

## 1. Historical Background

- The professional practice in Israel is still influenced by the pre-independence (1922-1948) period, under the British mandate.
- Replacing the Ottoman Empire, the arrival of the British in 1917, found the country in need of surveying and mapping services, without local Jewish or Arab professionals available.

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## **Professional Practice Based on Education, Ethics and Standards**

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Shaping the Change  
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## 1. Historical Background (cont.)

- Later, a cadastral system based on Torrens principles was introduced, becoming a basis for registration of rights to land within defined parcel boundaries.
- In 1929 the British mandatory government put into effect the Survey Ordinance, which is still the law governing the surveying practice in Israel.

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## 1. Historical Background (cont.)

- The British established a government survey office (to become Survey of Palestine), imported British personnel to fill all the executive and professional positions and started training local personnel in the practical aspects of surveying.
- Top priority was given to geodetic control (triangulation).

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## 2. The National Mapping Agency (cont.)

- The Director General of the Survey of Israel is responsible for adapting the profession to the trends prevailing in a democratic country: in legislation, in licensing, in continued professional development, in being open to criticism not only of the establishment, but of the professional community and of the public.

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## 2. The National Mapping Agency

- Survey of Israel establishes reference models and standards for surveying and mapping products and is the top professional authority.
- During the first 20 years of independence, the Survey was quite active in doing surveys and mapping.

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### **3. Ethics**

- One of the phenomena that we all are concerned with, is the competition through bids for survey work.
- Submitting a low bid in order to get the contract may result in lowering the standard of the work provided to the client.
- The Treasury concept and the trend are that government survey work be carried out by the private sector, on the basis of competition rather than on basis of an approved price list for services to be performed.

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### **2. The National Mapping Agency (cont.)**

- Years have passed, priorities have changed, the national agency is gradually reducing the number of employees in accordance with the policy of the government and a growing volume of the production work goes to the private sector.

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### **3. Ethics (cont.)**

- Offences against the law can be enforced and punished much more easily than offences against the code of Ethics.

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### **3. Ethics (cont.)**

- Today, the professional ethics in Israel, in both the public and the private sectors of the surveying community, are based on the model developed by Allred for the FIG and adopted for Israel by Adler.
- However ethics are a standard of behavior. Can they be enforced? Up to the present no license has been revoked for unethical behavior, nor has a surveyor been expelled from the Association.

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### **4. Qualification (cont.)**

- What a long way from times, when the government granted licenses on the basis of experience without checks and balances, of examinations and supervised periods of practice.

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### **4. Qualification**

- We are already in the era of a technical university degree being a basic qualification for a surveyor license, followed by a period of supervised practice and a professional practice examination.
- On the one hand it places the surveyors at educational and professional level equal or exceeding that of other professional engineers. On the other hand, young persons entering the profession, have expectations of an appropriate reward for their personal investment and for their services.

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### **5. The Future Developments (cont.)**

- This will not happen tomorrow, but it is imperative to consider it as a policy.

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### **5. The Future Developments**

- The trend of reducing the size of the civil service is expected to continue. The National Surveying and Mapping agency will be limited being "the top professional authority in the country".
- Time will come to consider delegating the responsibility for licensing and supervision to a professional society, whose members have appropriate education, are committed to continued professional development and are obliged to adhere to strict codes of ethics and standards.

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

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