



The FIG REPORT VOL. III, NO. 6

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The previous FIG Report (ACSM Bulletin, October 2008) highlighted the activities of the ACSM FIG Forum Delegates for FIG Commissions 1, 2, and 3 during their participation in the 2008 FIG Working Week in Stockholm, Sweden. In this Report, Jerry Mills (ACSM Delegate to FIG Commission 4- Hydrography), and Bob Foster (ACSM Delegate to Commission 9- Valuation and Management of Real Estate) provide reports on the activities of their commissions during the FIG Working Week in Stockholm.

Report from FIG Commission 4 (Hydrography)—ACSM FIG Forum Delegate Jerry Mills

Absence of the Commission Chair

The Vice Chair Administration began by offering an apology for the absence from the meeting of Andrew Leyzack, the Commission chair, for being unable to attend the 2008 FIG Working Week. David Neale acted as chair for the Conference and the Annual General Meeting of the Commission. As acting chair, Neale attended the ACCO (Advisory Committee of Commission Chairs) meeting on 14th June 2008 as well as the General Assembly on 15th June 2008.

Annual Report of the Work of Commission 4

The Annual report of the commission was prepared by Leyzack and submitted to council as required under FIG regulations. The Commission's work between June 2006 and December 2007 is summarized in the FIG Annual report available online at http://www.fig.net/annual-review/anrew06_07/anrev06_07.htm. Working Group (WG) reports are given below; only groups that submitted a report are mentioned here.

WG 4.3: Administering Marine Spaces

Michael Sutherland, vice chair, summarized the activities of the commission as follows:

- The vice chair presented a paper at one of the plenary sessions of the FIG Regional Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica in November 2007.
- The vice chair co-authored FIG Publication No. 43: The Costa Rica Declaration: Pro-Poor Coastal Zone Management. [<http://www.fig.net/pub/figpub/pub43/figpub43.htm>].
- The vice chair delivered a technical paper and attended a workshop at the Canadian Hydrographic and National Surveyors Conference 2008 held in Vancouver, Canada, May 5-8, 2008.
- Working Group 4.3 met with one of the working groups of Commission 8 on June, 18, 2008, to plan a joint meeting.

WG 4.4 Economic Benefits of Hydrography

Gordon Johnston, vice chair and leader of the 4.4 Working Group, reported limited activity in his working group in 2008, but that plans were underway for a more active upcoming year.

ACCO and GA

The key outcomes from the ACCO and General Assembly meetings on June 14-15, 2008, of concern to Commission 4 are:

- ACCO reported that the newly introduced peer review option for papers did have some initial problems particularly with differences of opinions by reviewers and time schedules. In general however, the option seemed a workable one with many good responses from authors. ACCO agreed that a small sub-committee be formed to deal with some of the problems that were identified during preparations (including the need for guidelines for reviewers).
- ACCO announced that the FIG was in the process of setting up a fund to assist participants from developing countries to attend FIG conferences and meetings. Present delegates were asked to encourage qualified applicants to apply to the fund.
- Chryssy Potsiou was elected as the ACCO Representative to Council.
- There is considerable effort to include as one of the themes for the 2010 FIG Congress: Coastal Zone and SIDS. This may give Commission 4 the opportunity to make a significant contribution at that congress.

IAB Report

Gordon Johnston, chair, reported on the following key activities of the International Advisory Board:

- The 2008 annual meeting of the Board was in Sydney, Australia; course submissions and other matters were considered.
- David Neale, newly appointed vice chair of Commission 4, joins IAB as member. Neale could not attend the April 2008 meeting because of the late notice of his appointment.
- There is a proposal for the IAB for drop the word 'Advisory' from its name. This proposal must be approved by all of the participating bodies.
- Changes in course review timing, increased submission of courses, and anticipated extension of IAB responsibilities into accreditation of individuals are all expected to increase IAB workload significantly.
- The IAB also considered the need to pursue funding for IAB activities, particularly support for members' travel and other expenses to attend annual meetings.

Report from FIG Commission 9 (Valuation and Management of Real Estate) & Other Reports— ACSM FIG Forum Delegate Robert Foster

I attended several technical sessions, the FIG/UN seminar, both sessions of the General Assembly, and meetings of Commission 9 as delegate from ACSM and meetings of Commission 3 as Corresponding Delegate from ACSM.

Commission 9, Valuation and Management of Real Estate

Chair of Com9 for the period 2007–2010 is Professor Kauko Viitanen of Finland. The working groups of Com9 for this period are:

- WG9.1: Compulsory Purchase and Compensations in Land Acquisition and Takings. Chair: Kauko Viitanen, Finland.
- WG9.2: Improving Slum Conditions through Innovative Financing. Chair: Bengt Kjellson, Sweden.
- WG9.3: Diagnostic Tools and Prescriptive Practices for the Valuation Profession. Chair: Steven Nystrom, USA (Appraisal Institute).
- WG9.4: Review of Valuation Methods and Standards Worldwide. Chair: David Smejkkal, Czech Republic.
- WG9.5: GIS as a Tool in Real Estate Market Analyses and Valuation. Chair: Henning Elmstrom, Denmark.

Observations

My thanks to David Doyle for his effort as a candidate for vice president of the Federation. Visibility and many years activity in FIG usually determine the outcome of these elections. I hope that David will remain active in Commission 5; his technical contribution is valuable both to the Federation and to ACSM and his energy and enthusiasm are an encouragement to all of us.

Steve Nystrom, Chair of WG9.3 stood for election to the commission chair, but was defeated by Dr Plimmer. Steve is one of the more active members of the commission and will be an important contributor in the following years. I hope that he will eventually be elected to the chair for the sake of the viability of the commission. While the areas of interest of FIG Commission 9 may not seem important to members of the U.S. surveying profession, they represent subject matter at the very center of the activities of surveyors in all free-market countries. It would be well for surveyors, especially those in national leadership roles, to develop an understanding of, and appreciation for, the dynamics of the market which directly affect our industry. I recommend that ACSM continue to monitor the work of this commission and participate in its activities, even with the possibility of expanding the role of surveying in the U.S.

Future Working Weeks

Future sessions of the FIG General Assembly will be held at: Eilat, Israel (2009), Sydney, Australia (2010), Marrakech, Morocco (2011), and Rome, Italy (2012). The site for the working week of 2013 will be selected by the General Assembly of 2009.

Changes to statutes and Internal Rules

Several minor changes to the Statutes and Internal Rules were adopted by the General Assembly for clarification.

Financial Report

Total income for 2007 was 446,759 Euros. Expenses were 420,714 Euros providing a surplus for the years of 26,045 Euros. The balance sheet for 12/31/07 shows "liquid funds" of 354,390 Euros. The Council's report contained the following statement: "The total reserve is about the level of one year's expenditure. The strategy plan of the current Council is following the goal of previous councils to maintain a financial reserve, which covers expenditures for 1.5 years." It is important to note that it was the US Bureau of 1998–2002 that instituted the strategy of achieving a reserve. Before our tenure as Bureau FIG had no reserve fund and each bureau ended its tenure with a zero funds balance. We left a balance of several thousand dollars for the beginning of the succeeding council.



Other reports

In addition to the usual reports by the President, the Commissions, the Directors of Permanent Institutions and the President of the FIG Foundation, reports were presented on:

- Cooperation with the UN and World Bank;
- Liaison with other International Professional Organizations;
- Task Force on Developing Global Land Tools for Pro Poor Land Management; and
- Task Force on Institutional and organizational Development.

Four new FIG publications were announced by the Council:

- FIG Work Plan for 2007 – 2010,
- FIG Statutes and Internal Rules and Guidelines,
- FIG Guidelines on Capacity Assessment in Land Administration, and
- Informal Settlements: The Road Towards More Sustainable Places.

2008 FIG Working Week online: Official minutes from this 2008 General Assembly and proceedings from this 2008 FIG Working Week, in digital form, may be obtained from the FIG web site www.fig.net.

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