

Activities of Commission 2 for the Next Years

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SUMMARY

The paper gives an overview of the activities during the term of office 2002 – 2006, emphasizing the incoming activities, mainly in Africa, Asia and Latinamerica, trying to encourage attendants from the region to actively participate in these tasks because of the benefits for the different docent organizations in the region.

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1. THE MAIN ACTIVITIES IN COMMISSION 2.

The main aims of Commission 2 lie in the following topics:
Education and teaching methods; Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and training; the interaction between education, research and practice; encouragement of the exchange of students and personnel between countries.

2. COMMISSION 2 WORK PLAN FOR 2002 - 2006.

At the beginning of every term of office, all Commission Chairs should present before the General Assembly the so called “*Work Plan*” for the next four years. This Plan should be done bearing in mind the General Work Plan of the Council, trying to fulfil and help to reach its main objectives.

According to the previous Work Plan of Commission 2, the General Work Plan and the objectives fixed by the own Commission for the next term of office, it was established the structure of the Commission.

Such structure was developed according to the following:

2.1 Terms of Reference

- Learning and teaching methods
 - Contents
 - Continuing Professional Development
 - The interaction among education, research and practice
- and

2.2 Mission Statement

- Methods and content of education
- Interaction between Academia and practice
- Academic and professional profiles
- Accessible knowledge
- Educational links
- Cooperation

and organized in the following:

2.3 Working Groups

WG 2.1.- Virtual Academy

Chairs: Prof. Henrik Haggrén, Finland
Prof. Esben Munk Sorensen, Denmark

WG 2.2.- Curricula Models and CPD

Chair: Prof. Frank Kenselaar, The Netherlands

WG 2.3.- Mutual Recognition

Chair: Dr. Frances Plimmer, UK

WG 2.4.- Knowledge in Spatial Information Management

Chair: Prof. Bela Markus, Hungary

WG 2.5.- Capacity building in Land Management

Chair: Prof. Ulf Jensen, Sweden

WG 2.1 was inherited from the past period with the same Chairs; this WG has been very active in so important, modern and promising topic. In the next Working Week, to be held in Athens next year, there will be a Symposium on this subject.

The former Task Force on “Mutual Recognition” was transformed in a WG, maintaining the same Chair, because of the enormous importance of this topic for our professionals all over the world.

WG 2.2, because Prof. Kenselaar, for personal and professional reasons, had to leave his duties as Chair of the Group, was dissolved and its contents divided into WG 2.3 and 2.4.

All WG have their own Policy issues, Structure, Specific Projects, will organize a Symposium and give a Final Report or prepare a Publication.

The first three WG are “own” ones, being the two last “Joint WG” with Commissions 3 and 7.

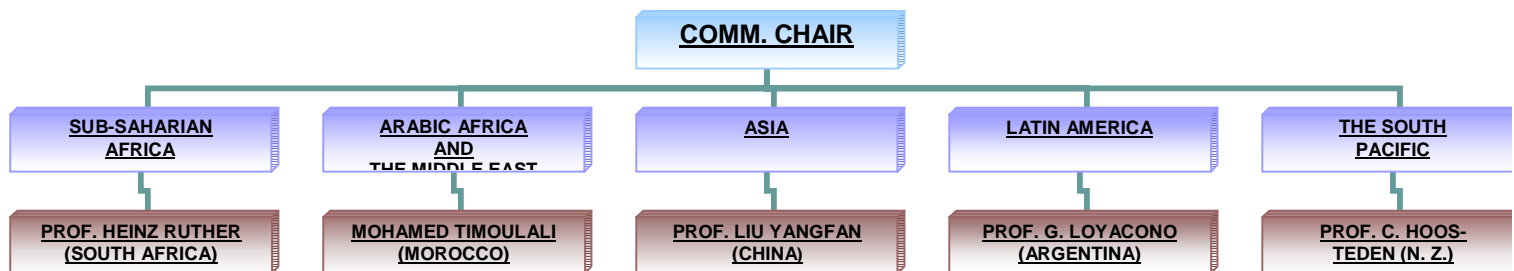
Commission 2 has, as main objectives, increasing our cooperation with the sister organizations, reinforcing links with ICA, IGA, ISPRS, etc; only mutual benefits can be got from such strong cooperation.

Commission 2 will contribute in projects of the *UN* Agencies, such as *UN – HABITAT* and *FAO*, on the request of the Council in the Educational field. As an example Commission 2, during the past June, was participating, invited by the organizers, in a Symposium on “Land Administration in Central America”, held in Guatemala and with participants from all the Central-American countries, included México. The creation of the Profession and University Studies of Surveying in such a countries is one of the most challenging goals for this Commission; only Costa Rica and Panamá give this degree at University level; our idea

would be to expand our studies to, at least, a couple of countries more; Guatemala has a very advanced project and El Salvador could be a good candidate as well. A big economic and personal effort should be done by national and international institutions to get a successful end.

One of the main focuses of the new Commission 2 team was to establish “Educational Networks” in the different parts of the world, in such a way that we could get appropriate information about the state of the art in our professional studies; in which countries our profession does exist, which kind of professional education can be found there, how is the present and the future,...So we could get a better and deeper knowledge of ourselves in all continents; a better knowledge would lead us to an easier and more fluid cooperation, when needed; the regional similarities, idiosyncrasies, languages, etc could facilitate such improvement in our mutual knowledge and, consequently, a better and more appropriate help and support. For example, to know the number of new students per year, the number and qualification of the Docent Staff, the docent equipment in every University Department, Faculty or similar Centre, the level of the programmes, the curricula, the possibilities of getting the highest levels (Master and Doctorate courses), the chances of getting a professional job after University, what about CPD, etc.

Trying to start with this “project” Commission 2 established, for the first time in the FIG history, the nominated “*LIAISON GROUPS*”, with a leader for each and spread out all over the continents, according to the following scheme



Although in Commission 2 we would have liked to start with all Groups at the same time it was impossible; not all Leaders had chances of starting early, not all the regions offered the same possibilities and facilities, even not all involved people showed the same interest.

So we had to start in Latinamerica, where the needs were as big as in other regions, but the facilities were total and immediate.

In Latinamerica commission 2 has organized several events, all of them related to Education, starting with a Symposium in the School of Surveying of the National University of Rosario (Argentina), which was a success, from any point of view, mainly bearing in mind that this was the first FIG event organized in such a continent at Commission level (information about this event can be found in the FIG web site).

In Rosario it was agreed to have a second symposium in Puerto Rico two years later; this was a really successful Symposium organized by Commissions 1 & 2 and with the presence of the FIG President Mr. Robert Foster. During this Symposium, before the strength of the profession, the many educational and professional problems, the unbelievable wishes of our colleagues to work for the profession, for solving their problems and to know and help each other, it was decided to create a Working Group on “The studies of Surveying in Latinamerica” and another one on “The profession of Surveyor in Latinamerica”; the aims of both WGs were to know and analyze the problems in both fields (educational and professional), to establish thematic networks and try to help, when and where necessary, all our colleagues in that countries.

The Chairmanship of the WG on “The studies of Surveying in Latinamerica” was offered to Prof. Huerta, from Rosario University, former Leader of the Liaison Group for Latinamerica, but, unfortunately, he had to refuse because of a very serious illness which has stopped his work in the University for a long time; so the Chairmanship was offered to Prof. Graciela Loyácono, from Córdoba University (Argentina), who accepted her nomination.

This WG had a meeting in Córdoba with the members elected in Puerto Rico last February, in order to organize the work to do, to establish the goals to reach, the work methodology, to distribute responsibilities and countries of action for everyone and to fix the next meeting, bearing in mind that our proposal is to present the last report in a Regional Meeting to be held in Brazil in 2005. The idea is to get the widest and deepest knowledge about the state of the art in our Latinamerican Universities in the field of Surveying; this knowledge will allow a better knowledge of each other and the offers in education in every country and University, facilitating, so, the mobility of Professors and students in their continent without the need, when possible, of moving far from home, to countries with a different language, culture, idiosyncrasy, etc., making much easier to get Master an PhD degrees in more friendly environments.

The works seem to be going very well, with a lot of information in our hands, with problems in getting information in some countries, but with a more than reasonable results at this moment. The next meeting will be held in Costa Rica next February and, with the information got, we will try to produce a report useful for our colleagues in that continent.

At the same time we are carrying out a project trying to facilitate to the Faculties, Schools and Departments of Surveying in that countries docent equipments with second hand instruments (total stations, levels, GPS receivers, etc.); this project is supported by Leica Company; they will send, at very low prices, that second hand instruments they take away from the market. Carrying on with the project is not an easy task, we are finding some unexpected problems, but we are optimistic regarding its future. If this project is a reasonable success, its “philosophy” could be applied to other geographic realities.

In Asia Prof. Yanfang, from Wuhan University, Chairs the Liaison Group for that continent; in the past she organized a very successful symposium in her University and is now organizing a new one for the next year.

The goal of this LG, as in the others, is to establish links among the different Centres of Education in Surveying, in such a way that we could facilitate the knowledge of each other and the mobility of our colleagues, Professors and Students. The immediate step is to establish contacts with Universities in India, Mongolia, Vietnam, Japan and all others countries where we know our profession has a University degree or they are in the way to get it.

In the South Pacific LG we started, after the Paris WW, to maintain contacts with our colleagues of Fiji Islands, who are now trying to implement their first studies in Surveying, although, for the moment, at under-university level; we have had several contacts with them and our idea is to give them our widest support in all senses.

Both LGs for Africa have been, until now, with a very low activity; nevertheless it should be said that this meeting started under Mr. Timoulali's "push" and idea, supported by our Commission, although the importance of the region made that the Council take the responsibility of its organization.

In Commission 2 we think that it could be organized a similar project to that in Latinamerica; that is: to establish an Educational Thematic Network, open to all North African and the Middle East countries, where the circumstances of language, idiosyncrasy, way of living, etc. are rather similar and where the benefits could be of substantial value for our colleagues.

What have we to do?; first of all, to find volunteers, mainly from the University and Educational world, with interest in working in this project; to create the adequate Working Group (or whatever the name); to fix the goals to achieve, the methodology of research and work, the calendar of meetings, bearing in mind that Munich 2006 Congress should be the event to give the final report and to elect a Chair for this WG, plenty of enthusiasm, time and facilities to develop the project and help the others when needed.

If we do as proposed we could have a better knowledge of the educational problems in this region, the real situation of the profession and its education, the present and future of our students and educational Centres (tendency in the number of new students per year, facilities for education, level of this, docent equipment, number and level of the Educational staff, number of University and not University Centres in each country, need of higher level programmes, such as Master and PhD, etc).

Other proposal is to invite as many Universities as possible to become "University Members" of the FIG; the advantages, duties, etc. can be found in the FIG web page; so the participation of these countries in our events, projects, works, very low today, could be significantly increased, what would be very positive and profitable for all of us.

During this Symposium there will be a round table on "Education in Africa"; it is hoped to get a deep knowledge about the state of the art in the continent, to open lines of activity for the future, to start searching solutions for the problems of all kind in the Educational world and to adopt the compromise of giving our best efforts to help our colleagues where and how it would be necessary.

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