / fact sheets that explains the importance and value of GSI the region
- Working with educational institutions to explore how core competencies for GSI can be provided and recognised.
- Conceptualisation of a framework or mechanism that will support mutual recognition of GSI qualifications between countries in a region.

Waiting –

- Engaging better within the Network, and open dialogue with member associations, countries and like-minded GSOs from the south east Asia region.

### 3. Cooperation

The Network collaborates with FIG Commissions, Networks and Task Forces, as well as UN GGIM regional working groups or committees. Our main liaisons have been with the Pacific Geospatial Survey Council (PGSC) as they are the established authority amongst the Pacific Islands, Countries and Territories. The Network are endeavoring to engage more with FIG member associations and GSOs located in Asia.



Capacity and capability activities **led by the PGSC** –

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| • Fiji Geospatial Reference System Working Session  | April 2024              |
| • COSPPac3 Pacific Sea Level & Geodetic Monitoring Surveys (11 Sites)   | April 2024 - March 2025 |
| • 14th Session UN GGIM Meeting  | August 2024             |
| • Fiji Institute of Surveyors Survey Congress   | September 2024          |
| • Papua New Guinea Bougainville Coastal Waters Projects Surveys   | October 2024            |
| • Seabed 2030 Pacific Ocean Regional Mapping Meeting  | October 2024            |
| • Expert Consultation / Meeting on Enhancing Geospatial Information Management Arrangements & Accelerating the Implementation of the S DGS / Sub-regional Workshop on UN IGIF for PICTs | November 2024           |
| • Geodetic & Hydrographic Surveys – Digital Earth Pacific   | November 2024           |
| • UN-GGCE International Workshop - Joining Land and Sea   | December 2024           |
| • 1 <sup>st</sup> virtual PGSC meeting - Preparatory and information session for FIG2025 and other events for 2025  | February 2025           |
| • Global Surveyors Day – Fiji Institute of Surveyors  | March 2025              |
| • 22nd Southwest Pacific Hydrographic Commission Meeting  | March 2025              |

#### 4. Events

Significant forums and activities that the Network may participate during 2025 –

- **Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS)**, May 2025 Webinar.
- **Geodesy Capacity Development Workshop for Asia-Pacific on Transitioning to a Modern Geospatial Reference System**. 30 June – 4 July 2025 Bangkok, Thailand. United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- **ASEAN FLAG Meeting**, TBA
- **Fiji Institute of Surveyors Survey Congress**, September 2025 Nadi, Fiji.
- **UN GGIM AP Plenary Meeting** – November 2025, Singapore
- **GeTEWS Oceania 2024: Joint Workshop on Oceania Continuous GNSS Network**, 3 – 6 November 2025, Fiji. IUGG GeoRisk Commission, Joint Tsunami Commission, and IAG/GGOS Group on Earth Observations Geodesy for Sendai Pilot Initiative UN International Committee on GNSS
- **7<sup>th</sup> PGSC Business Meeting**, 7 November 2025, Fiji

#### 5. Communication and publications

The following activities are earmarked for 2025 to be completed to enhance communications and partnerships; -

1. PGSC and ASEAN Social Webinar 2025
2. Review of the Pacific Geospatial & Surveying Council Strategy 2017 – 2027
3. Enhance and update PGSC Webpage; <https://pgsc.gem.spc.int/>
4. Enhance and update Fiji Institute of Surveyors Webpage; <https://www.fijisurveyors.org/>

#### 6. Other highlights

The following are significant activities in the region that relate to the Network's objectives / outcomes.

Mutual recognition and qualifications

- “ASEAN Competent Authority Committee on Surveying (ACACS) refers to the duly constituted body under the ASEAN Framework Arrangement for the Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualifications (MRA) which comprises of Competent Authority (CA) representatives from all ASEAN Member States (AMS) that administers the assessment, recognition, registration, and monitoring of ASEAN Registered Surveyor (ARS) and Registered Foreign Professional Surveyor (RFPS).” Sourced from - <https://ars.aseanflag.org/>
- “The National Competency Standard describes the competency that is the skills, attitudes and attributes based on knowledge (gained through education) and experience (gained through post graduate training) that together is considered sufficient to practice as a Licensed Cadastral Surveyor

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which allows them to undertake cadastral surveys, pursuant to relevant legislation of jurisdictions affiliated with the Council of Reciprocating Surveyors Boards of Australia and New Zealand.”

Sourced from - <https://crsbanz.wixsite.com/crsbanz/policies-guidelines>

#### Impact of geospatial information on the economy

- “The Geospatial Council of Australia (GCA) has today launched a landmark report at Parliament House, Canberra, revealing that geospatial technology is projected to deliver a cumulative economic impact of \$689 billion to Australia by 2034. The report, titled ‘*Economic Impact of Geospatial Services in Australia*,’ underscores the critical role of geospatial data in boosting productivity and driving innovation across a wide range of sectors.” Sourced from - <https://geospatialcouncil.org.au/geospatial-sector-set-to-deliver-689-billion-economic-impact-to-australia-by-2034-gca-report-finds/>

#### Skills shortage research

- “The Association of Consulting Surveyors is committed to industry research to provide insights for the profession and government to better understand core issues and how to resolve them. Over the past 12 years, we have commissioned research by BIS Oxford Economics following each Australian Census into the demand and supply of surveying and geospatial professionals, with the most recent study released in January 2023.” Sourced from - <https://www.consultingsurveyors.com.au/resources/researchstudies/surveying-skills/>