

## **FIG Commission 2**

### **Report of the Working Week 2004 in Athens**

The FIG Working Week 2004 took place from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2004 in Athens, Greece. The Working Week was organized by the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG) and the Hellenic Association of Rural and Surveying Engineers (HARSE) together with FIG.

Commission 2 had three sessions, one of these jointly with Commission 1, with ten papers in total. There were three papers given by students, two from Lund University, Sweden, and one from Warsaw University of Technology, Poland. In the paper given by the Swedish students the need for involving more students from all over the world in the FIG events was stressed. The way to do this was afterwards discussed based on the very little successful experiences of the past, bearing in mind that one of the first times we tried to get students to a Congress was in 1986, in Toronto. A good number of students participated in this Congress, but this experience was, however, not repeated in the following Congresses.

The difficulties of maintaining a close and fluent contact with the students' organizations and of funding their participation were underlined; anyway, the idea was to try to get contacts with IGSO (International Geodetic Students Organization) with the Swedish students trying to contact such organization.

There was a Commission 2 delegates meeting, held on Sunday afternoon, with the participation of more than twelve people. The delegates were informed about the activities developed, or being developed, by Commission 2 in The South Pacific area, in Africa and Latin America.

The South Pacific Commission 2 is trying to help countries in that region to develop studies of Surveying where they do not exist or have problems and where they wish to get them; some contacts have been made with representatives of that region and we will continue trying.

During the Marrakech Regional Conference Prof. Heinz Rüter from the Cape Town University explained the situation of the surveyors' education in Africa. At a round table was organized in Morocco, which was chaired by Prof. Holger Magel, President of FIG, and in a meeting with experts from Africa, organized by Commission 2, it was decided to establish the African Educational Network to know the state of the art, to try to organize some common core curriculum (if possible and desirable) and to give the maximum support from FIG and the international organizations with good relations with our Federation (UN, WB, USAID,...).

It was decided to split the whole continent in two different parts: the North African and the Gulf countries, chaired by Prof. Semlali, from Rabat University, and the Sub-Saharan countries, chaired by Prof. Rüter, both working in very close contact. A questionnaire was designed which has been sent to more than 50 universities in the continent. Unfortunately only one filled-in reply has been received (from Kuwait University) and in addition four letters from the Sub-Saharan countries saying they are

interested in the project. This is not a very good result, but the network will continue its work and try to do their best. I would dare to ask all members of the African professional associations and universities to collaborate in something that we are convinced will be very beneficial for that continent. In few weeks we will resend the questionnaire.

Regarding Latin America it should be said that last April the second meeting of the Committee working in the regional Educational Network took place. According to the work developed we expect to get the final report ready to be given at the Regional Conference to be held next year in that continent. (All information about this item can be found on the Commission 2 web page).

Prof. Esben Munk Sørensen, Vice-Chair of Commission 2, reported about the workshop on “Virtual Academy” to be held next year during the Working Week in Cairo; invitations to participate will be sent within short.

Prof. Bela Markus reported as well activities developed by his WG and the programme for the next years.

During the second General Assembly meeting Prof. Bela Markus, Hungary, was elected Chair Elect to Commission 2 (incoming Chair from the Munich Congress in 2006). Prof. Markus is very well known in our Commission where he has been contributing for many years with excellent papers, ideas and works and we are sure that he will be an excellent Chair of our Commission in the next times. Our warmest welcome to this post, Prof. Markus, and we are sure that FIG has made an excellent choice.

In the second General Assembly meeting there was the possibility of asking the Commission Chairs questions from participants. There were two for Commission 2, one related to the importance of the Bologna process and another one about Virtual Academy and Students.

Once there is a new Chair Elect we will discuss and prepare the next steps to be given in the future regarding the “old” items as well as starting with new ones, with new activities and trying to open, even more, our Commission to all colleagues interested in it.

Madrid, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2004

Prof. Pedro J. Caverio  
Chair of Commission 2