



## **The FIG Report**

Vol. II, No. 4

*John D. Hohol, ACSM FIG Forum Head of Delegation*

The previous FIG Report (*ACSM Bulletin*, June 2007) highlighted the 2007 FIG Working Week in Hong Kong. In this Report Curt Sumner (ACSM Delegate to FIG Commission 1- Professional Standards & Practice), Steven Frank (ACSM Delegate to Commission 2- Professional Education), and Chuck Pearson (ACSM Delegate to Commission 3- Spatial Information Management) give an account of their activities during the FIG Working Week in Hong Kong, May 13-17, 2007



**FIG Working Week 13-17 May 2007**  
**Strategic Integration of Surveying Services**  
同心共策 測量服務  
[www.figww2007.hk](http://www.figww2007.hk)



### **Report from FIG Commission 1 (Professional Standards and Practice) FIG Working Week- Hong Kong, SAR, China ACSM FIG Forum Delegate- Curt Sumner**

The Working Week in Hong Kong was my first real exposure to the how FIG operates. Of course, I attended the 2002 joint conference among ACSM, ASPRS, and FIG in Washington, DC but I was not able to participate in FIG functions because of my duties as ACSM Executive Director.

I attended both sessions of the FIG General Assembly as the ACSM Forum representative. ACSM Forum Head of Delegation John Hohol attended these meetings, but asked me to sit as the ACSM Forum representative because he participated there as the Chair of the FIG Foundation. The decision making takes place at the FIG Council (Executive Board) level with input from the Commissions and/or Committees. Issues addressed by the FIG Council were presented to the General Assembly delegates for confirmation. If an organization representing a country has dues in arrears for more than two years, the organization's delegates may be seated in the General Assembly, but will not be able to vote.

I attended the Commission 1 meeting on May 13, and was able to make some good international contacts. A primary of focus of Commission 1 at this time is on student participation in FIG. The lead person in the student contingent attended the meeting. Several ideas for increased student participation were discussed

I was also able to attend several sessions during the conference, especially those related to Commission 1 and Commission 2 (Professional Education). I learned (not surprisingly) that the education of future surveyors is an issue worldwide. I also learned that the focus of education for future surveyors is approached differently among countries, depending on the status of

their data infrastructure. In countries where the data infrastructure is more well developed (such as the establishment of a more detailed cadastre) the focus of education leans more toward land management than to land measurement.

Among the most enjoyable meetings I attended was the President's meeting. In this meeting either the President or the chief executive officer of the respective national organizations gathered around the room in circular seating, and each representative talked about what is going on in the respective countries. John Hohol and I attended this meeting, and we were able to talk about what our organization is doing. A lot of interest was generated from among the group for CST (and our other certification programs), TrigStar (and other youth outreach), and recruitment efforts.

Subsequent to the Working Week, I sent information about CST and recruitment to representatives from Austria, France, and Great Britain. The French representative sent to me a comic book his organization has published to attract youngsters to surveying. I sent in return a copy of the coloring book published by the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors.

Along with FIG Head of Delegation John Hohol, FIG Commission 2 Delegate, and *SaLIS* journal editor Steve Frank, and ACSM Communications Director Ilse Genovese, I worked with a FIG Council member from Greece to arrange for publication of a series of articles from her organization to be published in the *SaLIS* journal.

I was very pleased with my experience at the FIG Working Week. I believe that groundwork has been laid for me to take an active role in the work of Commission 1, and I feel that the worldwide contacts I made there will be beneficial to the members of the ACSM Forum and ACSM as a whole.

I am looking forward to attending the FIG Working Week conferences in Stockholm/2008 and Eilat, Israel/2009. The 2010 FIG Congress will convene in Sydney, Australia.

Information about FIG (including the minutes of the General Assembly meeting in Hong Kong) can be found on the website, [www.fig.net](http://www.fig.net).

**Report from FIG Commission 2 (Professional Education)  
FIG Working Week- Hong Kong, SAR, China  
ACSM FIG Forum Delegate- Steven Franks**

The Commission 2 (Professional Education) annual meeting discussed the working groups and planned activities for the 2007-2010 period. Commission 2 Chair Bela Markus of Hungary led the meeting. There are 4 working groups with planned special meetings away from the regular FIG meetings in each of the 4 years. The individual groups are outlined below. Although there were not many at the meeting set aside for Commission 2, a later forum involved a much wider audience and generated a lot of discussion on the issues discussed below.

Working group 2.1 is curriculum development. The Chair of this working group is Bela Markus. This group already had a symposium set at the Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic, from June 7-9, 2007. The symposium theme was "Knowledge is Power." A separate report is available for that meeting. The issues within working group 2.1 are to define a core curriculum, find and promote best teaching practices, look at the changing roles of educators, and look at issues of formal accreditation of survey education programs.

Working group 2.2 is e-learning. The Chair of this working group is Liza Groenendijk of the Netherlands. There is a planned symposium in Enschede, the Netherlands, in June 11-13, 2008, right before the FIG Working Week in Stockholm, Sweden. This group will look at internet and other new teaching technologies, collaboration among universities and colleges, and developing support for using these results to enhance life-long learning.

Working group 2.3 is educational management and marketing. The Chair is Gert Steinkellner of Austria. A symposium is planned for Vienna in June 2009. One of the major focuses of this group is to look at the marketing and recruitment of new surveyors. Several countries are seeing a downturn in the number of new surveyors being educated and developed. This group will also work to make the general public more aware of the role of surveying and surveyors in society.

Working group 2.4 is real estate valuation and management education. The Chair is Arvo Vitikainen of Finland. The group will look at the special issues of real estate valuation and management. This group has strong ties to FIG Commission 9. A symposium in Finland in 2010 is tentatively planned.

There was a special meeting at the Hong Kong conference led by FIG President Stig Enemark for Commission 2 and FIG Academic Members. This meeting explored new ways for FIG to work with universities and colleges. There is a plan for an FIG Academic Newsletter. Discussions were held on how to open up faculty exchange opportunities, faculty collaboration opportunities, and student exchange opportunities as well as to get more student involvement in FIG. Commission 3 Chair Chryssy Potsiou talked about her charge from President Enemark to begin refereeing FIG conference papers with the aim to publish these papers. There was interest in this but many of the academic members present cautioned that they needed to publish in ISI-approved journals (ISI is an accreditation service for professional journals). One of the outcomes of this meeting was an agreement by Ms. Potsiou to have the proceedings of a special joint symposium between Commission 3 and Commission 2 published in a special issue of Surveying and Land Information Science sometime in 2008.

The results of the Commission 2 work agenda are planned to be published as "The Future of Surveying Education" sometime during or after 2010, the end of the work term. More information on Commission 2 can be found on the Internet at:

[http://www.fig.net/comm/wp\\_07\\_10/wp02\\_07\\_10.htm](http://www.fig.net/comm/wp_07_10/wp02_07_10.htm)

**[Note: Additionally Steve Frank attended the FIG Commission 2 Annual Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic shortly after the FIG Working Week. Here is his report from that meeting.]**

FIG Commission 2 Report  
Scientia es Potentia (Science is Knowledge) Symposium  
Prague, Czech Republic, June 2007  
Steven Frank



FIG Commission 2 (Professional Education) held a 3 day symposium at the Czech Technical University (CTU) in Prague, the Czech Republic from June 7 – 9, 2007. The approximately 40 attendees were primarily from Europe however Steve Frank and Ann Johnson (ESRI) from the US and David Coleman from Canada all gave papers. The symposium was tied to Commission 2 Working Group 2.1 initiatives including curriculum development and accreditation.

Approximately half of the attendees came from within the Czech Republic. Several papers were given regarding the development of “geo-information” programs within the various universities in the Czech Republic. Discussions were held on several of the papers. In a forum set aside for the topic, there was additional discussion on developing a core curriculum for surveying. Ann Johnson had worked on a similar core curriculum for GIS and moderated the session. Unfortunately, the diversity of surveyors and lack of in-depth study in this area led to no conclusions being developed.

Information on the symposium can also be found on the Internet at:  
[http://geoinformatics.fsv.cvut.cz/wiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://geoinformatics.fsv.cvut.cz/wiki/index.php/Main_Page)

**Report from FIG Commission 3 (Spatial Information Management)  
FIG Working Week- Hong Kong, SAR, China  
ACSM FIG Forum Delegate- R. Charles Pearson**

The annual meeting of FIG Commission 3 was held May 13 and 16, 2007 during the Annual FIG Working Week in Hong Kong. Due to flight schedules, I was unable to attend the first meeting, but did participate in conference functions and the second Commission meeting.

During the first meeting, a discussion of the progress of the Commission 3 workgroups was provided as well as introductions and comments by those attending.

The second meeting was primarily a planning meeting for the Commission 3 Annual Meeting to be held in Valencia, Spain February 18-21, 2008. The theme of the meeting is “Spatial Information Management Toward Environmental Management of Mega Cities.”

Also discussed was the upcoming FIG Regional Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica November 12-15, 2007.

Commission 3 also co-sponsored a joint meeting with the UN/ECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Working Party on Land Administration together with the Committee on Housing and Land Management in Sounio, Greece March 28-31, 2007. The focus of the workshop was the informal or unplanned development, which is a major concern for many countries. There were 130 attendees from 42 countries. 50 papers were presented in eight technical sessions. A report by Chryssy Potsiou, Chair of Commission 3, is attached.

The Commission 3 Work Plan consists of the following goals:

**WG 3.1 e-Government and e-Citizen**

- Report on Spatial Information within e-Government;
- Facilitate experience exchange in e-Government;
- Provide recommendations to SIM within e-Government development; low cost approaches for upgrading informal settlements.
- Contribute to the publication of “Spatial Information Toward Managing Mega Cities” to be presented in 2010 (all working groups);

**WG 3.2 Spatial Data Infrastructure**

- Support discussion on the role of local and regional SDI in managing mega cities;

- Identify specific technical innovations in SIM that can improve management of mega cities;
- Identify institutional, policy and legal frameworks that can be incorporated in SDI to address mega city issues related to sound land governance.

### **WG 3.3 Multi Dimensional Aspects in SIM**

- Methods for measuring and gathering 3D spatial information and databases;
- Increase the involvement of surveyors in development of data models;
- Bridging the gap between affordable shelter that is inadequate and adequate shelter that is unaffordable;
- Provide new methods and tools for citywide environmental monitoring of unplanned urban development.

Additionally, Commission 3:

- Supported the 37<sup>th</sup> CIPA (International Committee for Architectural Photogrammetry) International Workshop of the “revolution of Information Technology in Cultural Heritage held in Cyprus, October 30-November 4, 2006.
- Will contribute to the XXI CIPA International Symposium on “AntiCIPAting the Future of the Cultural Past” in Athens, Greece October 1-6, 2007.

Commission 3 has also published an annual electronic newsletter since 2002. Copies are available by contacting Dr. Reinfried Mansberger at: [mansberger@boku.ac.at](mailto:mansberger@boku.ac.at)

Commission 3 has been responsible for the preparation of several publications that have been reported on in previous reports. Some of the more notable are:

[FIG Publication 33 - Marrakech Declaration - Urban-Rural Interrelationship for Sustainable Development, 2004](#)