

**Asia Pacific Capacity Development Network Meeting
FIG Working Week 2017 – Helsinki, Finland
Chair - Rob Sarib**



There were about 25 participants involved in the FIG Asia Pacific Capacity Development Network (AP CDN) “breakfast” meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to discover and share information on FIG activities that are occurring in Asia and the Pacific region, and how we can collaborate to achieve our work plan objectives. At the meeting participants were encouraged to voice their opinions on the capacity development challenges being faced by our industry and how FIG can assist to address these challenges. An overview of the discussions is listed below -

- Organisations require specialist technical geospatial / surveying skills; in particular geodesy and hydrography.
- Some regions experiencing difficulty in attracting young surveyors into the geospatial / geodetic infrastructure field / discipline.
- Can Academic Institutions / Universities consider offering the requiring courses for “specialist surveying”?
- Are we delivering the right messages to the decision makers? Is it about knowledge sharing; lack of skilled staff; training gaps; more connections to professional organisations for opportunities; not reaching the critical mass before it is too late?
- Hydrography – no Academic institutes appear to be offering this specialised discipline!
- Need more opportunities for mentoring, networking via Academic Institutes, and within professional organisations.
- Academic Institute matching – established institutions partnering / aligning with emerging / developing country academia?
- Land Surveyors age profile is “50” plus – No succession planning
- Legislative problems (lack of structure / framework)
- Lack of government funding / resourcing for geospatial activities.
- Similar problems / challenges being experience everywhere!

- Some nations only have Diploma levels in surveying so can other Academic Institutions provide assistance / a pathway to allow students to progress to a Degree level ?– How to do this? Provide “access” to other academic networks; collaboration and connectivity is the key.
- Some countries just want more specialised workshops. They know the theory but want implementation assistance - operational GNSS CORS training; reference frame derivation etc.
- What are other ways of learning / building capacity besides workshops? – Need a more sustainable model. How can the information from these seminars be used again and again? Updated?
- Surveying becoming a diluted voice! Need to be unified.
- To build a framework / pathway and avoid duplication of efforts there needs to be more collaboration and communication within FIG Commissions and Networks; including UN agencies such as GGIM, GGRF Geodesy Education, training and Capacity Development Sub-Committee, Academic Networks, Private Sector Network
- ACTION for FIG AP CDN
 - Create a skills / knowledge / contact details matrix for professional and education networks
 - Circulate a summary of challenges from meeting and power point presentation.
 - Delegates are encourage to review the documents / meetings at location - http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html there is useful information about “why” global geospatial information is necessary.
 - Update CORE membership list on website
 - Engage more with like-minded groups within FIG and UN

In addition to the above some members of the FIG AP CDN attended the discussion forum relating to the UN GGRF – Education Training and Capacity Building Sub-Committee, which is chaired by FIG Vice President Mikael Lilje. This gathering was convened by the UN Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF), who are a committee under the UN GGIM. Although, the meeting was by invitation only there were many representatives from different regions.

The main purpose of this meeting was to review the draft implementation plan to build the capacity of developing nations in the discipline of geodesy. The main points to note from this meeting are –

- The proposed / draft work plan although structured and aspirational, it appeared to be rather ambitious, the timeframes unrealistic, and a very "academic" approach. Consequently, the plan should consider other areas of capacity development / challenges that need to be addressed rather just the science!
- The document could be used as a starting point or template for regions.

- The role of this group needs to be clearly defined. For example is it a steering group for other regional UN bodies involved with capacity building?
- There needs to be more discussion / engagement with the regions (countries) to understand what their needs are, how they can be linked to the "drivers" in each region, why the GGRF needs to be implemented in their country, how it will help, etc.
- The following needs to be discovered - what existing organisations / work groups / committees have the same agenda? How can we collaborate / co-operate?
- Funding is important and inevitable. This needs to be raised in the document.
- Capacity building programs need to be sustainable in each region. For example the holding meetings / workshop model is one mechanism but this is NOT sustainable and depends on "champions" driving the agenda. Ultimately, countries need to drive the agenda with a common regional focus / objective.
- It was believed that the regional geodesy groups should have a coordinating role with respect to capacity building / development. Regions should assist with the funding issue and they should also encourage neighbouring (more developed) regional countries to provide assistance and lead from behind - that is "steer rather than row" to build a self-sufficiency / self-reliance.