



International Federation of Surveyors
Commission 4 Hydrography (2002-2006)

Commission 4 Meeting #2

16 April, 2003

**FIG Working Week 2003 – 125th Anniversary of FIG, hosted by the French Topographic Association and the Order of Expert Surveyors
National School of Geographic Sciences, Marne-la-Vallee, Paris, France**

1. **Attendees:**

Chairman - Adam Greenland
Chair of WG 4.4 Education and CPD

Port of London Authority, UK

Vice Chair - Andrew Leyzack
Chair of Administration & Communication (Secretary)

CHS, Central and Arctic Region

Vice Chair – Michael Sutherland
Chair of WG 4.3 – Coastal Zone Management

University of New Brunswick, Canada

Vice Chair- Dr. Ahmed El-Rabbany
Chair of WG 4.2 – Vertical Reference Frame

Ryerson University, Canada

T.N. Wong
Vice President FIG and council to Commission 4

Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors

Ruth Adams
Member WG 4.2

UK Hydrographic Office

David Neale
Member WG 4.3

CANE Associates Co. Ltd.,
Trinidad & Tobago

Svante Astermo
Former Hydrographer of Sweden

Svante Astermo AB, Sweden

Dr. Joachim Behrens

Federal Institute of Hydrology, DVW
National Delegate

Regrets:
Winnie Shiu
Personal Hon. Secretary to T.N. Wong

Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors

The meeting commenced at 15h10.

2. **Welcome:** Adam Greenland welcomed everyone and referred to the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

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3. **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the 14 April, 2003, Commission 4 Meeting were made available, reviewed and clarified.

Regarding item 6, Mr. Astermo indicated that a mechanism exists (for appointing FIG representatives to the International Advisory Board (IAB)) but that process needs to be further investigated. One of the criteria is the candidates ability to fund travel.

4. Workgroup Reports:

WG 4.1- In Mr. Kerr's absence, Adam identified that Mr. Kerr had, coincident with this working week, been visiting the IHB in Monaco and would be meeting with him, here in Paris on the evening of 17 April. Adam furthered that progress made in Mr. Kerr's visit would help in the preparation of the new MoU with the IHO.

WG 4.2 – Dr. El-Rabbany reported that Mrs. Adams had highlighted practical examples of problems experienced with differing vertical reference frames during her presentation and indicated that the WG's white paper will include those examples.

Adam spoke about the need for deliverables from the WG's particularly emphasizing a publication, which could be used by IHO containing general themes and terminology. Dr. El-Rabbany countered that there was much more involved than just generalizing transformation formulae. Dr. El-Rabbany furthered that he and Mrs. Adams had considered merging Mrs. Adams' paper with an inventory of transformations.

Mr. Neal asked about Mr. Mills response and Ahmed replied that Mr. Mills had suggested using NOAA's approach for transformations. Mrs. Adams made the comment that a 'one size fits all' approach is not necessarily applicable for all cases and that the NOAA transformation solution looked to be most suitable for a specific type of area (e.g. closed bays) and that one cannot be too prescriptive.

Adam stressed that the work of the commission should be focused on a global solution and that the NOAA suggestion merits further study.

Dr. El-Rabbany reported the WG members as follows:

Mr. Jerry Mills	NOAA
Mrs. Ruth Adams	UKHO
Mr. Matt Higgins	Australia

He also identified the link with FIG Commission 5 as a joint working group. Charles O'Reilly of CHS is also a point of contact.

Mr. Astermo suggested running WG information to Commission members to ensure that all member countries have the opportunity to participate.

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WG 4.3 – Mr. Sutherland reiterated that the group had first met on the previous Monday. Mr. Sutherland reported that in addition to he and Mr. Neale from Trinidad, their second meeting was attended by Mr. Gordon Johnson of THALES and Michael Barry from the University of Calgary. The group had a productive meeting and had reached general agreement on the approach to the subject matter - to identify base concepts and principals as a first step to the end product, an official FIG publication. There is an existing body of information resulting from a growing interest in Marine Cadastre and Ocean Governance which could be leveraged. Mr. Sutherland identified 3 steps in the process of bringing the aims of the WG forward:

- 1- Initial documented understanding on C4's perspective on the concepts.
- 2- A statement of broad understanding of the concepts.
- 3- A deeper understanding of Hydrography's role in supporting the concepts, namely how hydrography can support Ocean Governance.

Mr. Sutherland then referred to the work of a University of New Brunswick case study in the Musquash Estuary, Marine Protected Area (MPA) and how hydrography and oceanography influenced the delineation of the boundary of the MPA. After the second meeting, the group was in agreement to start laying down an understanding of the basic concepts, that Mr. Sutherland will continue to pursue the involvement of other countries, e.g. Malaysia, and that Mr. Barry will provide the group's liaison to C7. Mr. Sutherland concluded that it is his duty as chair to apply the resources, which have been made available, but that he was at the mercy of the participants in terms of being productive. He then thanked Mr. Neale for his staunch support.

Dr. Behrens suggested that the FIG Working Week in Athens, 2004 would be a good time and place for the WG's to make presentations. Adam agreed and thanked the WG's for their efforts thus far.

WG 4.4 – Adam Greenland thinks he can contribute through involvement with the MSc in Hydrography at University College London, with particular emphasis on education directed at surveying in ports and harbours.

Mr. Neale asked if the work of other WG's could be channeled through WG 4.4 e.g. an RICS evening seminar focused on WG progress thus far. That there may be other audiences that would like to hear about WG activities.

Dr. El-Rabbany commented that not all people would have the background to benefit from participation in such a seminar and that one should consider changing the delivery (based on people's academic background) to suit the audience.

In principal, Mr. Neale suggested directing Continuing Professional Development (CPD) outward to the general public and Surveyors versus an internal FIG group.

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Adam replied by stating that his focus is primarily with WG 4.1, strategic partnerships and therefore he is not available to deliver on any CPD at this time but that he is still looking at other areas in which to disseminate WG information.

ACTION¹ Papers given at technical sessions to be posted on the C4 website.

ACTION² Working Groups to submit brief (one or two paragraph) reports on their progress thus far for inclusion with the minutes of this (2nd) meeting or potentially as a separate C4 web posting (TBD).

5. Good Practice Report (GPR):

ACTION⁴ (14 Apr) As the commissions have been encouraged by council to review and report back on the content, those present are to provide feedback on the report at the 16 April, C4 meeting. A final message re: GPR will be submitted via ACCO to council.

Comments were received from Mrs. Adams and Adam indicated that he was still open to input/ideas from C4. In conclusion, he will be speaking with Council and other Commissions and potentially with THS and IHO. Overall the GPR was seen to be a good idea, the question remains as to how to implement it. Commission members are encouraged to periodically check the FIG website for information and updates on the progress of the GPR.

6. Standards Network:

In response to Dr. El-Rabbany's inquiry during the 14 April meeting, clarification on the ToR for standards WG/Standards network can be referenced in FIG publication N^o 28.

ACTION⁵ (14 Apr) Andrew to investigate how to contribute by meeting with the standards group and to report back to C4 in future.

Andrew attended the standards network meeting to formalize the link between C4 and C1. He noted that C1 is largely focused on ISO/TC211 (Geomatics and Surveying), that IHO is presently an observer to TC211 but C4 ought to be in the loop with respect to which standards are applicable to hydrography. He added that there are apparently 35 new standards documents being released and that Iain Greenway has asked that commission chairs review these documents for relevance to their particular area of specialization. Mr. Leyzack stressed that his involvement in the standards network would not be extensive and that he would act on matters brought forth by C4. With time, issues of significance to hydrography could be brought to the network and he gave examples of matters arising from de facto data formats and issues pertaining to calibration of multibeam systems.

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Dr. Behrens indicated that he did not care for standards but sees a need in cases where procedures are vague.

Adam indicated that having a point of contact for C4 is important and that in future there may be relevant issues and recommendations arising from WG activities such as Ocean Governance. Mr. Leyzack made it clear that he would continue to participate so long as it is the wish of the Commission. Those present thanked Andrew for stepping forward to participate as C4 liaison to the Standards Network.

7. **International Advisory Board:** See item 3

8. **Next Meeting:** A C4 social evening is to be held in the evening of 16 April and those interested in participating should meet at Gare de Lyon at 19h00. *Venue: 12 commission members and friends met at L'Europeen, Face a la Gare de Lyon for a fine seafood dinner.*

9. **AOB:** Adam announced that the time to appoint a successor to chair the commission is approaching as typically a period of two years of overlap/commonality is required to facilitate a smooth transition. Ideally, a decision should be made at the FIG working week next year 2004 in Athens.

Mrs. Adams asked if a successor is required or can the term be extended, stating that she felt it would be beneficial to the commission.

Mr. Astermo commented that no one country should normally hold the chair for more than 2 consecutive sessions.

ACTION³ Adam to investigate extension of term for commission chairs with the FIG Permanent Office.

Adam concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for making the work groups a success, that this has been a positive start for C4 and that he is very pleased with progress to date. He encouraged input, stating that communications in C4 are a *two-way street* and recommended sharing thoughts globally as a group.

Mr. Wong complemented the commission on their work, Adam interjecting to note the effectiveness of the C4's effort in communications. Mr. Wong further congratulated the group, stated that he will be reporting back to council on our progress and extended an invitation for all to attend SEASC in Hong Kong this coming November.

With no other business to attend to, Adam Greenland thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and asked that they refer to the Commission 4 web site for current news and information.

The meeting was adjourned at 17h00.

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