



Activities

e-Learning: Sharing Good Practices

11-13 June 2008 Enschede, The Netherlands



The International Workshop was jointly organised by Commission 2, Commission 7 and the International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation (ITC).

The workshop aimed to bring together professionals engaged in e-Learning and distance education in Surveying, Geo-information Sciences and Land Administration.

The workshop was an active event, offering the participants the opportunity to demonstrate and/or try out good practices and to share their experiences.

The FIG rules were applied for reviewing. The reviewed full papers are now available at <http://www.fig.net/> and the presentations could be downloaded from http://www.itc.nl/fig_elearning2008/.

The number of participants were around 100, many of them staff of ITC (practicing in the topics) and students of ITC (using actively e-Learning). The workshop was opened by Prof. Martien Molenaar, Rector of ITC.



Keynote speakers were Prof. Stig Enemark, President of FIG (Session through Video Conferencing); Nicholas Frunzi, Director of Educational Services, ESRI, USA; Prof. Paul van der Molen, Vice President of FIG, ITC, The Netherlands; Prof. Bela Markus Chair FIG Commission 2, UWH, Hungary; András Osskó, Chair FIG Commission 7, Budapest Land Office, Hungary.

Technical Sessions:

1. Good practices in e-Learning and distance education, Practical examples: online courses, exercises, tools and approaches, ICT based courses for the surveying and land administration professional.
2. Engaging in e-Learning: The changing role of the academic staff, Learning approaches and content development, Integrated learning environments, Costs and benefits in e-Learning, Blended approaches.
3. Continuous Professional Development: The use of social software to support networking and lifelong learning, Student support (Virtual Club, Communication techniques, Teamwork tools).
4. International Cooperation and/in e-Learning: EduGi, EduSDR, Joint Educational Programmes, GI-NET and the role of e-Learning, Technical, political, legal, organisational and cultural problems of e-Learning.
5. Educational needs and challenges, Changing priorities in the application fields, Expansion of the scope of Land Administration, e-Governance, Presentations of good practices.



In addition to the presentations, hands-on workshop sessions were organized. Participants discussed relevant topics in four home groups. The results of their discussions were presented at the closing session, chaired by Chris Paresi, Head Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Geoinformation Management, ITC.



More details are available at this excellent workshop's website. For any other information on e-Learning issues, please contact Liza Groenendijk, chair WG2.2, email: groenendijk@itc.nl.

Working Week 2008: Integrating generations

14-19 June 2008 Stockholm, Sweden



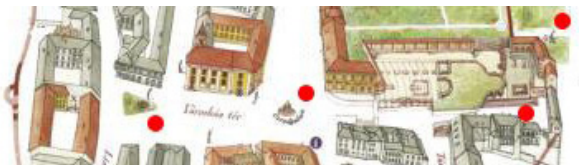
The Working Week addressed many of the issues facing surveyors in the next years. These include questions related to the need of getting young people interested in surveying and geomatics, how to keep the professional qualifications up to date, need for capacity building – all issues of great interest for FIG and the organisers.

On the Annual Meeting Prof Bela Markus and WG chairs (Prof Arvo Vitikainen and Mr Gert Steinkellner) introduced the workplan accepted by the General Assembly. A "Round Table on Education in Asia and the Pacific" and the "Meeting of FIG Academic Members" supported tuning the workplan, helping the needs analysis.

During the Working Week three technical sessions were organized by Commission 2. After the review of the abstracts, 21 presentations were accepted and 17 papers presented. The main topics were: Curriculum Development, Educational Case Studies and Educational Projects. Commission 2 co-operated with other Commissions in two additional Technical Sessions: TS 2F - Young Surveyors and TS 3G – Capacity Building. More: <http://www.fig.net/fig2008/>.

Summer School on Urban 3D modeling

23-29 August 2008 Szekesfehervar, Hungary



The Summer School aimed to give an overview of data acquisition, data processing and modeling methods related to 3D modeling in urban environments. 40 students attended from abroad and 10 from Hungary. For 27 August 2008, a one-day conference has been arranged in order to give a top quality overview on new methodologies in data collection and modelling.

The venue was the UWH GEO's Knowledge Center on Land and Geoinformation. Lectures delivered by leading representatives of the 3D arena including Eurosense, LEICA, Varinex, Laservision/Riegl, YonaPMS, the chair of FIG Commission 7 as well as Prof. Franz Leberl, chief scientist of Microsoft' Virtual Earth program.

The event was free to the public thanks to the prominent donor organisations. Major sponsor of the conference was Microsoft. More information and the recorded presentations are available at the website: <http://www.geo.info.hu/urban3d/>



Next events

Navigating the Future of Surveying Education

26-28 February, Vienna, Austria



Working Group 2.3 of FIG Commission 2 on Educational Management and Marketing and the Austrian Society for Surveying and Geoinformation (OVG) is organising a Conference under the motto "Navigating the Future of Surveying Education". The venues are the lecture halls of the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV) in the centre of the City of Vienna, Austria.

Approximately 30 speakers will share their experiences in professional education on the following topics:

- Marketing of Professional Education
- Availability of Continuous Professional Development
- Educational Networks – Globalisation of Surveying Education
- Quality Assurance in Surveying Education & Training
- New Methods for Knowledge Transfer
- Scope of Competences in Professional Education

During the conference additionally two short-term workshops will be outlined on the topics

- "Students Where Are You", and
- "Student Today – Status & Vision"

In the first mentioned workshop the reasons for the decreasing number of students will be analysed and proper strategies for the recruitment of students and the marketing of professional surveying education will be elaborated. The second one – performed by students – examines the situation of students in our professional fields and tries to outline visions for an optimised professional education. Both topics of the workshops have a high relevance in most of our countries.

Keynote speeches will be given by the Austrian Representative of the Bologna Follow Up Group, Gottfried BACHER, by the President of FIG, Prof. Stig ENEMARK, by the chair elect of FIG Commission 2, Steve FRANK, by the ESRI Director of Education, Michael GOULD, and by the Rector of the University of Technology in Graz/Austria, Prof. Hans SUENKEL.

The Organisation Committee invites all interested colleagues to participate at the conference and to share their experiences in teaching and learning tasks - especially during the two workshops.

More details about the conference (costs, accommodation, registration procedure, programme, etc.) are available at the conference homepage: <http://fig09.ovg.at/>.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Vienna.

Mr. Gert Steinkellner & Dr. Reinfried Mansberger
Heads of Organizing Committee

Working Week 2009: Surveyors Key Role in Accelerated Development

3-8 May, 2009 Eilat, Israel



The FIG Working Week 2009 is hosted jointly by the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and the Association of Licensed Surveyors in Israel (ALSI).

The conference will take place in Eilat, a resort city, offering good meeting facilities and also opportunities for social activities and relaxation. The WW will take place in two neighbouring luxury hotels: Dan and Herods. More: <http://www.fig.net/fig2009/>.

The phenomenon referred as "Accelerated Development" becomes common to many countries. It happens as a result of various reasons: economical prosperity, reformation of historical trends in social order, basic changes in economic systems, population growth and others. The increased construction activity such as infrastructure, building, etc., are always regarded as basic parts of accelerated development. Likewise are the activities related to land-use, land-tenure and land administration.

In the era of accelerated development, surveyors are strongly faced with professional and intellectual challenges. The increasing value of land available for development in built-up areas, the high expenses and the complexity of buildings, demand more and more sophisticated considerations.

The main participants in the accelerated development procedure are: federal and local ministries, urban planners, architects, road- and transportation planners, real estate experts, land appraisers economists, lawyers, environmental protection professionals – and surveyors.

The surveyor is involved in most stages of development, and he/she, with his/her multidisciplinary knowledge of geodesy, cadastre, surveying, mapping and modern geo-informatics serves as an integrator of the overall project and among all the participating factors. His/her work is crucial to proper interdisciplinary cooperation and to a deeper understanding of each other's professional interests.

Dr. Joseph Forrai, Member of Organizing Committee, Program Coordinator

Undergraduate Surveying Education in Israel

a brief introduction of the education of professionals

There are eight universities in Israel, only the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, educate professionals in surveying and mapping in Israel. In other five universities subjects in GIS are studied in departments of Geography (Hebrew University, Tel-Aviv University, Bar-Ilan University, Ben Gurion University and University of Haifa).

There are two study tracks in the Technion, four-year and three-year degree programs. Students in the three-year program graduate with a BA degree in Mapping and Geo-Information Sciences. Students in the four-year program receive the degree of BSc in Mapping and Geo-Information Engineering. At the end of the undergraduate studies, students from both programs, after practical work for two years, receive a governmental license as a "licensed surveyor".

As the first stage in studying for the undergraduate degree in the Technion, students must study core subjects such as Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Introduction to Mechanical Engineering, Computer Programming and English. Another group of required courses are the basis for the Mapping and Geo-Information discipline such as: Measurement Theory, Photogrammetry and Laser Technology, Cartography, Cadastral Measurement and Land Management, Computerized Mapping, Geo-Spatial Databases, etc. In a third group of courses the students should choose between a specialization course group in mapping and geo-spatial information and a specialization course group in engineering and geodetic measurement.

In the near future a specialization course group in cadastre and land management will offered as well. A fourth group of courses are electives designed to give students knowledge in different engineering areas, town planning, and computer sciences. Students select courses from a list that match their personal



preferences. Theoretical courses in Mapping and Geo-Information subjects are accompanied with practical exercises intended to demonstrate and drill the use of equipment in different areas.

The four-year undergraduate program is intended to train engineers to hold positions of responsibility in executing projects, conducting research, and managing special operations in all areas of Mapping and Geo-Information in the country. The three-year program includes most of the core and required courses as well as most of the Mapping and Geo-Information courses of the four-year track study program. The three-year program does not include a number of the elective courses from civil engineering that students in the four-year program take toward the end of their studies.

Dr. Gilad Even-Tzur, Member of Organizing Committee, Students Relations

Technical Sessions

Commission 2 will organize three Technical Sessions in Eilat as follows:

- TS2.1 – Needs of Changing Society – New Skills, Competences in Surveying
- TS2.2 – Good Educational Practices
- TS2.3 – Educational and Training Services

News

Commission 2 – Chair elect 2009-2010

Dr. Steven Frank was elected by the General Assembly in Stockholm as chair of Commission 2 for 2011 – 2014. Dr. Frank is well known in the FIG community, but read below his short introduction.



My name is Steve Frank. I am the new Chair-elect for Commission 2. I already know many of the Commission 2 delegates and look forward to meeting many others. I would like to share with you some background about myself and some of the reasons for my decision to become the Chair-elect.

I am from the USA. I grew up in California where I worked as a land survey technician and professional. I later worked in Saudi Arabia for 2 years. I came back to California and pursued my academic degrees. I finished my schooling at the University of Maine with a PhD in Surveying Engineering. I then came to New Mexico State University where I have taught land surveying, photogrammetry, LIS and land development for the past 15 years. My research area is mainly in the area of professional issues. I have been President of the New Mexico Professional Surveyors and the American Association for Geodetic Surveyors. I began attending FIG meetings in 2000 at the Working Week in Prague, Czech Republic.

I became involved with FIG because I was interested in several things. First, I was curious to know if the professional issues and professional educational issues that we face in the US were the same in other countries. I found that most of the issues are the same. I also found a great diversity in surveying beyond what we are involved with in the US. I still find it fascinating to hear from my peers the things that are the same and the things that are not the same as I talk to them or listen to their presentations.

I am also interested in fostering cooperation and collaboration among surveying academia. I see that it has already happened in many places. I would like to do what I can to promote academic research and teaching so that we can all gain invaluable experiences that will enhance the professional careers of academics and students alike. I am quite pleased with the formation of the Young Surveyors group within FIG and hope to work with the group to promote more involvement of young people within FIG.

I have seen the advantages of the structuring of working groups with the commissions and how it can lead to focused issues that allow us to cooperate and collaborate. I now have much greater insight to the value of workshops that let us focus on specific issues. I hope to continue the good work of my predecessors and build on the hard work that they have done.

I look forward to working with not only the Commission 2 delegates but also all of the other officers, staff and members of FIG.

Dr. Steven Frank

Promoting good practices

Dear Reader,
help fulfilling the mission of Commission 2 as described at <http://www.fig.net/commission2/index.htm>. If you have any questions or ideas for improvements, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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