



FIG COMMISSION 8 Spatial Planning & Development

To : Delegates, Correspondents and Friends of FIG Commission 8
cc : FIG Office Copenhagen
From : Chairman Dr Diane Dumashie
Subject : Newsletter September 2005

Dear All,

Greetings and best wishes to you all, much is set to consolidate and change over the next 15 months as we prepare to deliver the Working Group outputs and devise and agree the forthcoming work plan. This is set against a backdrop of potential changes for FIG as well as our Commission. This newsletter has three purposes:

- To ask for your participation in these Changing structures,
- To report on recent Commission activity, and
- To inform you of future events both in the wider network and our own Commission.

1. Changing Structures

Task Force on Governance Structure – Request for feedback to questionnaire

At the FIG General Assembly in Cairo a Task Force on Governance Structure was established and is Chaired by Ken Allred. Its work is to review FIG's Statutes and Internal Rules to ensure that they enable effective governance of the Federation, and to review Commission structures and the term of office of Commission Chairs.

A questionnaire has been developed with an invitation to all member associations and interested parties to participate in this by providing feedback by 1st October 2005. The intention is to review feedback and the findings will be further debated at the FIG Congress in Munich in October 2006, with the aim of making decisions at the Hong Kong meeting in May 2007.

Please refer to FIG web site (www.fig.net) or return your comments direct to [***gkallred@telusplanet.net***](mailto:gkallred@telusplanet.net)

Commission Structure

In view of the above Task force on Governance structure, it is timely to update you on our own ongoing commission review.

Regretfully, very few responses were received from the last call to engage you and your colleagues, with no response to Andreas Drees (Vice President) letter sent to each Member Associations at the beginning of Year 2005.

We are very pleased that you and your colleagues are all prepared to sign up for this Commission and we get very good attendance at the Working Week technical sessions, but the Commission relies on continuity between the working weeks, without you, there will be no activity. The problem is not one of interest in our work. So the problem appears to be identifying active persons who are able to support the ongoing Commission work by being involved in Working Groups, either as a corresponding member or part of the 'core group'.

Understanding that there are increasing pressures on all our time, new ways have to be found to encourage and re engage you and other country delegates. In order to lay the foundation for our next Chairman, Simon Adcock, actions from you to assist this includes:

- Feedback on topics that interest you,
- Ideas on forming e- dialogues and networks,
- Devising the next work plan that takes on board your needs and ideas,
- Continuing efforts at Regional weeks to promote the Commission and continue with specific technical session, seminars, breakfast and roundtables meetings.

New plan proposals 2006- 2010

Work has progressed to develop this plan. It will be agreed in May – June 2006, in preparation for presentation and acceptance at Congress in Munich 2006.

We've now had two roundtable discussions (Jakarta, and Cairo), so again, in Ghana the administrative session will continue to evolve this plan. This final round table discussion will be led by Simon Adcock (incoming chair).

In the meantime, it is intended to circulate a final draft list early in 2006, for your further input. It is of vital importance that you inform this decision making process. Do let us know your views and ideas for topics and if you are able to lead any e dialogues and/ or meetings or alternatively which topics you'd be happy to be a corresponding member.

2. Commission Activity

Chair Elect

The formalities of welcoming Simon Adcock (Australia) have been completed but it is pertinent to record in our newsletter his appointment and wish him success in his role. He is currently working hard to form the new Commission Structure. Do expect further correspondence from him early in the New Year.

Welcome to New Members

It is with pleasure and we extend a warm welcome to new Commission 8 members joining us from:

- Austria - Peter Belada.
- Serbia and Montenegro - Dr. Milan Trifković

Working Groups

Both working groups (8.3 & 8.4) are active with delegates engaged;

WG 8.3 continues to liaise with *UN Habitat*. The period during June- August was quite, but it is anticipated that discussion may once again resume over the next few months. The focus on the impact that Surveyor Planners can have in the development of urban and rural areas in the context of assisting the UN is of great importance and considered worthwhile by UN Habitat officers. This opportunity will continue over the next 12 months and your participation on feedback will continue to be welcomed, do let me know by email if you wish to be involved and I'll ensure you are included in the mailings.

In the meantime, **World Habitat Day** is on Monday 3rd October. The theme this year is the Millennium Development Goals and the City. See www.unhabitat.org/whd

WG 8.4 web site (link via www.fig.Net) is a good means to keep abreast of activity.

Ad Hoc WG- Disaster Management. Prompted by WG 8.4 activities, ad hoc liaison is growing from an umbrella group – Gi4DM. This is a promising area for our commission and over the next few years is likely to grow in its activity. Unfortunately neither Theo Kotter (Chair WG 8.4) or myself are able to continue monitoring the flow of emails and we need some assistance.

If you or your member colleagues are interested in this field do contact me or Theo for a briefing. I would anticipate that over the next 12 months it is only necessary to monitor, with an opportunity to build this into a WG post October 2006.

Cairo April 2005

Comm 8 administrative session was well attended with many new comers from both the North Africa region as well as International delegates. The full report has been submitted to FIG HQ and is now on the web site.

Proposed UK Seminar 2005

This seminar was finally cancelled, but not until it gathered momentum with eight delegates confirming attendance, then in the next moment some of these delegates pulled out, with only another three coming forward which was not sufficient to continue. At the eleventh hour it was a shame to cancel but the positive lesson is that small seminars involving different nations is possible and it is hoped that this idea may be progressed in the next term.

Continuing this seminar theme, it is proposed to organise an Environmental and Regeneration seminar at the next regional conference in Ghana 2006. More information will be circulated to you as matters are progressed.

3. Future Events

Regional Working Weeks

There were two working weeks proposed prior to the Congress in October 2006.

The first was in Cuba, the second in Ghana. Unfortunately as announced on the FIG web page the WW Havana, Cuba (26- 29th September 2005) was regretfully cancelled but I'm pleased to inform you that the Ghanaian Local organising committee is working hard to hold the 5th Regional conference in 2006 (8th- 11th March 2006)

5th FIG Regional Conference, Accra, Ghana: Promoting land information and good governance.

The focus of the will be on Land administration and good governance as conditions for sustainable development, full details are available on the web site.

In addition to the proposed Environment and Regeneration and planning seminar, particular areas of interest for Comm 8 members will include:

- Modern technology and land administration
- Urban-rural interrelationship in land administration
- Mine surveying

All members are encouraged to consider presenting a paper. It is worthwhile reminding your colleagues that the papers achieve a worldwide circulation. There are two formal means of getting your paper noticed.

First all papers are made available in a new web based library administered by FIG central office, follow the links to the FIG Surveyors Reference Library. In addition, in the past, all submitted papers are distributed during the conference on CD. Second it is for the Commission Chair to nominate exceptional papers.

Please note that the deadline for abstracts is 10 November 2005, with final full papers (not exceeding 15 pages) due 10 January 2006.

Funding,

- Commission 8 funds are available for student registration fees.
- FIG Secretariat funds may be available to speakers from developing countries. Please contact the conference organisers direct.

Social/ Administration

- It is known that the Commission administrative meeting is now well established, but
- What is less well known is that over the past two years a joint Commission 8 & 9 supper is organized free of charge to attending members. This was hosted by Comm 9 in Cairo 2005, and so it is our turn to extend the invitation and host this supper in Ghana 2006. We look forward to greeting you next year.

Best Wishes,

Dr D Dumashie, Commission 8 Chairman