

# THE TASK FORCE AND THE ADVANTAGES OF NETWORKING

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## ABSTRACT

The Task Force on Under-represented Groups in the present shape was established 1998 during the FIG Congress in Brighton. The limited time period will end in 2002 with the FIG Congress in Washington.

The Task Force is a network with 56 members from 22 countries in the moment. We have been building up many contacts to colleagues and co-operate with UNCHS (Habitat) and other international and national associations in the technical field.

Using internet and mailing opportunities the contact to following working groups could be established:

- International Real Estate Federation, FIABCI Young Members Group,
- Commission on Gender and Cartography of the International Cartographic Association ICA,
- ICEFloe Equal Opportunities Forum of the Institution of Civil Engineers, UK;
- Forum for Equal Opportunity of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping.

Also background information concerning scientific research and decisions of the European Parliament could be distributed by the quarterly Newsletter. All issues of the Task Force Newsletter together with other information concerning the Task Force activities can be found on the FIG home page:

<http://www.fig.net/figtree/tf/underrep/tfunrep.htm> .

The Terms of References of this Task Force are:

1. Enhancement of professional development opportunities for women and young surveyors,
2. Equal rights for individual members within FIG, not depending on gender or native language or some other cultural characteristics,
3. Facilitation of professional contacts of female and young surveyors as well as for example linguistic minorities to the FIG community.

During the last meetings the Task Force on Under-represented Groups in Surveying made a lot of proposals.

For example the Task Force

- suggested the evaluation of the Congress registration in Washington 2002 concerning Commissions, gender, age periods and the first attendance. The proposals to introduce a lower registration fee for students, to enable the attendance of students to assist the organisers and to mark the name tags of participants attending the first time the Congress were also agreed by Congress Director Mary Clawson.

- made proposals concerning Commission meetings during Working Weeks and Congresses.
- proposed regional FIG meetings to facilitate the attendance of students and young professionals.
- recommended that the Member Associations should report about the activities of FIG in their publications, support the attendance of young professionals and students at FIG Congresses or Working Weeks and at national congresses, enable practical work for foreign students and young professionals and increase the amount of student members.
- proposed to facilitate practical work or training facilities for foreign students.

During this Workshop we will discuss among others

- exchange of experiences concerning the network and the network activities,
- subjects to deal with during the next year,
- sessions and meetings during the FIG Congress in Washington 2002,
- implementation of the Task Force activities into FIG structures after the 4-year period,
- reflections of the FIG Task Force Review of Commission Structure.

## **CONTACT**

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