



International Federation of Surveyors

Fédération Internationale des Géomètres

Internationale Vereinigung der Vermessungsingenieure

Commission 5: "C5"

Positioning and Measurement (1998-2002)

"A World and a Profession in Transition"

FIG WORKING WEEK 2000

By Jean-Marie Becker, Mikael Lilje and Matt Higgins

INTRODUCTION

The FIG Working Week was organised in Prague, Czech Republic between the 22nd and 26th of May. There were over 300 delegates from 40 countries. The Czech-Slovak-Polish Surveying Days were also organised at the same time and run in their own languages which, unfortunately, meant that most of the local participants preferred this event.

Commission 5 was well represented by its entire Steering Committee of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and all Working Group Chairs (Jean-Marie Becker, Matt Higgins, Mikael Lilje, Vaclav Slaboch, Hansbert Heister, Michel Kasser, Naser El-Sheimy, Nicolas Paparoditis and Paul Cross). Also, Vaclav Slaboch played an active and important role during planning for the Working Week as Vice Chair of the Organising Committee. Such local involvement is crucial to the success of Working Weeks and it was good for Commission 5 to have Vaclav so heavily involved.

This report is a summary of events. For more information on a specific topic, please contact the relevant Steering Committee member.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly met at the start and end of the working week, as usual. 35 countries were represented by 40 member organisations of the federation. During the plenary sessions, many items passed with little discussion or controversy. A summary will be published on the FIG web site in due course.

Four new member associations from Czech Republic, Lebanon, Colombia and Portugal were accepted. Peter Dale was accepted as Honorary President and Grahame Lindsay and Andrzej Hopfer were accepted as Honorary Members.

FIGTree has been moved to a new domain (www.FIG.net) and there is also a new email address to FIG (FIG@fig.net) since last GA.

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Ian Williamson (Director FIG/UN Liaison) reported from the discussions that FIG has had with UN, including the round-table discussion in Melbourne in October, 1999. Matt Higgins represented FIG Commission 5 at that meeting. The report from the meeting is now published as FIG Publication No 22 (available in hard copy or via FIG web site).

The Bureau will, together with concerned FIG Commissions, seek to enter into bilateral agreements with international organisations such as the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). This is a follow up from the last GA when it was decided that FIG should no longer be a member of the International Union on Surveying and Mapping (IUSM) but instead seek bilateral agreements with relevant organisations. IUSM was formally disbanded at the 19th International Cartographic Conference of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) in August, 1999. Over the last two years, Jean-Marie and other officers of Commission 5 have had discussions with executive members of IAG, ICA and International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) on the different roles of the organisations and how to collaborate in the future. The co-operation could be in form of co-sponsoring seminars, joint working groups etc. For more details, please see FIG Commission 5 Newsletter No 3 (on the Commission 5 web site, www.lm.se/fig5).

Tom Kennie, Chair of Task Force on Future Governance, reported on Task Force proposals to the General Assembly. A discussion followed with many questions about the future structure and operation of the FIG Council. The Task Force will complete its work with proposal of new statutes for the GA at the 2001 Working Week. It was agreed this structural work should continue with a new Task Force to Review Commissions, Task Forces and Permanent Institutions. Tom Kennie will move on to also Chair this Task Force with Matt Higgins nominated as a member to represent ACCO.

Two bids were received for FIG Working Week 2005. These were Sydney and Cairo. It was decided by vote at the end of the week that Cairo should be responsible for the event.

Calender for the FIG Working Weeks and Congress

- Working Week 2001: 6-11 May, Seoul, South Korea
- Congress 2002: 21-26 April, Washington D.C., USA
- Working Week 2003: 19-23 May, Eilat, Israel
- Working Week 2004: August, Athens, Greece
- Working Week 2005: April-May, Cairo, Egypt
- Congress 2006: October, Munich, Germany

ACCO

As well as work within Commissions, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of all Commissions form the Advisory Committee of Commission Officers (ACCO), which is chaired by the Vice President of the Bureau (Prof Holger Magel from the German "Shadow Bureau"). ACCO ensures consistency and co-operation across Commissions and is considered the "engine room" of FIG. Two ACCO meetings were held in Prague. Jean-Marie Becker, Matt Higgins and Mikael Lilje represented Commission 5. There was some disappointment about the meeting being too much one-way communication from the Bureau rather than ACCO acting as a think-tank on the work of the Commissions. At the end of the week mechanisms were put in place to try and make this work better in the future.

A significant agenda item was FIG/UN co-operation. Ian Williamson joined the meeting to speak to this item. Major progress has been made and important steps need to be taken in the future to benefit from the co-operation. Some Commissions (e.g. 4, 5 and 6) have several other international partner organisations within the same field. While for other Commissions there are not many international bodies in the same field. Commission 7 on Cadastre is a good example where FIG is the only body that UN can look to for guidance. Therefore, the level of co-operation needed with UN varies among the Commissions. A concern for Commission 5 is to ensure a balance between UN co-operation and co-operation with our partner organisations such as IAG, ISPRS and ICA and for that need for balance to be recognised within FIG. On the other hand, it must also be remembered that FIG has a strategic position as the only UN recognised NGO among these partner organisations.

ACCO discussed preparations for the 2002 Congress in Washington DC with Congress Director Mary Clawson and Deputy Director John Hohol. The overall theme of the congress was decided to be *Geomatics and Property Valuation for Global Sustainable Development*. The ACSM and ASPRS will hold their normal annual congresses in parallel with the FIG XXII Congress. Practice elsewhere has been for local Congresses to yield to the FIG. ACCO expressed its concerns at this, highlighting that FIG wants a good program with a significant number of North American speakers. To guard against such problems, the calls for papers will start with the FIG Congress and FIG will have opportunity to look at the abstracts for the American Congresses. The current plans are that abstracts are to be due in April 2001 prior to Seoul. The deadline for abstracts for the US-congresses is September 2001. ACCO plans to have a meeting in Washington in September 2001 soon after that deadline for the US-congresses so that planning of the FIG Congress sessions can be finalised. The Commissions were asked about the number of sessions they would like in Washington. The number of rooms is not limited. We are also invited to list our themes for the call for papers. Commission 5 said that its working groups could be a good start for themes and that we should also have something concerning GNSS (GPS/GLONASS/GALILEO).

There were some discussions concerning the Task Force proposal on Future Governance of FIG; especially the item concerning the ACCO member on the Council and whether that should be a voting or non-voting member. Commission 5 expressed a preference for the member to be a voting member while Commissions 1, 3 and 6 expressed the opposite view. Being a non-voting member means that it would be easier to set up the internal rules for how the person should act. There was also some discussion whether the person should be an active member of ACCO or not. Consensus was that an active member of ACCO would give best representation.

There was also discussion of the next Working Week; South Korea 2001. There is a comprehensive web site running (<http://www.fww2001.or.kr/>). A call for papers is planned for the 3rd Quarter of 2000. The Koreans asked about the number of sessions as well as themes as soon as possible. (Note: A first pass on this was given to Markku Villikka when he met later with Jean-Marie, Matt and Mikael).

The ACCO meetings also included information from Task Forces with Iain Greenway (Standards) and Helge Onsrud (Sustainable Development) speaking on their progress. Iain expressed concern at the lack of co-operation from some Commissions while Helge asked for comments and any additional text for his Task Force's draft FIG statement on Sustainable Development. For that document, Commission 5 could have input on the role of geodetic

processes, such as in monitoring of sea level rise, ice and snow melting and atmospheric changes.

FIG Commission 5 meeting and Steering Committee meeting

Commission 5 had two meetings during the week. The first meeting was an open commission meeting on the Monday afternoon and the second was a steering committee meeting.

Open Commission meeting

We had 19 people from 5 continents at our open meeting, which was satisfying. Michel Kasser noted that many of the people attending the meeting are from Universities or Government rather than the Private Sector. This is a problem for FIG generally and it is important to remember that Private Sector Surveyors are the grass roots of FIG member organisations.

Jean-Marie went through the agenda for the FWW in Prague.

Paul Cross discussed some issues that his Working Group 5.5 on Reference Frame in Practice is working with and urged everyone to help with the local fact sheets.

Nicolas Paparoditis introduced the seminar that will be held in Paris between 17th and 19th of April next year. It will be a joint FIG/ISPRS event in both English and French and will cover the use of photogrammetry in urban areas.

Jean-Marie reported that FIG has been successful regarding the simplified method on instruments. The standardisation organisations are accepting that the surveyors need a simple way to check their instruments. He also noticed that a problem within standardisation work is that the people involved often are old and perhaps not even in the business anymore. This sometimes leads to those that are active having significant influence, so that their standards can easily progress to international standards.

There was discussion on the collaboration with other organisations such as IAG, ISPRS and ICA. We need to avoid seeking collaboration for the sake of collaboration but there are many working groups within other organisations that have working groups similar to ours. The current review of IAG should be monitored as it may offer an opportunity for better formalising such collaboration.

Randolph Camilleri gave an update on the Malta seminar. He expects over 100 people and currently has 50+ papers.

Naser El-Sheimy spoke about preparations for the Cairo seminar on Mobile Mapping where Commission 5 intends to participate with about 10 papers. This is a joint seminar with ISPRS Com 2 and IAG Com 4.

Concerning FWW 2001 in Seoul, Matt is our main contact. We intend to have a ½ day work shop on standards and at least another 2 sessions with papers. The level of input from South Korea and other countries in the region will be a major influence on the success of our programme for the FWW.

We also discussed briefly the organisation of the Washington congress (as outlined above) including concerns about the three congresses running parallel.

Steering Committee meeting

Many of the items on the agenda to the steering committee meeting were discussed during the commission meeting, see above.

At this meeting we discussed the future governance proposals by Tom Kennie and how that would affect us. We also discussed the proposed continuation of the work into what became a new Task Force to Review Commissions, Task Forces and Permanent Institutions. Some issues discussed included: What is the future of FIG Commission 5 within FIG? Can the three technical commissions 4, 5 and 6 live separately or should they be merged?

Paul Cross reported from the Tuesday evening meeting of Working Group 5.5. Even though only 6 people attended, it is still felt important to have these meetings at Working Weeks. Paul will develop a list of action items from that meeting and continue to progress the groups work with the assistance of Matt Higgins.

Following a question from Naser, it was decided that Commission 5 should contribute 10 papers to his Cairo event. It is also important that Nicolas and Naser discuss their respective seminars to avoid overlap.

We briefly discussed the program in Prague and the general opinion was that the technical program was too short if FIG wants to attract more participants to the meeting. This will be the opposite in Seoul where there seems to be no limits on how many sessions we could have.

Michel Kasser proposed as a new initiative that we should collect Commission 5 relevant papers from journals etc and in various languages so that we can produce a "database of papers". There are so many articles in our field and a practical service to surveyors would be to collect the good ones and perhaps put them on our homepage. Of course, there is a question regarding copyright that needs to be solved. It was agreed this was a good idea and that Michel should work up a proposal on this matter.

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

This year, for the first time, all technical papers from the Working Week are on the FIG Web Site. (See <http://www.fig.net/figtree/pub/proceedings/prague-final-papers/index.htm>).

Commission 5 had a very interesting technical program in Prague as evidenced by attendance of between 40 and 60 people at our sessions. Below is an outline of the 2 sessions where Commission 5 was represented in Prague.

Sessions 2: Future Technologies, Chaired by Michel Mayoud, Commission 6.

Jaroslav Simek and Jan Kostelecky: Modern Geodetic Network and Datum in Europe

Nicolas Paparoditis: Integration of techniques for digital mapping

Michel Kasser: New modern height determination techniques

Naser El-Sheimy: The multisensor technologies and their impact in the future.

Alojz Kopacik: Modern trends in the highway building in Slovakia.

Session 4: Technical standards and quality, Session chaired by Jean-Marie Becker

Hansbert Heister, Vaclav Slaboch and Jean-Marie Becker: New technical standards improving the quality in positioning and measurement

Paul Cross: Reference Frame in practice, The role of professional, scientific, standards and commercial organisation.

Otto Heunecke and Karl-Hans Klein: Aims and activities in German standardisation respective engineering surveys.

Dennis St. Jacques: Quality in transition, a journey for Canadian Hydrographic Service.

COMING EVENTS

More information on these events can always be found on the Commission home page (www.lm.se/fig5).

Malta

The event will take place on Malta the 18-21 September, 2000 and the technical program is organised by Commission 5. The invitation is out and Jean-Marie is at the moment working on the program. More information can be found at www.lm.se/fig5.

Cairo

The 3rd International work shop on Mobile Mapping Technology will take place in Cairo on January 3-5, 2001. Naser El-Sheimy is responsible for the event. It is believed that the seminar will aim at the application side of Mobile Mapping more than the previous two have done. A call for papers is printed and distributed. More information can be found at <http://www.ensu.ucalgary.ca/~nel-shei/MMT2001.htm>.

Paris

FIG Commission 5 is through WG-5.4 organising a seminar in Paris the 17th -19th of April, 2001 with the theme "Modern Surveying in Urban Areas". Nicolas Paparoditis is the convenor of the seminar. The presentations will be in both French and English.

FIG Working Week 2001 in Seoul

The dates for this event will be the 6th to the 11th of May and the event will take place in Seoul. Commission 5 suggestion is to have a ½ day work shop on standards and at least another two sessions with papers. Matt Higgins is co-ordinating it for Commission 5 and we also have a contact name in South Korea to help with organisation. More information can be found at <http://www.fww2001.or.kr/>.

KIS2001 in Banff, Canada

Commission 5 will be a co-sponsor at this event and Naser El-Sheimy will be responsible for one of the sessions at this event that will take place 5th to 8th of June, 2001. More information can be found at <http://www.ensu.ucalgary.ca/Kis2001/KIScall.htm>.

FIG/UN Workshop in Kenya in October 2001

The proposed theme is GIS in Support of Planning, Development and Management of Human Settlements. It is envisaged that the conference will be co-hosted and co-sponsored by the Institution of Surveyors of Kenya (ISK), FIG, the Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE) and UNCHS (Habitat). The lead on this is being taken by Jes Ryttersgaard, Chair of Commission 3 (Spatial Information Management). Matt Higgins sat in on a meeting involving Jes, the Chairman of ISK, H.K. Njuguna, FIG Vice President, Gerry Ives, FIG Executive Director, Markku Villikka and Chair of Commission 1, John Parker. Commission 5 may be able to contribute to this workshop in terms of data acquisition

techniques and technologies but also on infrastructure issues such as geodetic datum unification in Africa. Commission 5 should pursue possible involvement as planning progresses.

ACTIONS

Apart from the need for all to continue as appropriate with Working Group plans and events, the following specific action items arose from Prague:

- Provide Markku Villikka with title and proposed number of sessions to FWW, 2001. Higgins to co-ordinate.
- Send to Mary Clawson the themes from our commission concerning the Call for Papers to the 2002 Washington Congress. Becker to co-ordinate.
- Investigate Commission 5 contribution to the document by the Task Force on Sustainable Development. Higgins and Lilje to co-ordinate.
- Investigate possible Commission 5 involvement in FIG/UN workshop in Kenya in October 2001. Higgins and Lilje to co-ordinate.
- Cross to summarise and propose action items from the meeting of Working Group 5.5.
- Kasser to investigate and make a firm proposal on a database of Commission 5 relevant papers from journals etc.