



FIG Asia Pacific Capacity Development Network Report FIG Working Week 2023

The FIG Asia Pacific Capacity Development Network (AP CDN) attended the FIG Working Week in Orlando, Florida “Protecting Our World, Conquering New Frontiers”, which was held during 28 May – 1 June 2023. The primary role of AP CDN at the Working Week was to provide support and advice to the Caribbean Small Island Development States (SIDS) team and their workshop that was convened over 3 days within the technical program.

At the workshop, the AP CDN were led by the Chair Rob Sarib (Geospatial Council of Australia (formerly known as SSSI)) and Andrick Lal (Fiji Institute of Surveyors and Pacific Geospatial and Surveying Council - PGSC). Presentations were delivered by Mr Sarib and Mr Lal on the journey, challenges and significant achievements of AP CDN and PGSC (respectively) since the commencement of each body to the present day. Other representatives from regional and sub-regional organisations also provided presentations on their role and activities in the Caribbean region such as the UN GGIM Americas, CARRIGEO, and SIRGAS. The participants also gained insightful knowledge and experiences from the countries of Trinidad & Tobago, Cayman, Jamaica, St. Maarten, Guyana, Turks & Caicos Islands and Puerto Rico on the status and issues pertaining to geospatial and survey capacity and capabilities.

Both Mr Sarib and Mr Lal also convened several discussion forums on the “top concerns” of the region in relation to geospatial and survey capacity and capability challenges, as well as the views from the corporate and academic sector via ESRI (including PLACE) and the University of West Indies respectively. Based on the information from the presenters, and inputs from over twenty-five (25) plus participants from fourteen (14) different countries, the Caribbean SIDS workshop team consisting of Mr Lal, Mr Sarib, Daniel Roman (Caribbean SIDS Workshop Co-Ordinator), Steve Nystrom and James Kavanagh, evaluated the material and prepared the “Orlando Statement on the Caribbean Small Island Developing States”

The Orlando statement outlined the findings of the workshop, the geospatial and survey capacity and capability challenges, and pathways forward, as well as the next steps. The subject draft statement was proposed to and subsequently noted by the FIG Member Associations at the last General Assembly (GA). The workshop team anticipates a final version will be socialised for feedback and acceptance by the Caribbean SIDS participants in the near future, and then considered for endorsement by the FIG Council. At the last GA Mr Roman acknowledged the assistance and contributions by Mr Lal and Mr Sarib to enable a successful Caribbean SIDS workshop, as well as the work undertaken to prepare the statement. To review the current version of the Orlando statement, refer to **Attachment A**.

The other purpose of the AP CDN at the Working Week was to present to the GA the network's work plan for 2023-2026 and to socialise its content with delegates. The subject work plan was noted by the GA, and approval will be considered by the FIG Council at their next meeting. To review the work plan please refer to the FIG AP CDN website.

The AP CDN also arranged a breakfast meeting which attracted twelve (12) participants from Africa, Australia, Fiji, USA, Papua New Guinea, Canada, and Indonesia. The participants exchanged information, and provided feedback to Mr Sarib after a brief overview of the workplan was delivered. From ensuing discussions about the workplan activities the participants of the meeting agreed to –

- Support the proposed AP CDN work plan
- Provide and share details of events that are occurring over the next 12 months, at which capacity and capability programs could be created
- Provide and share details of formal training opportunities for surveyors at the technical, professional, degree and post degree level
- AP CDN Chair to connect with Commission 2 regarding the academic network in the Asia and Pacific region
- AP CDN Chair to work with the FIG Office to create a social network platform and group via the existing FIG LinkedIn Page, to show case AP CDN activities, facilitate networking amongst FIG Commissions, like minded bodies, and be a mechanism to highlight each members professional qualifications, skills and interests.
- AP CDN Chair to work with the FIG Offices to update website
- AP CDN Chair to provide an updated brochure about the AP CDN based on the new work plan.

The meeting participants also unanimously supported the nomination and proposal to FIG Council of Mr Lal as the Vice Chair of the Pacific region of the AP CDN. The meeting participants also noted that the selection and announcement of a Vice Chair for the Asia region will be subject to engagement with FIG Vice President Winnie Shiu, and other senior members of the AP CDN.

With respect to the Working Week there were almost 400 presentations delivered at workshops, forums, plenaries and technical sessions. Approximately 1300 plus registrations participated at the event to learn, exchange ideas and share information on the conference theme - "Protecting Our World, Conquering New Frontiers". From an AP CDN perspective, the main trends and challenges for the geospatial and survey infrastructures professionals, that will influence capacity and capability development, relate to –

- Impact of rapid urbanisation, and smart / integrated / digital twin cities
 - Increased demand and access to reliable and intelligent geospatial information.
 - Datasets or analytics will be a necessity for better management of the built environment.
 - 2/3 thirds of the world's population will be living in "mega" cities serviced by smart technology by 2050, predictions indicate this will occur primarily in Asia and the Pacific region

- Disaster / emergency management and building resilience “before, during and after”
 - Increasing demand for geospatial industry to supply, deliver and integrate information for disaster / emergency management systems, in particular early warning systems.
 - Geospatial information will be vital to the decision-making process, operational management and outcomes of disaster relief, re-construction and the building of resilience
- Disruptive technologies and digitisation; especially as a technical enabler to reduce the digital divide
 - Are technologies which will transform the way surveyors and geospatial professionals do their normal business (work flow), as well as present day lifestyle patterns.
 - The primary disruptors are automation, robotics, artificial intelligence, internet of things, cloud technology, autonomous vehicles, mobile internet devices, big data.
 - More demand for digital, interactive, effective visualization, and internet / cloud-based processing
- Modernisation of geospatial and survey infrastructures to address the technical, scientific, social and environmental challenges
- Implementation of ubiquitous positioning or “the where is it? concept”
 - The geospatial community desire for 24/7 real time positioning and location data is becoming a reality.
 - Market base will increase in non-traditional sectors such as retail, logistics, mobility, smart cities, and real estate, building engineering, architecture, banking and financial services.
 - Greater emphasis on real time measurement of earth dynamics; modernisation of geospatial reference systems and infrastructure; and access to geo-referenced foundation datasets and imagery.
 - Increased user needs for location data, map content, solutions, and services from GNSS / Positioning, GIS / Spatial Analytics, Earth Observations and Scanning authorities and professionals.
- Reliable geospatial information (foundational data) for evidence-based planning and decision making, fit for purpose concepts, as well as high accuracy applications
- Increased UN lead activity and tools
 - Leveraging of UN initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals, Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Global geodetic Reference Frame that reinforce the need for geospatial information and the “where is it?” concept
 - Use UN initiatives as high-level mandates or justification for countries to share data, enhance geospatial and survey infrastructure and build capacity
 - Enhances the use of geospatial information to evaluate community / societal / economic initiatives and be more accountable
 - Leads to increased collaboration with industry bodies, professional member networks, commercial institution in products / applications (hardware, software, and content)

- Organisations to incorporate capacity and capability development as a key component to addressing the global challenges; and to leverage the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) as well as Country Action Plans.

The AP CDN thank the FIG Office and Council for their relentless work and efforts, as well as the National Society of Professional Surveyors, to organise and host a wonderful event which provided participants with the opportunity to engage with peers through a long awaited “genuine face to face” Working Week. From an AP CDN view the Working Week was engaging, informative, solidified technical collaboration, and enabled our core business of networking to thrive.

Photo Gallery





See you ALL in Accra - Ghana, 2024

FIG
FIG WORKING WEEK 2024
ACCPA, GHANA

FIG Working Week 2024
19-24 May **Accra, Ghana**

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