

### Commission 10 (Construction Economics & Management)

At the working week in Cairo in April 2005, members of the local organising committee (LOC) of the Ghanaian Institution of Surveyors (GhIS) discussed the inclusion of Commission 10 content in their regional conference. It was agreed that this would be expected to be primarily of papers from Ghanaian and Nigerian QSs but others would be welcome, whether or not from Africa. During November 2005, contact was made with the LOC, the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS) and other Commission 10 delegates. This was reinforced by the FIG secretariat's visit to Accra in December 2005, when the FIG Director was promised the LOC would ensure the authoring and presentation of papers.

In the event, there were no papers coming from member associations and, therefore, no allocation of 'space' in the technical sessions for a Commission 10 programme. The all day ACCO meeting on 7 March was, as always, an interesting meeting with mostly thoughtful and objective comment from all present. A point well made at this meeting was that not all commissions can expect to be very active and high profile; for some 'less is more' — provided the output quality is excellent.

A meeting was arranged with representatives from the GhIS QS division and three members of the NIQS (at peak there were, probably, 25 QSs in attendance — this was most welcome but somewhat unexpected!). It was a very useful meeting but what was immediately clear from discussions was that those QSs considered the meetings and proceedings of the International

Cost Engineering Council (ICEC) to be more appropriate to their aspirations for membership, participation and recognition in international surveying matters than those of FIG. Nonetheless, it was agreed to continue the dialogue and it is for Commission 10 to enthuse them that their international aspirations can be met by FIG.

### Summary

A prime advantage of the working week in Ghana was, once again, meeting old friends and making new contacts in one's area of interest. Many useful leads arise from such casual and unexpected contacts and often lead to future co-operation and collaboration.

A key benefit is the networking that is possible with like minds from almost anywhere in the world, and it is hoped that this report will go some way to capturing on paper what was an extremely busy week. FIG is a thriving organisation and one in which ICES and RICS continue to play a key part.

*Conference proceedings and papers are available on the FIG website, along with full information about the organisation, member bodies, events and the fascinating 'article of the month' page: [www.fig.net](http://www.fig.net) Alternatively, those without website access can contact ICES HQ for a CD of the conference papers. Thanks to Alan Wright and Andrew Morley for the photographs.*

## FIG Commission 10: Construction economics and management — An explanation of the present and agenda for the future

*A closer look at one of the FIG commissions from Andrew W Morley FInstCES, Chairman Elect, Commission 10, and John MD Bacon FInstCES, ICES President*

**C**OMMISSION 10 exists, in the first instance, as a result of the breadth of scope of the survey activities of some of FIG's founding and longer standing member associations. The commission had existed for some years prior to the Washington Congress in 2002, but only as an ad-hoc commission.

Construction economics is a collective title grouping together a number of professions as they exist in the construction industries of most countries of the world. Very broadly, the science embraces all aspects of budget, cost and value management, quantification of works, tendering (bidding) and contract administration as they apply to construction of the infrastructure and buildings of the built environment. Its practitioners may be called construction economists in some countries

but elsewhere they may be known as quantity surveyors or building surveyors or cost managers; all are equally appropriate and valid.

Management, as associated with construction economics, is using the knowledge and expertise of trained practitioners to achieve the required commercial and contractual outcomes to the construction process. This encompasses formulating procurement strategies and negotiating the terms and conditions of and managing contracts through to their final settlement. It has evolved as a distinct profession whereby the skills may be applied to manage any contracting situation to achieve planned objectives and the optimum commercial result. The title 'commercial manager' is now used widely to convey the breadth of the skill set of the experienced practitioner.



*Andrew Morley FInstCES (centre), as chairman-elect of FIG Commission 10, with representatives from the Ghanaian and Nigerian QS institutions at the recent working week in Ghana.*

The function of Commission 10 is to provide within FIG the forum for the study and discussion of all issues related to construction economics and commercial management. The current challenge is to invigorate Commission 10 with an agenda that addresses the relevant issues of the 21st Century and fosters participation in its activities so that, as an active part of FIG, its work will benefit all in the global surveying community.

### The need for Commission 10

FIG colleagues are, at some time, all closely involved with contracts — whether they are for the supply of their own services to clients or the procurement of goods and services from others. The surveyors and project advisors of the 21st century need to be fully conversant with all aspects of project realisation and implementation. This requires substantial knowledge of the whole