

Building the Capacity

Report of the International Federation of Surveyors, FIG.

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The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) is the premier international organisation representing the interests of surveyors worldwide. It is a federation of the national member associations from more than 100 countries throughout the world.

The Role of FIG

Fig's activities are governed by a work plan, which is regularly reviewed against a longer-term strategic plan. The current work plan 2007-2010 is entitled "Building the Capacity". In general, FIG strives to enhance the global standing of the profession through both education and practice, increase political relations both at national and international level, help eradicating poverty, promote democratisation, and facilitate economic, social and environmental sustainability. FIG facilitates capacity development in three ways:

- **Professional development:** FIG provides a global forum for discussion and exchange of experiences and new developments between member countries and between individual professionals in the broad areas of surveying and mapping, spatial information management, and land management. This relates to the FIG annual and regional conferences and to the work of the ten technical committees that offers opportunities for member associations and individual land professionals to take part in the development of all aspects of surveying disciplines and practice. The recent FIG Congress in Sydney, April 2010, attracted more than 2,200 participants from 100 countries and the technical programme included more than 800 presentations.
- **Institutional development:** FIG provides institutional support to individual member countries or regions with regard to developing the basic capacity in terms of educational programs and professional organizations. This is achieved partly through the commissions and also through task forces and through institutional support directly to especially developing countries. FIG has produced a range of publications providing standard and guidelines on education, ethics, mutual recognition, capacity assessment and development, etc. These publications are all available online at the FIG website.
- **Global development:** FIG provides a global forum for institutional development through cooperation with the United Nations Agencies such as FAO, UN- HABITAT and the World Bank, and also sister organisations such as GSDI, ISPRS, IAG, ICA, and IHO. The cooperation includes a whole range of activities such as joint projects and joint policy making addressing topical issues on the international political agenda towards reduction of poverty and delivery of sustainable development. FIG is strongly committed to the global agenda as represented by the Millennium Development Goals and other new challenges such as climate change and disaster risk management etc.

Ten technical commissions

Ten commissions lead Fig's technical and professional work. Each member association appoints a delegate to each of the commissions covering all professional areas of surveying activities:

- Commission 1: Professional practice
- Commission 2: Professional Education
- Commission 3: Spatial Information Management
- Commission 4: Hydrography
- Commission 5: Positioning and Measurement
- Commission 6: Engineering Surveys
- Commission 7: Cadastre and Land Management
- Commission 8: Spatial Planning and Development
- Commission 9: Valuation and the Management of Real Estate
- Commission 10: Construction Economics and Management

The work of the commissions is the very heart and engine of FIG and provides the opportunity for the wider membership to participate and get engaged and involved and build relations and networks that can improve their professional standing and businesses. While the general FIG agenda has a global and very wide perspective the commissions provide the platform also for in-depth professional discussions and development. Detailed information on the work of the commissions, their work plans, working groups, seminars, newsletters and publications can be found at the FIG website.

Key achievements

Over this term of Office 2007-10 FIG has achieved a range of objectives:

- *Focus on the global agenda:* FIG has developed the recognition of the surveying profession at the UN agency level as the key professionals in dealing with land issue in relation to the global agenda such as the Millennium Development Goals. This includes activities such as the joint FIG/UN-HABITAT seminar on "Improving Slum Conditions through Innovative Financing" in Stockholm in June 2008 and the joint FIG/World Bank conference on "Land Governance in Support of the Millennium Development Goals" in Washington in March 2009.
- *Focus on projects:* FIG is committed to the UN-Habitat Global land Tool network and has undertaken a range a projects in relation to gender equity, informal development, and security of social tenure in slums and customary tenure areas. FIG has also worked closely with FAO in relation the developing the "Voluntary guidelines for security of tenure to land and other natural resources".
- *Focus on Young Surveyors:* FIG has established a Network for Young Surveyors to enhance activities and interactions between "experienced" and "younger" surveyors including surveying students. This network provides a very vital platform for young surveyors to better engage in the work of FIG through a range of activities towards bridging the gap between generations and building the capacity for meeting the challenges of the future.
- *Focus on Africa:* A recent Africa Task Force has been established for 2009-2014. The key purpose is to enable the surveying profession in Sub Saharan Africa to deal with social responsibility in terms of contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The Task Force is chaired by Dr. Diane Dumashie, UK. Key areas to be addressed will be peri-urban development, environmental resilience, and the involvement of young surveyors and women.

- *Focus on professional development:* FIG has look at enhancing the high level interaction with the global surveying community though annual and regional conferences. This also includes a focus on quality by introducing peer review papers for the annual conferences to improve quality and enabling the academic sector to participate
- *Focus on publications and communication:* FIG has strived to document new knowledge as an outcome of the work of the council, task forces, and the commissions. This may be in terms of policy documents, guidelines, or reports. In total 15 publications have been published during this term of office. They are all available on line through the FIG website.

Information and communication

Easy access to Information and communication is crucial for running a global organization. The FIG website www.FIG.net is the core tool in this regard. FIG also produces a range of publications to address core professional issues developed by the commissions, disseminate standards and guidelines provided by task forces, and policy statements deriving from council activities. All publications are available online at the FIG website.





www.FIG.net



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FIG has established an Africa Task Force with a key focus on developing the capacity of the surveying profession in Sub Saharan Africa to respond to the Millennium Development Goals