



To all young surveyors and GIS professionals

In 2006, the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) held the first ever student meeting at a FIG Congress; this was perhaps the first ever meeting of international surveying and spatial young professionals. Since then, a small group of us (see our photo below) have developed a Young Surveyors Network to ensure ongoing “infiltration” of young people at FIG events!

Why is this important? A FIG Working Week is held internationally every year, and a Congress once every four years (like the Olympics, or Football World Cup!). Student and Young Professional attendees have been almost non-existent at these (and other international) events—they require funding and employer support to attend, which can be difficult to attain. Coincidentally, many countries (the U.S. included) are alarmed at the critically low numbers of surveying graduates. Are lack of support and unclear image to blame?

Our aim, then, as the FIG Young Surveyors Network is to facilitate local, regional, national and international relationships—across cultures and across generations. Since 2006 we have established a physical presence at FIG meetings, demonstrating to employers the value of their support to young employees. In 2010 we will host “Young Surveyors Beyond Horizons,” a tour by young people, for young people, to grow skills, knowledge and networks, and perhaps enhance your chance for sponsorship to attend the FIG World Congress in Sydney 2010.

Why you, why now? At the recent ESRI User Conference, an important meeting was held with the VIPs of the American survey-

ing and spatial world. As a result, a regional network of young surveyors will be established in the U.S. to reach out to similar regional networks being established internationally. We need YOU to get involved and make this happen. The U.S. regional network will be crucial in supporting our network internationally.

Importantly, the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) has offered to provide scholarships for 1 or 2 young Americans to attend the Young Surveyors



FIG Young Surveyors, from left: Thorsten Schwing (Germany), Cecilia Linden (Sweden), Kate Fairlie (Australia), Cemal Özgür Kivılcım (Turkey). Missing from Photo: Chris McAlister (Australia), Roman Pieczka (Poland) and Christian Tufvesson (Sweden).

Beyond Horizons and the FIG2010 World Surveying Congress in Sydney, Australia. At this conference we will be electing a whole new committee to set the bar for goals and achievements into 2014. To date there is no American on this committee....

So what now? Keep in touch with developments by joining our Yahoo! Group online: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FIG_young_surveyors.