

**Report to the 27th General Assembly
in Athens, 23-27 May 2004**

**Co-operation with International Organisations
April 2003–May 2004**

1. General

After IUSM was disbanded in 1999 FIG has concentrated on bilateral co-operation with other international associations. Special focus has been on co-operation with traditional partners like the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), the International Cartographic Association (ICA), the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) and the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB / IHO). FIG has signed memoranda of understanding with all these organisations when the last one with IHB/IHO will be signed in Athens.

FIG has close co-operation also with other international organisations like ISM, IFHP, ICEC, FIABCI and CIB. Some of these are networked in the Habitat Professionals Forum. FIG is also very active in ISO and its different TCs especially in TC211.

2. Co-operation in 2003-2004

IAG

FIG has intensified co-operation especially with the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). The new President of IAG, Prof Gerhard Beutler and Secretary General Christian Tscherning had a meeting with the President and Director in September 2003. There are now even better possibilities for a closer co-operation now that IAG has restructured its administration and commissions. Matt Higgins who is the focal point for IAG co-operation has worked in close co-operation with Chris Rizos in IAG and this has resulted in the strategy paper for FIG/IAG co-operation and on the practical level in participation in the UN OOSA. IAG will also be very visible in the FIG meetings in Athens – President Beutler as a keynote speaker – and in Jakarta at the regional conference, in which IAG is one of the co-sponsors. IAG also participated actively in the Round Table on Surveying / Geomatics education in Africa that was organised in Marrakech. The traditional co-operation between Commissions and their working groups is, of course, continuing by joint events but now there are real changes for bigger improvement.

Joint Board of Spatial Information Societies

The role of the Joint Board of Spatial Information Societies has been unclear until recently. Some members of the Joint Board have been interested in more close and more formal co-operation while e.g. FIG has been reluctant to re-establish the International Union for Surveys and Mapping. The latest development indicates that the Joint Board will find its role as a coordinating body on geoinformation issues between the United Nations (Statistics Division) and the professional associations. It has been proposed that the Joint Board should have a permanent address and this should be the FIG office. More detailed discussions on the goals and aims of the Joint Board will be discussed at the next meeting during the ISPRS Congress in Istanbul in July 2004.

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI)

FIG is always looking for new strategic partnership. At the moment the focus is on associations that are active in geoinformation. FIG agreed in 2003 to organise the Working Week 2005 in Cairo in co-operation with GSDI. This will give synergy in the logistics and practical arrangements but it will also offer an interesting programme. The technical programme in Cairo for the FIG WW 2005 and GSDI-8 will be totally integrated. In addition to joint sessions the programme, however, will allow slots also for those commissions that are not so closely related to GIS and GSDI.

Director, FIG Office visited GSDI-7 in Bangalore in February 2004. The visit also offered good opportunity to discuss the conference and further co-operation between FIG and GSDI. This will be further developed during the next year.

One of the other partners for Working Week 2005 will be Global Mapping, that will have its annual meeting during the conference. FIG will consider by that whether there are any benefits related to closer co-operations or co-operation agreement.

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