

**Report for the 27th General Assembly
FIG Working Week in Athens, May 2004**

**Commission 2 – Professional Education
Report on Activities 2003 – 2004**

1. General

These are the main activities and facts developed by Commission 2 during the year 2003.

Because the Department of Geodesy at the Delft University has ceased to exist or very drastically reduced its activities, Prof. Kenselaar, Chair of the WG 2.2 “Curricula and CPD”, has had to give up his commitments in FIG and has asked to be replaced by somebody else.

In Mayagüez (Puerto Rico) it was decided to create a new WG on “The Studies of Surveying in Latin America”, chaired by Prof. Loyácono. It was therefore agreed that this WG should be the new WG 2.2 with the same Chair and splitting the commitments of the old WG between WG 2.3 and 2.4, chaired respectively by Dr. Plimmer and Prof. Markus; so that the topics of the old WG 2.2 could still be discussed. If somebody is interested in the topics of Curricula and CPD please mail to Prof. Markus or Dr. Plimmer.

Prof. Henrik Haggrén, from Finland, has left his duties as Chair of the WG 2.1 “Virtual Academy” and the new Chair is the past Co-Chair Prof. Esben Munk Sørensen from the Aalborg University (Denmark). Our warmest thanks to both for the excellent work made in the past and the work to be made in the future.

2. Educational Network in Latin America

The first meeting of the WG 2.2 was held in February 2003 in Córdoba (Argentina), with the attendance of all elected members.

A questionnaire had been designed and sent to all Educational and Professional Institutions in all Latin American countries to get information from them in order to finally get a map of the “state of the art” in the Educational and Professional fields in the continent. With this map we will be able to edit a report for the National and International Authorities related to our Profession and Education asking for their support to solve the lacks and needs detected in the process.

This network has been established with the spirit of permanence and as such it is not a temporary organization meant to solve immediate problems; on the contrary its spirit is to continue working for the profession in the future trying to make contacts among all colleagues in the Educative and Professional fields easier.

The continent was divided in several regions and assigned each of them to the different members nominated in Puerto Rico.

3. Guatemala meeting

The first regional meeting on “Land Administration” organized by the UN under a programme to develop Cadastre, Land Management, Land Administration, Land Tenure, etc. in Central America was held last June in Antigua Guatemala (Guatemala). This was the first of several meetings developed later in different regional countries. Commission 2 was invited to participate and Chair of the Commission and of WG 2.2 gave two and one paper respectively. The meeting was a real success, with many participants, mainly from the region, with a high level of papers and very interesting conclusions. There was a special meeting with the representatives of universities in the region and it was decided to strengthen the links between Commission 2 and the different universities, mainly in order to establish the studies of Surveying in the countries where these are not taught, that is, in all countries except Costa Rica and Panama. Nevertheless, it should be said that not all of them are ready to start just now; only Guatemala is going on with the intentions of starting as soon as possible. All information about this meeting can be seen in www.bivicat.org. Several other meeting has been held afterwards in other Central American countries.

4. Joint WG 2.4 (Com2&3) - Knowledge Transfer in SIM

Commission 3 co-sponsored and contributed to GIS Summer School (GISS) that was organised by University of West Hungary, College of Geoinformatics (Bela Markus) in August 2003 in Szekesfehervar, Hungary, with lectures and practical training contributed by Commission 3 (Gerhard Muggenhuber, Reinfried Mansberger) and Commission 7 (Paul van der Molen).

GISS gathered about 50 students and 10 tutors in Székesfehérvár, one of Hungary's historical towns. The international group of students decided to spend 5 days dealing with GIS applications in Land Management, land administration, cadastre, land use planning, land consolidation, land development, data integration, change detection and analysis, environmental management and nature protection. Special emphasis was given to the impacts of the EU accession.



The wide spectrum of topics could not be covered in 5 days, so the GISS carefully divided the students into four working groups. These were:

- WG1: Land Administration and Cadastre
- WG2: Land Management and Rural Development
- WG3: GeoInformation in Nature Protection
- WG4: Lands and Mapping - Impact of the EU accession

Based on cooperation with other WG and other Commissions this WG will:

- Develop methods and share experience on **education, training in SIM**
- Develop a position paper on a regional approach for a NSDI.

5. Fiji islands

During the last Working Week held in Paris, 2003, first contacts with representative, Mrs. Angina Prasaad, of the Fiji Islands were established. In the paper given by Mrs. Prasaad in one of the Commission 2 Technical Sessions it was shown that the situation of the Profession and its studies in the country absolutely lacks university education in our professional field. After Paris we were contacted by Prof. Greenwood, from Fiji, who sent us information about a project they wanted to start to get the first native professionals, although not at University level at the moment; later on, Prof..... sent the last news about this project and now Prof. C. Hoogsteden, leader of the Liaison Group for the South Pacific, is the FIG person attending this project, representing Commission 2.

6. Second FIG Regional Conference in Marrakech (Morocco)

Between 2 and 5 December last year the 2nd FIG Regional Conference was held in the old and beautiful city of Marrakech (Morocco). The conference was an absolute success from the technical, social and organizing points of view; the warm atmosphere, the enormous human quality of our hosts will never be forgotten for the lucky attendants to the meeting.

There were two technical sessions in Commission 2 and a “Roundtable on Surveying and GIS Education in Africa”, chaired by the Prof. Magel, FIG President. This roundtable was organized because of a letter sent to FIG by Prof. Heinz Rüther, from South Africa, explaining the situation and asking for support in order to improve the very low conditions of University Education in that continent.

During the roundtable the difficult situation in most of the African Universities was shown, mainly in the Sub-Saharan Africa; many of these Universities have poor conditions for Professors and Teachers (a sometimes lack of suitable and modern docent equipment, lack of good and modern training of the teaching staff, in some other Centres; very low salaries, what makes the full time teaching very difficult...), few students in most of the Universities; in this sense it was very clarifying to hear the talk given by a Kenyan student, who, among many other interesting things, said that “... the number of new students is coming down very quickly because the studies are very difficult, the profession very hard and dangerous and the salaries very low...” .

As a consequence of the above mentioned roundtable Commission 2 organized a meeting with experts from the continent to organize a FIG Educational Network for Africa. Two Coordinators were nominated: Prof. Heinz Rüther for the Sub-Saharan Africa and Prof. Semlali, from Morocco, for the North Africa and Arabic, the Middle East and the Gulf countries.

The main aims of this Network, as also for the Latin American Network, are the following:

1. To make a “field work” contacting university and professionals colleagues in the different countries to know “the state of the art” in each of them.
2. To get information about the educational situation getting the syllabuses, docent facilities, teaching staff, students, resources, etc.
3. To get information from the professionals to know which are the needs, in education, in every country, according to their knowledge of the situation.

4. To analyze the information and make a “map at large scale” of the situation in every country and, with that of all countries, to get a “map at smaller scale” of the situation in the continent as a whole.
5. These maps will give us a picture of the reality, the needs, the lacks, the positive things, etc.
6. We will design a very flexible syllabus of, at least, BAC+3 years, which could be tailored for every country, but assuring that a minimum level of knowledge would be acquired by the graduates.
7. When all this information has been studied, analyzed and organized we will prepare a document explaining the situation, the steps to be given, the costs of this “operation” and everything else of relevance.
8. This document, once finished, will be sent to the FIG authorities for their knowledge and to the National ones, to inform them as well of the problem and of the importance of having a good education and good professionals in Surveying in every country for their welfare and the benefit of their inhabitants. The FIG Council should send this document to international bodies (UN, WB, etc) for their information and action in order to get funding from international institutions so that this project can be put into force. The costs of this project will be estimated in this document.

Prof. Pedro J. Caverio
Chair of Commission 2

17 March 2004.