

Commission 1

Newsletter



Introduction

Welcome to the first Commission 1 Newsletter of the new quadrennial cycle. It is a privilege to have the trust of the membership that allowed me to be elected to this position for the ensuing 4 years. Like everyone in this busy world, there are pressures of everyday, and the ability to find productive quality time to devote to voluntary, albeit professional, activities is a challenge we all share. However, involvement in professional activities beyond the workplace is also an essential part of being a professional surveyor, or a member of any other profession. I hope we can interest members of Commission 1 to engage with the small number of active members to build a more vibrant part of the greater organisation. Firstly for our own benefit and understanding, but also for my successor to inherit going forward into the 2020s. I am pleased to have Winnie Shiu from Hong Kong assisting me as Vice Chair Administration and Communication, along with those Working Group Chairs listed below.

Pre-meeting in Melbourne

In early December 2014 I was in Melbourne on other business, and since the Commission has a strong South Pacific flavour in its driving force at the moment I took a brief time out with three of the Working Group Chairs.



(Robyn McCutcheon, co-Chair, Women in Surveying; Brian Coutts, Commission Chair; Don Grant, Chair, International Boundaries; Malcolm McCoy, Chair, Engaging Private Practice).

We have the advantage of knowing each other very well and had an enjoyable discussion about Commission activities as a fore-runner to taking up office in the new year.

The Work Plan

The Work Plan for the Commission identifies 5 Working Groups. These are:

WG 1.1 International Ethical Standards



Chair: Gary Strong
UNITED KINGDOM
Email: gstrong@rics.org

WG 1.2 Women in Surveying



Co-chair: Robyn McCutcheon
AUSTRALIA
Email: robyn.mccutcheon@gmail.com



Co-chair: Winnie Shiu
HONG KONG
Email: [mwinneshiu@gmail.com](mailto:mwinnieshiu@gmail.com)

WG 1.3 International Boundary Settlement and Demarcation



Chair: Don Grant
AUSTRALIA
Email: donald.grant@rmit.edu.au

WG 1.4 Forum on the Engagement of Private Practitioners



Convenor: Malcolm McCoy
AUSTRALIA
Email: m.mccoy@aamgroup.com

WG 1.5 Forum on Mutual Recognition



Convenor: Kate Fairlie
AUSTRALIA
Email: kfairlie@landequity.com.au

Each of these Chairs would welcome input from any members of the Commission around the world. Please feel free to contact them directly if you wish to join the Working Group or Forum or are able to contribute to and participate in any of them in any way. They are all looking to engage more people in their work.

Sofia 2015 Working Week

Two Commission I technical sessions were run as well as one joint session with Commission 2 (Education). The Commission Open Meeting in Sofia attracted only a small number of delegates but was useful in spreading and sharing the Work Plan for the 2015-18 period with the members present. It was

followed by a commission Dinner. Since our numbers were relatively few, we combined with Commission 2 for an enjoyable social evening.



Recovery from disaster

Christchurch 2016 Working Week

The next Working Week, as you are all very aware, will take place in Christchurch in May of next year. The Call for Abstracts has been out for some time and will close shortly. I would like to encourage papers for our technical sessions particularly on the topics identified in the Work Plan and convened by the Commission WG Chairs (as listed above). This is particularly important as these papers will contribute to the overall value we all get from the WG outputs, add value to our membership of the Commission for all of us, and add a much needed vibrancy to the Commissions activity and that of FIG itself.

However, Commission members should also feel encouraged to contribute papers on any other topics that they feel fall within the ambit of the Commission's wider mission statement.

A small word of advice to those travelling to New Zealand for next year's event. Make sure that you make your applications for visas

early. New Zealand, being a small country, has a limited number of High Commissions and Embassies. Also it is preferable to avoid flights that transit through Australia. Australian immigration law requires visas for transit passengers. So landing in Australia, even just as a transit passenger, will complicate your travel arrangements and organisation. Auckland and Christchurch are the major international hubs for New Zealand, and of course, flying directly into Christchurch will save you an internal flight of about an hour and a half, so reduce your travel time, but may also reduce the cost of your travel.

I look forward to welcoming you all to a very successful and interesting Working Week in Christchurch in May, 2016.

Brian Coutts
Chair
Commission
Nov 2015