

Commission 1

Newsletter in 2017



Brian Coutts, Chair



The Working Week in Finland has come and gone. The Working Week was very well organised by the Finns with exception of the rain that occurred on several days. Over 1300 delegates attended the Working Week and 69 countries were represented.

Important decisions that were taken during the 40th General Assembly were:

- Daniel Steudler of Switzerland and Yerach Doytsher of Israel were elected without dissent as Honorary Members;
- The members association subscription will rise from 4.48€ to 4.80€ per head from 2019;
- The 2021 Working Week will be held in Accra, Ghana; and
- The statutes were amended such that the 2 year restriction for membership of the Council was amended to be a two year restriction on being a Vice President.



General Assembly



Ghana Delegation on Winning the 2021 Working Week



The Turkish Delegation encouraging Delegates to attend the 2018 Congress

It was a good Working Week for Commission 1 with good attendances at the Commission's sessions. Reports from the progress of the Working Groups follow below.

Report from WG 1.1 International Ethical Standards



Gary Strong

The session run at Helsinki was productive and seemed to gather interest. The case studies presented generated good feedback from the delegates, and we could probably have gone on all afternoon. That means the WG will definitely need to produce case study guidance on ethics, which all member associations can use to implement the international ethics

standards (IES) which it is still proposed will be formally adopted by FIG to replace the 1997 ethics document.



Gary Strong Leading Discussion at the Session on Ethics.

Six member associations were persuaded to sign up during the week to International Ethical Standards (IES) as members of the international coalition, with a few more promising to do so. These are as follows taken from the chair's own message to the coalition; Arab Union of Surveyors (Representing 15 Arab countries), Association of Estonian Surveyors, Botswana Surveying and Mapping Association, Colegio Oficial de Ingeniería Geomática y Topográfica (Spain), Society of Engineers (UAE). Union Mediterranean des Geometres (UMG). This brings the total to over 110 in the coalition.

Report from WG 1.2 Women in Surveying



Robyn McCutcheon



Winnie Shiu

The response to the survey and the preliminary presentation of the data was very positive. The survey is still open as we continue to gather data but it will have to

be closed in another month or so. There is also further data to gather from member organisations which will be followed up with the FIG office for within the next month or so. Analysis will be finalised after this. There were discussions with the YS network on the synergies with the work that we are doing in WG1.2 and decided that we may merge some of our research.

It was pleasing to have a statement about gender diversity added to VP Diane Dumashie's presentation on Commission outcomes to the GA. We were encouraged to think about a revision of the FIG Statement on diversity (esp gender equality) with a presentation in Istanbul. As this has to be presented to the FIG office around February/March 2018 for publication, we will be working on this with the help of Winnie Shiu and members of the young surveyors network - Kate Fairlie, Eva-Maria Unger, Cecilia Linden.

So overall a successful outcome and progress is being made with by WG 1.2.

Report from WG 1.3 International Boundary, Settlement & Demarcation



Don Grant

At the 2017 Working Week in Helsinki, three papers on the work of Working Group 1.3 International Boundary Settlement & Demarcation were presented. Following the presentation session a brief Working Group Meeting was held at which it was agreed to provide and publish a supplement to FIG

Publication 59 International Boundary Making. This supplement will focus on issues of earth dynamics and geodetic datums in the context of international boundary agreement, demarcation and maintenance. Active members of the Working Group are Don Grant (Chair), Bill Robertson, Hiam Shrabo and Vince Belgrave.



Don Grant making his Presentation on International Boundaries

Report from WG 1.5 Mutual Recognition



Kate Fairlie

The WG 1.5 on Mutual Recognition hosted two sessions during the Working Week, providing attendees with an overview of mutual recognition efforts around the globe and identifying key issues and concerns of member associations. It was clear that this is an ongoing area of interest, not simply with respect to the mobility of professionals, but with respect to the sharing of information between organisations.



One of the Mutual Recognition Sessions.

A core outcome from the sessions was agreement on the need for a platform to assist in the sharing of information and guiding documents between professional associations. There was also considerable discussion around support for assessing international qualifications (such as academic), as the prerequisite step for jurisdictional registration.

Next steps for the working group will be to update the current FIG Publication No. 27 Mutual Recognition of professional Qualifications; as well as to undertake a preliminary scoping for the development of a information sharing platform.

Coming Events

Just a reminder that the programme of annual events in the coming years are as follows:



2018 Congress - Istanbul, Turkey



2019 WW Hanoi, Vietnam

2020 WW - Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2021 WW - Accra, Ghana.

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