

FIG (INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SURVEYORS)
LIAISON REPORT TO ISO/TC211 PLENARY
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 2004

Introduction

FIG has continued over the last 6 months to play an active part in the work of ISO/TC211, and expects to continue to do so into the future. The Federation remains keen to continue to develop its strong relationship with TC211. Efforts within FIG to raise the profile of standards and standardisation issues are continuing to bear fruit, with most of FIG's 10 technical commissions now involved in aspects of standardisation work.

Coordinating FIG's standards activity

The FIG Standards Network continues to coordinate standardisation work in FIG. The scope of the standardisation work spreads beyond ISO/TC211, for instance to ISO/TC172 SC6 on survey instruments, and the work of the International Valuation Standards Committee (IVSC). FIG also continues to work closely with sister societies to ensure that work is progressed to best effect. A table of current FIG activity in standardisation matters, and of those sister societies that have provided such information to FIG, is maintained in the Standards Network area of the FIG website (www.fig.net). The FIG Annual Meeting occurs in the same week as the TC211 meetings, and will include a meeting of the Standards Network which will review progress over the last year and plans for the coming 12 months.

Work in the last year has included reviewing how FIG's national Member Associations link with national standardisation activity, to improve coordination at all levels. Relationships between national survey associations and the national Member Bodies of TC211 would seem to provide a rich source of input to standardisation matters, and a channel for outreach activity. FIG will continue to explore how this might be effected.

Priorities

Within its limited resources and funds, FIG recognises the ongoing need to prioritise its activities. Pending the annual meeting, there has been no change to FIG's priorities within the scope of TC211 but they are repeated for reference:

- Standardisation of the cadastral domain (where FIG intends to become involved in the OGC work that has recently begun);
- Location-based services, where FIG's Commission 3 has a particular interest;
- Standardisation in the area of geodesy and geodetic surveying (both in TC211 and TC172 SC6), where FIG's Commission 5 is taking the lead;
- Assisting the work of building on TR 19122 on the Qualification and Certification of Personnel to create an optimal solution (which, as committee members are aware, FIG does not believe that standardisation will provide); and
- Continuing the Outreach work that has made such good progress over the last year.

Outreach

FIG remains keen to further the work of TC211's Outreach Group, in which Iain Greenway and Gerhard Joos are both active FIG members. One topic that was discussed and agreed at FIG's annual meeting in Paris in April 2003 was that the technical programme for the FIG annual meeting in Athens in May 2004 should include a session on key TC211 work and standards, to provide updated information to FIG members in a structured way. Logistics defeated this intention, with it proving impossible to coordinate travel through Europe to Asia. A more substantial session is now being planned for the May 2005 Annual Meeting of FIG, collocated with the GSDI meeting in Cairo. FIG is also holding a regional conference in Jakarta in October 2004, which could be used for outreach activity if this fitted within TC211's plans.

Other areas

Aside from the work of TC211, FIG remains keen to progress work in many other standardisation fields, including:

- The valuation standards being developed by the IVSC;
- Hydrographic standards, including those on the calibration of equipment, where FIG has been in contact with the IHB;
- Influencing the development of standards in the construction and spatial planning areas;
- The work of ISO/TC172 SC6, where Professor Hansbert Heister leads for FIG; and
- The intention of the FIG Council to develop a World Report on Good Practice, pulling together a range of FIG's learning in all areas of surveying. This will be based around a repository of information accessible via a web-based portal

Final words

FIG is pleased to be playing a role in developing the profile of standards, including those of ISO/TC211, seeing standardisation as a vital component in developing the services provided by surveyors to their various clients. It intends to continue to work closely with TC211, and is happy at any time to receive further ideas on areas and ways in which this might be achieved.

Iain Greenway

Chair, FIG Standards Network and Lead Liaison with ISO/TC211