

Commission Work Plans 2007-2010

Notes of the Forum organised at the FIG General Assembly in Hong Kong on Commission Work Plans and activities in 2007-2010

The discussion was led by Vice President Matt Higgins, Chair of the Advisory Committee of Commission Officers and the panel included all Commissions chairs except Commission 10. The forum was organised to increase dialogue between the member associations and commissions. In the discussion following issues, ideas and proposals were raised:

Diane Dumashie (UK): Has FIG changed the policy that acting Commission chairs should not chair working groups at the same time?

Bela Markus (Comm. 2) and Matt Higgins: The principles have not been changed but the Council is more flexible in cases when the chair is the best expert to take the activity forward.

Steven Nystrom (AI, USA): Slum upgrading is an important topic but what could be done to coordinate these activities and to get all pieces together?

Chryssy Potsiou (Comm. 3) and Andras Ossko (Comm. 7): FIG Task Force on UN-Habitat co-operation will coordinate these activities where at least four commissions are actively involved. One of the main outcomes will be the joint FIG / UN-Habitat Seminar in Stockholm in 2008 during the FIG Working Week.

Rafic Khouri (OGE, France): It is difficult to follow 10 different commission newsletters, could the Council consider to publish a summary or develop the e-Newsletter so that the major activities will be covered?

Stig Enemark (FIG President): Communication is always a key issue. The Council has updated the FIG Information Policy Document and will publish it on the web in near future. The real challenge is given to the member associations and how to encourage the national delegates to inform the association and individual members in member associations on key points in their area.

John Bacon (ICES, UK): FIG should increase the input from private sector and corporate management. FIG should also acknowledge that Commission 10 is central part of FIG work and that Commission 10 covers all points of all commissions – its expertise is needed in all commissions.

Stig Enemark (FIG President): Project management is crucial and the general trend in surveying profession is towards pure management skills – this applies both to public and private sectors.

Diane Dumashie (RICS, UK): Commission 8 is a multidisciplinary team. There is need to study the Commission structure on continuous basis to see what members want from FIG.

Richard Hucker (ICES, UK): There will be a special meeting in the technical programme on project management in Hong Kong.

Yaacoub Saade (Comm. 1): There is a need to strengthen FIG's role in political decision making and in private sector and looking for business opportunities at international level.

Bela Markus (Comm. 2): Commission 2 has two working groups on management issues. FIG will also strengthen the role of academics through Academic Forum.

Matt Higgins (FIG Vice President): The Council decided not to change the Commission structure at this point as the current structure is working quite well – “fix only what is broken”.

Rafic Khouri (OGE, France): There are also other organisations that are working in the private sector, e.g. Geometres Europas (GE) and FIG should consider co-operating with these.

Matt Higgins (Vice President): Second topic to be discussed is how to increase and encourage participation of national delegates in the Commission work.

Luke Asika (NIS, Nigeria): FIG should assist member associations in influencing governments in developing countries e.g. on developing legislation.

Chryssy Potsiou (Comm. 3): FIG delegates should be ambassadors in distributing information to local governments and member associations. They should bring the information both from and to FIG.

Andras Ossko (Comm. 7): It should be considered that attendance to a conference is at the same time commitment to distribute information. Surveying is in general conservative profession – what are the new trends and benefits of attending international activities. Participation to FIG activities is a long-term investment.

Iain Greenway (RICS, UK): The Task force on Governance discussed the need to research options to use IT technology in participating meetings. Asked 3-4 Commission working groups to report back in Stockholm on specific use of IT communication in their work (teleconferences, video etc.) Technology is a key issue.

Dalal S. Alnaggar (Vice President): Communication within Commissions is essential and also sharing information between Commissions (and surveying disciplines). Urged for research projects between commissions.

Summary

Stig Enemark (FIG President):

- Cooperation between Commissions is on the way. E.g. the pro-poor coastal zone management in Costa Rica is a good example of these activities that can only be implemented by combining expertise from different commissions.
- Technology and IT conferences are obvious and will be taken on board
- The Council is satisfied with the forum and its broad scope on commissions. The role of surveying as an interdisciplinary profession is well received and there are many cross commission issues like business management, education etc. We need to get the profile of Commission 1 on place.
- In the field of multidisciplinary approach – we need to consider whether the management / managers is the way to follow
- Current Commission structure provides a home for all surveyors no matter on a specific topic that an individual surveyor may represent.
- There are promising new Working Groups. Delegates need now to capitalise from this – so good luck for Commissions for 2007-2010.