

FIG Commission 1 – Professional Standards and Practice

Report for 2012 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 2012

Working Week; Regional Conference and Seminar Activities:

Manage the Territories, Protect the Environment, Evaluate the Cultural Heritage – Rome, Italy. May 6-10, 2012.

I attended the working week along with Vice Chairs Robyn McCutcheon, Australia; Brian Coutts, New Zealand; Stephen Djaba; Ghana; Winnie Shu, Hong Kong, China, and Haim Srebro, Israel.

In addition I was invited and attended the first day of the Young Surveyor's Conference held in the two days before the working week. I also participated in the special event held on women in Surveying and was very impressed with the work done in this area over a number of years by the Italian Surveyors.

The Commission held its annual meeting at the FIG Working Week in Rome with about 20 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 and Commission activities. Delegates attended representing the Young Surveyors group, the Standards Network and the FIG Council.

Four 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.

- **The Changing Work Environment of the Surveying Professional – Looking towards 2020.**

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.

- **Cultural Diversity of Work and the Surveying Professional** – joint session with Commission 2 and the Young Surveyors Network

This support the worldwide surveying profession analysis work being undertaken across the world and work undertaken by Robyn McCutcheon, Australia, on the status of women in the spatial industry.

- **Setting the Boundaries for Large and Small Territories** – joint session with Commission 7

This will continue the work from the last working week for Working Group 1.4. Vice Chair Haim Srebro, Israel, has progressed the FIG publication on boundary issues and is close to having this completed.

- **Professional Work Environment – Associations, Ethics and Practice**

This is a similar session to the very successful one held in Morocco and covers a wide range of issues across countries. It should is a good way to gain ideas from the expertise that exists in our profession from across the world.

The joint work with YSN provided a good opportunity to discuss professional issues that are complex and affect a number of aspects of professional life

8th FIG Regional Conference – Surveying Towards Sustainable Development, Montevideo, Uruguay, November 26-29, 2012.

I attended the conference. A joint session was held with the Young Surveyors and Commission 1 that was very well attended. It generated lots of interest and discussion.

The Young Surveyors had a number of sessions with UN-Habitat /FIG on Youth Responsiveness in the Land Sector and I attended on invitation as a Commission 1 delegate.

Working Week– Abuja, Nigeria. May 6-10, 2013.

A number of very good papers and abstracts were received and this will allow the Commission to run some informative technical sessions. It is very pleasing to be able to work across Commissions to tackle some of the more complex issues and questions facing the profession.

There are number of technical sessions planned. Once again there will be some joint sessions to develop professional activities across a broader sphere. They will allow the themes of a range of our working groups to be developed.

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

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

The workshop in Melbourne on the Changing Role of the Surveying Professional to be held on 11 September 2013 will have a social media component to allow for ideas and views to be captured prior to the workshop. This will be a one day event and will be attached to the local SSSI Victorian Summit. The information captured through the social media discussion will be used to inform the workshop and create an online community to participate in the discussion around the ideas and the outcomes of the workshop.

A working paper and / or a range of papers around discussion questions will be created– with the view of discussing and refining these at the September 2013 workshop in Melbourne Australia. An approach will be used that includes a selected group of people to represent all areas of the profession and include young surveyors and some from related industries.

The Melbourne event would generate the material to develop a formal discussion paper to engage widely across members and industry to be launched in the working week in 2014 in Kuala Lumpur.

Speaking Engagements

Robyn McCutcheon and I will attend the Surveying & Spatial Sciences Conference 15-19 April 2013, Canberra. Robyn is holding a Women in Spatial forum as part of this event and we will both be speaking on the day.

Special Achievements

Robyn McCutcheon, was recognized in the 2012 Annual Spatial Excellence Awards held in September for her work for the profession.

General Commission Activities

Iain Greenway who has been a great contributor to Commission 1 and FIG over many years has finished his term as Vice President. He has been instrumental in creating some of the major initiatives to come out of Commission 1 including the Standards Network. He has left a great legacy and he will be greatly missed.

LinkedIn sub group - Work progressed with building Commission 1 membership and its activity program. Robyn McCutcheon created a Commission 1 group on LinkedIn as a sub group to the FIG group. 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.

Commission officer news –

- Brian Coutts has moved to be a Vice Chair in Working Group 1.1. This leaves a vacancy in Working Group 1.2 that has yet to be filled. However an offer has been made to a Commission 1 national delegate to fill this role.
- The work Robyn McCutcheon is doing can be seen to be part of the activity of Working Group 1.3 as it is about tackling issues of concern for the larger professional

community and as she outlined provides information of interest for other Commissions especially Commission 2 and the YSN.

- Curtis Sumner, USA has had a change of work and is no longer able to be part of working group 1.1.
- Jan Tischer, Germany is interested in co-chairing Working Group 1.5.
- 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.

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 respond 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: wshiu@hkis.org.hk

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 respond 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 2012 –

Papers produced for Working Weeks on this issue. Brian Coutts has moved into this Working Group and is progressing with his FIG and academic work that is focusing on the land surveying aspect of this topic.

Cecilia Lindén age structural survey project within FIG progressing well and will provide valuable information for the work of this group.

Sadly Curtis Sumner is not able to participate due to a change in his work arrangements

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 2012 –

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.

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 2012 –

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.

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@mapi.gov.il
- 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 2012 –

This group has worked very efficiently and Haim Srebro has reported they have a draft publication for FIG that will move to the next stage for publishing.

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 2012 –

A paper on this topic was given at Rome. 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.

Jan Tischer from Germany has expressed interest in co-chairing this working group.

The workshop in Melbourne on the Changing Role of the Surveying Professional to be held on 11 September 2013 will have a social media component to allow for ideas and views to be captured prior to the workshop.

7. Co-operation with Other Commissions and organisations

Commission 1 is co-operating with the two FIG networks on standards and young surveyors.

8. Commission Officers

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