

**Report to the 31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly  
FIG Working Week in Stockholm, Sweden, June 2008**

**ACCO Report**

This is an update report on some of the issues arising for ACCO since the report for the first General Assembly in Stockholm.

Work continued during the Working Week in Stockholm on improving the process for peer review of papers. The editorial group will continue with most of the same members and they met during the week. In coming weeks they will be defining the updated peer review process and timelines for the 2009 Working Week in Eilat. It was also noted that many Commissions have had positive feedback that the peer review process seems to have improved the overall quality of papers in Stockholm.

There was an improvement over previous events with the number of "no-shows", where authors of papers do not arrive to present their paper. This issue needs to be monitored but the steps taken for Stockholm seem to have been effective.

Also on programme matters, an issue raised in the Presidents' Meeting was that there are too many parallel sessions. Matt said that Council and ACCO understood this concern but that there were limits on what could be done. Some options include:

- Reject more papers - this is difficult for many people who need to be presenting a paper to gain travel funding to attend the event;
- Add one day to the programme so there would be a few less parallel sessions - that would add to the cost of attending the Working Week;
- Better use of poster sessions - see below;
- Encourage attendance by more National Delegates so that the learnings for a country does not only depend on the president attending as many sessions as possible - while this can be difficult for some countries, in the long run this is the most sustainable way to deal with the issue;
- Another suggestion from Gert Steinkellner from Austria was to consider cutting back on the GA agenda and trying to do the business in one session where possible. For example, this might be possible in Israel where there will be minimal voting in the GA. The time saved could then be devoted to technical sessions.

Matt also reported that the poster session trialled in Stockholm by Commission 5 seemed to go well. The topic was on GNSS reference station networks and the success was based on the good work before the conference to properly prepare with invited posters. Another good practice was to then schedule a facilitated workshop on the topic immediately following the poster session.

Matt closed his report by noting that in a presentation by Nokia it was stated that the production of GPS supported mobiles will increase to 35 million this year and within two-to-four years Nokia may be the biggest GNSS device producer, if Nokia's vision that up to 50% of handsets may be AGPS-capable (Michael Halbherr, Nokia Location Based Services) comes true. The keynote speaker on Galileo also spoke about the expected 3 billion users of GNSS enabled devices in the next 10 years. Technical experts present believe that within ten years such mobile phone positioning will have an accuracy of better than 10cm. Matt pointed out that the surveying profession has to realise that such huge numbers of spatially enabled users can be both a problem and an opportunity.