



The FIG REPORT VOL. III, NO. 5

John D. Hohol, ACSM FIG Forum Head of Delegation



The previous FIG Report (ACSM Bulletin, August 2008) highlighted the 2008 FIG Working Week in Stockholm, Sweden. In this Report Curt Sumner (ACSM Delegate to FIG Commission 1- Professional Standards & Practice), Steven Frank (ACSM Delegate to Commission 2- Professional Education), and Chuck Pearson (ACSM Delegate to Commission 3- Spatial Information Management) give an account of their activities during the FIG Working Week in Stockholm.

Report from FIG Commission 1 (Professional Standards and Practice) — ACSM FIG Forum Delegate Curt Sumner

In the absence of Head of Delegation John Hohol, I served as the voting member of the ACSM FIG Forum delegation during the General Assembly meetings. This year, 52 associations were represented at the General Assembly. During the General Assembly meetings, members elected two FIG Vice Presidents and Commission Chairs-elect for each of the 10 FIG Commissions. Among those nominated for these positions were ACSM members Dave Doyle for Vice President and Steve Frank for Chair-elect for Commission 2, along with Steven Nystrom, representative of the Appraisal Institute, who was nominated for Chair-elect for Commission 9. Steve Frank was elected as Chair-elect for Commission 2. Unfortunately, neither Dave nor Steven was elected.

Commission 1 met on Sunday June 15 with approximately 30 people in attendance. Much of the discussion during the meeting focused on the continuing activities of the FIG Young Surveyors program. The young people in the program have been doing a very good job of organizing themselves. In fact, they presented several sessions during the week, focusing on their careers as surveyors in land management.

The Young Surveyors are also an integral part of "Speed Mentoring." This involves quick, informal encounters between professional surveyors and young surveyors, each driven by questions from the young surveyors rotating through the room among the professionals. I was fortunate to be able to participate in this activity on two occasions and found it to be very enlightening. I plan to introduce the concept of Speed Mentoring for use during upcoming ACSM conferences. It is a good way of interact with student at these conferences and introducing them to FIG.

I also will encourage the ACSM MOs that comprise the Forum to work toward sponsoring students for attendance at future FIG Working Weeks and conferences. This would provide an opportunity for students at American surveying colleges to become

involved in the Young Surveyors group, learn more about surveying worldwide, and create the possibility for foreign-exchange work opportunities.

Based on the experiences with the Young Surveyors group, we have already been able to connect surveyors in the U. S. with foreign students who wish to come to our country to complete their mandatory graduation requirement of working outside their country of residence.

Another issue that came up during the Commission 1 meeting was the idea of developing a definition for the professional surveyor as a member of society. This wouldn't be a definition of the mechanics of what surveyors do, but how we should function as citizens and professionals. I volunteered to participate in the development of this definition and look forward to working with others on this matter.

Among my other activities during the Working Week was attendance in the Presidents Meeting. This year, 52 representatives from 38 nations gathered for this meeting in which the organization from each country in attendance is given the opportunity to discuss any issue related to their national activities, or those of FIG. Many of the comments referred to fees and number of sessions offered, which reminded me of comments we hear regarding the ACSM and state surveying society conferences. The peer review process that FIG has implemented for the sessions seems to be working well. Other comments focused on the need for FIG to assist developing countries in promoting the importance of surveying to government entities, and in developing standards. Like in the U. S., justifying membership in FIG to those (in government or others) who pay for the dues and participation of representatives is sometimes a difficult task.

I look forward to the 2009 Working Week scheduled for May 3-8 in Eliat, Israel.

Report from FIG Commission 2 (Professional Education) — ACSM FIG Forum Delegate Steven Frank

Commission 2 met on Sunday, June 15, 2008, after the first General Assembly meeting. There were about 25 commission mem-

bers in the meeting. Reports were given on the successful workshops in Prague, Czech Republic, in June 2007 and in Enschede, Netherlands, prior to the Stockholm meeting. An announcement was made of a third Commission 2 workshop to be held in Vienna, Austria, at the end of February 2009.

The workshop in Prague had about 50 attendees and included 3 days of papers related primarily to education and curriculum.

The Enschede workshop had over 80 participants with three days of papers (mainly on e-learning), discussion groups, and hands-on computer sessions. One of the conclusions coming from this workshop was that e-learning by itself cannot provide the full and complete education needed by professional surveyors, although it can play an important part. There was much discussion about “blended” learning where the best of internet and classroom learning techniques are combined to produce maximum effectiveness.

The Vienna workshop will focus on program accreditation, student recruitment, and related issues. It is expected that surveying students from Austria will be heavily involved in this meeting, and there appears to be a commitment from several of the Young Surveyors group present in Stockholm to attend as well.

I was nominated as chair-elect for Commission 2. Since there was no other candidate, my election was automatic. My term as chair-elect will be from 2008 to 2010. I am expected to be the chair of Commission 2 during the 2010-2014 term.

I presented two papers to the Commission 2 sessions. The first paper dealt with program accreditation and dealt with the implementation of Outcomes Assessment by the Surveying Engineering program at New Mexico State University, which is part of the ABET accreditation process. The second paper introduced research being developed to try to formulate world standard criteria for surveying core knowledge. This was acknowledged to be a trying task due to the varying nature of different surveying sub-disciplines, but there seemed to be some enthusiasm for developing such a standard. ACSM is pursuing a similar goal.

Report from FIG Commission 3 (Spatial Information Management) — ACSM FIG Forum Delegate R. Charles Pearson

With several other delegation members, I attended the FIG Working Week in Stockholm June 14-19, 2008. In addition to the commission meeting, I attended the first General Assembly, the Opening Ceremony, two of three Plenary Sessions, several technical sessions, and the “Welcome Reception” at the Stockholm City Hall.

The FIG Commission 3 meeting was held in the afternoon of June 15. Much of the meeting consisted of brief oral reports by members about activities in their own countries. I provided a written report and responded to several questions. In the past, Commission 3 held its “Annual Meeting” during the working weeks; however, this practice has reverted back to having a separate meeting. Due to time constraints and financial considerations, attending these meetings is difficult.

Commission 3 Workshop

The Commission 3 Workshop, “Spatial Information Management Toward Environmental Management of Mega Cities,” which was held in Valencia, Spain February 18-21, 2008 in conjunction with

the “Spanish IX National Congress of Surveying Engineers TOP-CART 2008” was deemed highly successful. In addition to almost 500 Spanish participants, there were 78 international delegates registered from 28 countries. The workshop focused on how surveyors can, through SDI’s and good land administration, provide reliable spatial data and the means for planning, managing, and monitoring rapidly increasing urban areas.

The next Commission 3 workshop will be held in Mainz, Germany, February 2-4, 2009. Its topic is “Spatial Information for Sustainable Management of Urban Areas.”

Commission 3 Work Plan

The Commission’s work plan aims to achieve the following goals:

WG 3.1 e-Government and e-Citizen

- Report on Spatial Information within e-Government;
- Facilitate experience exchange in e-Government;
- Provide recommendations to SIM within e-Government development; low cost approaches for upgrading informal settlements.
- Contribute to the publication of “Spatial Information Toward Managing Mega Cities” to be presented in 2010 (all working groups);

WG 3.2 Spatial Data Infrastructure

- Support discussion on the role of local and regional SDI in managing mega cities;
- Identify specific technical innovations in SIM that can improve management of mega cities;
- Identify institutional, policy and legal frameworks that can be incorporated in SDI to address mega city issues related to sound land governance.

One of the specific work items of this working group is the use of SDI in managing mega cities. A group has been set up to identify relevant spatial tools that will support the development and use of SDI by cities. The WG will:

- Support discussion on the role of local and regional SDI in managing mega cities.
- Identify institutional, policy and legal frameworks that can be incorporated in SDI to address mega city issues.
- Identify specific technical innovations in Spatial Information Management that can improve management of mega cities.

WG 3.3 Multi Dimensional Aspects in SIM

- Methods for measuring and gathering 3D spatial information and databases;
- Increase the involvement of surveyors in development of data models;
- Bridging the gap between affordable shelter that is inadequate and adequate shelter that is unaffordable;
- Provide new methods and tools for citywide environmental monitoring of unplanned urban development.

For questions, comments, e-mail the head of the ACSM FIG delegation, John Hohol [jhohol@gmail.com]