

**Report to the 29th General Assembly
FIG Congress in Munich, October 2006**

**Co-operation with International Organisations
April 2005 – July 2006**

1. General

After IUSM was disbanded in 1999 FIG has concentrated on bilateral co-operation with other international associations. Special focus has been on co-operation with traditional partners like the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), the International Cartographic Association (ICA), the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB / IHO) and the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS). FIG has signed memoranda of understanding with all these organisations.

FIG has close co-operation also with other international organisations like ISM, IFHP, ICEC, FIABCI and CIB. Some of these are networked in the Habitat Professionals Forum. FIG is also very active in ISO and its different TCs especially in TC211 and TS172 C6.

2. Co-operation in 2005-2006

Joint Board of Spatial Information Societies

The role of the Joint Board of Spatial Information Societies was confirmed at the meeting in Cairo where also the terms of references were adopted. The JB-GIS has also its own web site www.fig.net/jbgis which as well as the secretariat services are hosted by FIG.

The Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies had its annual meeting in Vienna 11 July 2006 in conjunction to the GICON conference. The Joint Board meeting was attended by Presidents of IAG, ICA, ISPRS, IHB and FIG. From other members of the Joint Board International Map Trade Association (IMTA) was represented while the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) could not attend this time. The meeting was chaired by President Holger Magel, Chair of the JB-GIS.

The discussions at the Steering Committee focussed on how to intensify the co-operation between the members of the JB-GIS and the policies in broadening the membership base. Interim reports of the two ad hoc committees were discussed. Especially the work programme of the ad hoc committee on capacity building in Africa was further developed. This included a strategy in finding new partners to help with this crucial issue for all African countries. The Chair of this ad hoc committee is Prof. Ian Dowman from ISPRS and the FIG representative is Vice President Stig Enemark. The second ad hoc committee was established in Cairo in 2005 to evaluate the risk and disaster management activities of the members of the JB-GIS. Prof. Bengt Rystedt from ICA, who is chairing this group presented the first draft of the report at the meeting. The draft will now be distributed to the committee members including Prof. Theo Kötter representing FIG in this group.

The Joint Board decided to increase support to the developing countries and especially in Africa on capacity building. This will happen in following ways:

- President Magel as the Chair of the Joint Board will write a letter to the German Federal President Horst Köhler, who is the initiator of the Partnership with Africa, to address the need to focus on capacity building issues in Africa and the importance of geospatial information in solving the problems of this continent (missing information, managing the data etc.) and that it is crucial to address the African leaders on the importance of these issues.
- President Magel will write further a letter to the British Prime Minister Tony Blair, as the Chair of the Commission for Africa on the same issues.

Other issues at the meeting included reports and news from the member organisations and discussions on further joint activities and events. The next meeting of the JB-GIS will be held in conjunction to the ICA Congress in Moscow in August 2007.

International Cartographic Association, ICA

Vice President Ralf Schroth represented FIG at the XXII International Cartographic Conference (ICC2005) in A Coruña, Spain 9–16 July 2005. The conference attracted 1,625 participants from 60 countries. The attendees got an excellent opportunity to get familiar with the state of the art of the wide field of Cartography and the latest scientific approaches. The technical programme was almost overloaded - during the four and half day technical programme there were 150 technical and poster sessions about 26 different themes, several working group sessions and some special technical sessions about ISO Standards, Cartography and SDI, Aerospace Technologies and European Navigation Systems. In the technical programme more than 500 oral and 200 poster presentations were made.

ISPRS, IAG and ISM

ISPRS, IAG and ISM were partners at the 5th Regional Conference in Accra, Ghana. IAG was co-organiser of the AFREF workshop while the Joint Board (JB-GIS) members all attended the round table on capacity building for Africa.

ISM was co-sponsoring two technical session on mine surveying.

Other co-operation

Co-operation between technical commissions and sister organisations are described in commission reports.

July 2006