

FIG Commission 1 – Professional Standards and Practice

Report for 2013 for Work Plan 2011–2014

1. Title

Professional Standards and Practice.

2. Terms of Reference

- Professional practice, legal aspects and organisational structures
- Codes of ethics and applications
- Changes to society and ways of working and the corresponding impacts on professional practice
- Community perceptions and understanding about the surveying profession
- Participation in FIG Standards Network and Young Surveyors Network

3. Mission Statement

The mission of Commission 1 is to:

- build the capacity of professionals to adapt to changing circumstances: Changes are affecting the operation of surveying practices, their management and their professional structures under the challenges of widening professional activities and a changing world.
- create a community of practice to share knowledge about professional standards and practice challenges and responses by surveying professions.
- build links to regional and world structures for surveying professionals that focus on issues around professional standards and practice.
- support professionals in their work by providing them with tools and approaches to dealing with common practice issues.
- develop individuals as professionals and provide opportunities for them to continue to develop as part of the surveying community.

4. General

Commission 1 will continue the work on the changing nature of surveying work and the role of the professional, work at connecting with other like professional commissions operating in regional organizations, building supporting knowledge and materials for surveying professionals. The Commission will continue its work in the Standards and Young Surveyors Networks.

In general the 2011-2014 work plan aims to:

- Share understanding on the challenges facing professional practice in a changing environment of work and within a changing world.
- Provide opportunities for an ongoing exchange of information around issues on professional standards and practice using new technologies.
- Share knowledge of professional practices around ethical delivery of services.

- Connect with other groups in member associations that promote and develop surveying professional standards and practice to share knowledge and develop possible joint activities.
- Work with Commission 2 to develop ongoing pathways of professional education that support the concept of ongoing professional development.
- Promote cooperative development opportunities and the development of new initiatives by growing knowledge from working together with other commissions on the current and future role of the surveyor, the definition of the surveyor as well as the age-structure within the profession.
- Build activities with world wide standards development and certification through the Standards Network.
- Build activities with Young Surveyors through the active support of the Young Surveyors Network.

The Commission will host the inter-commission working group to consider the current and future role of the surveyor, the definition of the surveyor as well as the age-structure within the profession. The other joint working group hosted by Commission 1 will study the technological, methodological and practical as well as legal aspects on the demarcation of international boundaries.

5. Report on activities for 2013

Working Week; Regional Conference and Seminar Activities:

Environment for Sustainability - FIG Working Week, 6-10 May, in Abuja, Nigeria -

I attended the working week along with Vice Chairs Brian Coutts, New Zealand and Stephen Djaba.

I participated with Brian Coutts in the ACCO Committee Meeting on 5 May. I also acted as head of the Australian Delegation and attended the Member Association Forum on 8 May.

The Commission held its annual meeting at the FIG Working Week in Abuja with about 14 people attending. The group heard about the Work Plan and received progress reports from Working Groups. They contributed ideas to the future implementation of the Plan, issues that were arising across the profession and Commission activities. A good discussion followed and we ended taking the discussion to another room as our one was needed for another session. The changing role of the professional, the need for training and development opportunities across Africa, the wish to promote the profession to women building on successful initiatives in Nigeria and the develop of resources to assist in ethics discussions. Delegates attended representing the Young Surveyors group, members from other FIG Commissions and the FIG Council.

Two technical sessions were held with joint sessions to develop professional activities across a broader sphere. They allowed the themes of a range of our working groups to be developed.

- **Surveying Today and Tomorrow.**

This explored the work being done by Working Group 1.1 and also 1.5 considering the role of social media in how we work.

- **Workshop Discussion on Crowd Sourcing Information and Using Social Networking** – joint session with the Young Surveyors Network and Commissions 2, 9 and 10.

This was a good forum for discussion the work of Working Group 1.5 and identified many good initiatives underway. It highlighted to me that the digital natives, those born in the time of high usage of computing and the internet, were exploring and progressing in this area. The work of Commission 1 in assisting in making this accessible broadly to the profession is important. There is much to learn from our YSN colleagues and how they successfully use social networking as part of their professional lives.

The Changing Role of the Surveying Professional – Looking towards 2020, Melbourne, Australia September 11. 2013

I have included as part of the report the summary article on the day that was published in the SSSI Position Magazine. This workshop was held in Melbourne and organised by the Chair and Vice Chair of Commission 1, Leonie Newnham and Robyn McCutcheon. It was held as a pre-summit workshop for the annual Victorian Spatial Summit. The workshop reviewed the definition of a Surveyor as defined by FIG in 1991. This definition is broad and includes all forms of spatial professionals under its umbrella.

Attendees included the FIG President Cheehai Teo, the Commission 1 Chair Elect Brian Coutts and well-known representatives from the surveying and spatial industry. We also had a few people giving a community perspective. This included a futurist who helped focus on the views of external users of industry services.

In addition to the ‘physical’ attendees the workshop included a group ‘skype’ session. This allowed overseas participants to contribute including Winnie Shiu, a Land Surveyor and Commission 1 Vice Chair from Hong Kong and YSN Member Aliona Scutelnic. It gave excellent audio for recording and listening to those online. We were a little nervous about how this would work but it was very successful. Working Group 5.1 is working on expanding use of new technology and social media to support professional practice and this gave a practical way to demonstrate how it could be used.

The findings were that the content is right but is missing some elements and the wording of the definition needs updating. The group thought that the definition’s focus was for use by an international body. Interestingly, a number of examples were given by workshop members where they had used the definition to support their work at a local and regional level. It does create a framework within which surveyors can work and define our expertise. The role of a surveyor has changed significantly since the previous definition was created and also international diversity makes it difficult for a whole of profession / industry definition to work for everyone without local additions.

The discussion had five key topics:

- New technology/Future scan,
- Young Professionals view on working and fitting into the spatial industry,
- The future of surveying as a regulated profession,
- Education and professional development,
- Underrepresented groups, indigenous groups and those in remote areas.

People nominated as champions for each topic and will prepare a summary of findings for the workshop report. A redraft of the current definition will be attached to stimulate discussion across the FIG worldwide community. Leonie Newnham reported on the outcomes at the Victorian Spatial Summit the next day.

FIG Commission 1 will progress towards a formal change of definition and consider a policy paper to take this further. Leonie Newnham will present a paper on this, jointly authored with nominated champions, at the FIG Congress in Kuala Lumpur in June 2014. Further discussions and input are welcome through our LinkedIn group: <http://linkd.in/16iGj8H>

FIG was the major supporter of this event providing the personnel to organise it while additional sponsors for the FIG workshop were the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute, Spatial Industries Business Association and Consulting Surveyors National. We thank all our participants and sponsors of this event.

Speaking Engagements

Robyn McCutcheon, Leonie Newnham and Brian Coutts, Vice Chairs of Commission 1 presented at various sessions of the SSSI Victorian Spatial Summit on 12 September.

General Commission Activities

LinkedIn sub group - Work progressed with building Commission 1 membership and its activity program. The Commission 1 group on LinkedIn has been established as a sub group to the FIG group created by Robyn McCutcheon. There are regular messages posted on this group and some very useful discussions have been held on Commission 1 work through this and other LinkedIn groups especially for our workshop in September last year.

Members participated in the Ninth Annual Victorian Spatial Excellence Awards on 12 September 2013 and we had a Commission 1 Table.

Commission officer news –

- A number of young surveyor's are working with Commission 1's joint activities with the Young Surveyor's group and a number have expressed interest in holding office and/or participating in Working Groups.
- Leonie Newnham was on sick leave from January until March 2014 after an operation. However has recovered well.

6. Working groups

Working Group 1.1 - Changing Nature of Work and the Role of a Surveyor (Joint Working Group with Commission 2)

Policy issues:

- To consider the current and future role of the surveyor
- To review the definition of the surveyor
- To study the age-structure within the surveying profession and prepare proposals how to response to the competition to market the profession for new generations
- Surveying professionals work in a variety of work environments and are required to respond to constant changes in how they deliver services. This creates challenges to them in how they practice and challenges on how to adapt to change. Identifying and sharing new ways of working from around the world will provide practical examples of ways others have successfully adapted and will build a set of case studies on change.

Co-chairs:

Winnie Shiu, Hong Kong SAR, China, e-mail: shiuwinnie@yahoo.com

Brian Coutts, New Zealand, e-mail: brian.coutts@otago.ac.nz

Specific project(s)

- To consider the current and future role of the surveyor
- To review the definition of the surveyor
- Age structural survey within FIG (implemented by Cecilia Lindén, Sweden)
- Prepare proposals how to response to the competition to market the profession for new generations

Workshop(s)

- Participation in FIG Working Weeks and other major FIG events with dedicated technical sessions and/or workshops as appropriate.

Publication(s)

- To be determined

Timetable

- Final report at the FIG Congress 2014

Report for 2013 –

Papers produced for Working Weeks on this issue. Also Workshop held on September 11, 2013 along with social media campaign. Details provided in main text above.

Brian Coutts has produced papers on this topic for each of the Working Weeks held and will speak again at the Congress.

Working Group 1.2 – Regulation approaches that provide secure tenure

Policy issues

- Regulation is a way to develop secure land tenure and through this the alleviation of poverty through one of the basic principles of a secure tenure – integrity of the system and the control (elimination) of corruption.
- Reviewing practice around the world provides an opportunity for professionals to share ideas on what has been done in various countries, consider how it was done and learn from others experiences of implementing regulation..

Chair:

- Vacancy to be filled. Request now out to a national delegate to undertake work in this group.

Specific project(s)

- Develop case studies on how countries operate legislative systems that monitor the surveying profession.
- Review aspects of regulation, survey controls systems, the role of educational and professional development systems to develop practice examples.

Workshop(s)

- Participation in FIG Working Weeks and other major FIG events with dedicated technical sessions and/or workshops as appropriate.

Publication(s)

- Publish case studies on regulation approaches around the world.

Timetable

- Final report at the FIG Congress 2014

Report for 2013 –

Brian Coutts has moved into Working Group 1.1 and a new Vice Chair is being sought. There is lots of interest in this topic being generated by members. An approach has been made to a national Commission 1 delegate to chair this group. A paper on Ethics will be contributed to the 2014 Congress however related work on this topic will be delivered in the new work program for the next four years.

Working Group 1.3 – Community of Practice on Professional Standards and Practice

Policy issues

- All professionals face professional standards and practice challenges and find ways to respond effectively. Anyone facing a problem or issues can be certain that somewhere in the world, someone has solved a problem that might be very similar. Developing a way to share practice issues using Web 2 technologies would provide a way for surveying professionals to develop a place where they can share the knowledge of others in dealing with current issues. This will be supplemented by professional standards and practice

issues workshops held at each Working Week and the Regional Conference. Through this regular updates on emerging issues around the world can be obtained.

- There are regional and other structures in place where members also interested and committed to issues around professional standards and practice for surveying professionals. These groups develop ideas and produce papers and possibly publications that are part of a world wide knowledge bank that FIG could access. Building links to regional and world structures for surveying professionals that focus on issues around professional standards and practice will expand our understanding and access to knowledge and resources.

Chair:

- Stephen Djaba, Ghana,. e-mail: Stephen@ghana.com

Specific project(s)

- Linking worldwide with professional groups that focus on issues around professional standards and practice.
- Develop a knowledge management concept for FIG as a professional organization.

Workshop(s)

- Participation in FIG Working Weeks and other major Commission events with dedicated technical sessions and/or workshops as appropriate.
- Professional Standards and Practice Issues workshops at each FIG Working Week and the Regional Conference.

Publication(s)

- To be determined.

Timetable

- Final report at the FIG Congress 2014

Report for 2013 –

Robyn McCutcheon's work on the Commission 1 LinkedIn discussion group and the development of the analysis of issues across FIG based on past conferences and Working Weeks has provided a lot of useful research to develop a common shared interest around the lack of balance around age and gender profiles in the profession. Also the information we received as part of building the September 11 workshop has identified a range of important issues for the profession.

Working Group 1.4 – International Boundary Settlement and Demarcation (Joint Working Group with Commissions 4, 5 and 7)

Policy issues

- To deal with theoretical, methodological and some legal aspects and analysis of a few practical cases in international and national boundaries
- To prepare an FIG publication on international boundary settlement and demarcation all over the world.

Co-chairs:

- Dr. Haim Srebro, Israel, e-mail: haim.srebro@gmail.com
- Dr. Bill Robertson, New Zealand, email: billrobertson@xtra.co.nz

Workshop(s)

- Participation in FIG Working Weeks and other major Commission events with dedicated technical sessions as appropriate.

Publication(s)

- FIG publication on international boundary settlement and demarcation all over the world.

Timetable

- Final report at the FIG Congress 2014

Report for 2013 –

Working Group 1.4 has prepared an FIG Publication on international boundary making. This publication, coordinated and edited by Dr. Haim Srebro, was published by FIG at the end of 2013 as FIG Publication no. 59: International Boundary Making. It was published both in a printed version and in digital form.

The new FIG Publication no. 59 INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY MAKING elaborates on the process of boundary making. Its purpose is to propose a comprehensive methodology for establishing a boundary making process between two states that wish to constructively and fairly settle their international boundary together. It begins with preparations for a boundary agreement and continues with the boundary delimitation, the boundary demarcation, boundary documentation, and boundary maintenance, including considerations regarding long-term boundary maintenance and administration.

The methodological part, chapters 1- 3, includes a model for initiating a boundary making process, an order of precedence of boundary delimitations, and a model for the boundary chapter in a peace/boundary agreement.

Part two, chapters 3-7, includes practical cases of delimitation of international boundaries. Many lessons can be learned from these diverse cases regarding disputes and regarding the models and mechanisms used for dealing with the issues. The publication focuses on land boundaries between states. The presented practical cases refer to such boundaries, including the following international boundaries: The Israel-Jordan boundary; the Iraq-Kuwait boundary; the Ethiopia-Eritrea boundary; the Cameroon-Nigeria boundary; the Sudan-Abyei (today South Sudan) boundary; and the Nepal-China and Nepal-India boundaries. From the presented problems one can also learn about the various considerations that should be taken when preparing an international boundary for long-term maintenance and administration, in order to achieve stability along the boundary line.

This FIG Publication has been prepared by senior practical professionals, with expertise in boundary delimitation. Three of them served as Director Generals of national surveying and mapping organizations (William Robertson in New Zealand, Dr. Haim Srebro in Israel, and

Buddhi Shrestha in Nepal), and one served as the Head of the UN Cartographic Section (Miklos Pinther).

This FIG Publication may serve as a guide to decision makers, legal advisers and geospatial experts dealing with international boundaries. It may help geopolitical experts anyone who wants to learn the subject of international boundary making. It is intended to promote the sharing of methodological knowledge and experience regarding delimitation of international boundaries and to promote Peace throughout the world.

Working Group 1.5 – Social Media and Surveyors (Joint Working Group with the Young Surveyors Network)

Policy issues

- Survey and recommendations on the use of social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, Twitter etc.) in surveying community for member associations
- Raise the understanding of new communication tools within surveying community
- Prepare proposals on using social media in marketing the profession and reaching new generations
- Initiate opportunities for participating in social media at FIG events using skill sharing with Young Surveyors

Chair

- Interim Chair, Leonie Newnham, Australia, e-mail: Leonie.Newnham@dse.vic.gov.au

Workshop(s)

- Participation in FIG Working Weeks and other major FIG events with dedicated technical sessions and/or workshops as appropriate. Test online communication for out-reaching surveyors that do not normally attend FIG events.

Publication(s)

- FIG guidelines for member associations on the use of social media.

Timetable

- Final report at the FIG Congress 2014

Report for 2013 –

A paper on this topic was given at Abuja. There seems to be a lot of interest from across the world and some emerging experts or local champions in this area. Commission 1 work with the LinkedIn discussion group is a way of developing further skills and ideas on how this might work.

The workshop in Melbourne on the Changing Role of the Surveying Professional held on 11 September 2013 had a social media component to allow for ideas and views to be captured prior to the workshop. It also used web technology to allow for overseas participants to be part of the conference along with those physically attending at the venue in Melbourne.

7. Co-operation with Other Commissions and organisations

Commission 1 is co-operating with the two FIG networks on standards and young surveyors. The conference program for Kuala Lumpur includes joint sessions with Commission 2 and 7 and the young surveyors network.

8. Commission Officers

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April 2014