

MEDITERRANEAN SURVEYOR IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM
18-21 OF SEPTEMBER, 2000
ST. JULIENS, MALTA.

Introduction

FIG Commission 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 organised a joint seminar the 18th to 21st of September, 2000 on the pleasant island of Malta. FIG Commission 5 took the lead in organising the technical program. Mr. Randolph Camilleri, head of the Land Surveyors Society of Malta, was responsible of the local arrangements. The seminar attracted more than 100 delegates from 35 countries and both the number of delegates and countries must be considered to meet all of our expectations. Among the delegates, several distinguished persons as the FIG president Mr. Robert W Foster, ICA president Prof. Bengt Rystedt, CEPLIS president Mr Bernard Bour and CLGE president Mr Paddy Prendergast. This report is prepared by Mikael Lilje, secretary FIG Commission 5 but he have had valuable help from several of the involved Commissions.

We were happy to be able to gather participants from several of the most important international organisations around the world. At this meeting we can mention FIG, IAG, ICA, CEPLIS and CLGE. The organisations had the opportunity to present their present work. There are several working fields between the different organisations and it is important that we are working in close co-operations with these and not against each other. It was also clear that the organisations need each other to be able to progress with their own tasks.

The technical program was organised in 11 sessions and one opening ceremony. All together, some 55 presentations were made. This made the days very intense. In the evenings the local organising committee had organised social events as "Malta by night", Cocktail party and farewell dinner. The seminar was held at the Golden Tulip Vivaldi Hotel in St. Juliens.

Mr Foster commented the seminar by saying: *"I found the meeting in Malta to have been extremely well prepared and organised. The accommodations, meeting rooms, facilities and meals were all superb. The attendance was impressive and the commitment of those attending was gratifying to me as a participant in the conference. Considering the difficulties with the several languages represented there, I was pleased at how well everyone seemed to communicate, an issue especially important to myself who has the limited ability afforded by only one language. I offer my thanks and congratulations to Randolph Camilleri, Jean-Marie Becker and the other organisers of the seminar.*

But, there were considerations that we perhaps aimed for too much when trying to fulfil the needs of all the involved commissions. The result was a large number of presentations where each presentation could not be longer than about 20 minutes including the discussion. It also meant that we had to have parallel sessions during one day. We where trying to give something to the practitioners from the region but their problem was that they wanted to learn immediately and not through reading the proceedings. They mean that they do not have the time to do so afterwards. Therefore, they wanted to have longer presentations with more discussion (more tutorial). This is probably an important lesson for the future when we are organising seminars focused on a region.

Although no specific recommendations or resolutions were developed at this Symposium, it did present an opportunity for surveyors of the Mediterranean countries to get together and

discuss issues facing their surveying community. Given that the three annual FIG Working Weeks following the 2002 FIG Congress will all be held in Mediterranean countries, this Symposium was a good first step in identifying issues to be discussed at these future meetings

Opening ceremony

The seminar started with an opening ceremony that attracted the interest of media. The session included five invited speakers. These were Mr. Randolph Camilleri (Head of Land Surveyors Society - Malta), Mr. Robert Foster (FIG President), Mr. Paul Mifsud (Permanent secretary at the ministry for the environment), Mr. Georgio Boggio (EU Ambassador) and Prof Jean-Marie Becker (Chair of the technical program).

Mr. Camilleri stressed the importance of education to the development of surveying in Malta and called on the Government of Malta to support the establishment of university level courses in surveying.

Mr Foster focused his comments on globalisation and sustainable development as they pertain to the surveying profession. He emphasised the need and the importance of making local surveyors aware that they are part of a global community and stated that the surveying profession must evolve and develop in order to keep pace with the evolution and development of the world's economies through globalisation. On the topic of Sustainable Development, Mr. Foster described the FIG activities culminating with the formulation of the Bathurst Declaration in Australia. He went on to add, "the greatest challenge to civilisation may be to achieve sustainable development. Our profession must deal successfully with the globalisation phenomenon in order to fulfil its responsibilities in the sustainable development challenge."

Technical program

The program included eleven different sessions covering the work from all the participating commissions. All the countries at the seminar were given a chance to discuss the situation in their country so that we could discuss and compare. Eleven countries accepted this opportunity. It was easy to notify that the Mediterranean region is special in the way that the northern and north-west part is the rich part and the southern part of the region (Northern Africa) is poorer. The different political systems are also of influence for the working areas of the surveyors. This means automatically that there are large differences in the surveyors role and recognition in the respective country. It was also clear that there exist subjects where the different countries are struggling with the same problems and there is something to benefit from a closer co-operation in the future. This was e.g. a remark from Mr Timoulali, Marocco at the end of the first day. He asked the participants the question *What happens after this seminar?* The countries from the Mediterranean region ended the seminar with a meeting where they decided to continue in close co-operation. Mr. Foster encourages this development, believing it will strengthen the profession in the sharing of educational developments, standardisation, and other professional concerns unique to the region.

Many items were discussed in the sessions. Mr Predergast started the seminar by discussing the work done by CLGE (the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors) concerning the study of the different education systems that exist in Europe as well as promoting the survey profession. This discussion continued throughout the seminar since the educational system differs almost from country to country. Especially the question if the education should include practical moments as field exercises or not. Is this something that the universities should teach or is this something that the employees should be responsible of. The time at the University is limit and we should think carefully on what the students should concentrate their time with.

There were presentations where we discuss the importance to always learn to be able to develop ourselves as well as our profession.

The president of ICA, Prof Rystedt presented the current structure of the organisation as well as emphasised the importance of integrated product in the future where the cartographers have an important role.

The first day concluded by a presentation from the local organising committee from FIG Working Week in Seoul.

There were several papers concerning the need to have a modern reference frame to work with. Both Netherlands and Sweden presented their ideas about changing reference frames in their countries. These presentations were introduced by a paper from Dr Altamimi, France concerning modern reference frames and their relationships and a paper concerning geoid determination in general and with emphasise to the Mediterranean area by Prof. Tzaivos.

There were several papers about standardisation, both for different types of instrumental but also the importance of quality assurance in the production work.

Several papers about close-range digital photogrammetry were presented and these presentations covered both the market concerning cheaper software packages as well as examples of the use of digital photogrammetry.

Commission 4 organised two sessions concerning hydrography in Malta, the adoption of Lowest Astronomical Tide as chart datum in France and Quality Assurance in data collection activities. The second session was an open forum on education in hydrography, new technologies and sustainable development as it relates to the hydrographic profession. This session was followed by an excellent tour of the hydrographic offices in Malta.

Commission 7 organised a session of four presentation dealing with a wide range of cadastral/land management issues. Ted Schut presented a paper dealing with post and real time quality assurance of map update in the Dutch Cadastre. He outlined movement toward greater geodetic activity in the field using pen based computers.

Gerda Shennach dealt with the need for globalisation in surveying. We should encourage co-operation between national bodies and also between public and private professionals within, and outside, national borders.

Peter Dent and Zlatina Yaneva gave a joint presentation on the benefits of structured training for property professionals in valuation techniques. They were able to report on recent developments in education on land management issues drawing on current work in pre-accession countries in the eastern Mediterranean.

Bob Ashwin updated the session on developments in Land Registration in England. The people issues are often as demanding as the technical in ensuring efficient registration or cadastral systems.

The sessions were jointly chaired by Bob Ashwin and Bengt Rystedt.

The last day of presentations ended with a great variety of more technical papers. Among them, one concerning GPS-RTK by Mr Jensen was very much appreciated where he described the techniques, the current limitations and some thoughts of what he believed could be the future within this measuring technique.

Commission meetings

Three commissions (Commissions 2, 5 and 6) decided to have separate meetings during the seminar.

Commission 5 had a meeting where we discussed the coming period up to Washington concerning seminars where we are involved. The commission is planning to have a work shop concerning the different guidelines that we shall produce to Washington. The guidelines are about the best use of different types of instruments.

Commission 6 discussed past events and ongoing activities, and made a review of the various workshops and symposia in preparation. Regarding the next congress, all Working Groups of the Commission will start soon discussions for expressing their views and recommendations in the final report.