

# FIG WORKING WEEK 2004 – THE OLYMPIC SPIRIT IN SURVEYING

Ruth Adams

**S**un, sea and ..... surveying! This May saw over 400 surveyors, from over 65 countries, congregate in Athens for the annual FIG Working Week (Fédération Internationale des Géomètres). As ever there was lively debate, both during the conference and out of session. Over 200 papers were presented covering a whole plethora of surveying topics, and all can be found on the FIG website, [www.fig.net](http://www.fig.net).

Ruth Adams attended on behalf of the RICS participating in Commission 4 (Hydrography).

The plenary session, (which Ruth would have made if she hadn't been stuck in the hotel lift!), saw presentations from Prof Beulter, President of the IAG, and Dr Camecho-Lara, the director of UN OOSA, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. It is excellent to see support from such key organisations for the work of FIG.

Ruth took part in the workshop on underrepresented groups in surveying. This mainly focused on raising the ratio of women in surveying; it is holding its first virtual board from 5-9th July 2004. More details can be found at [www2.shu.ac.uk/hosted/netSurve](http://www2.shu.ac.uk/hosted/netSurve).

## Commission 4 Activities



Commission 4 gathers

Commission 4 had an excellent conference! The planning of the papers was well thought out – we had a full hydro day on Tuesday 25 May that left us free to attend a technical tour on the Wednesday. This was a great idea; far better than spreading the Comm 4 sessions over two or three days. It also meant that those delegates with time pressures could fly in just for the main hydro day and catch the majority of the Comm 4 presentations.



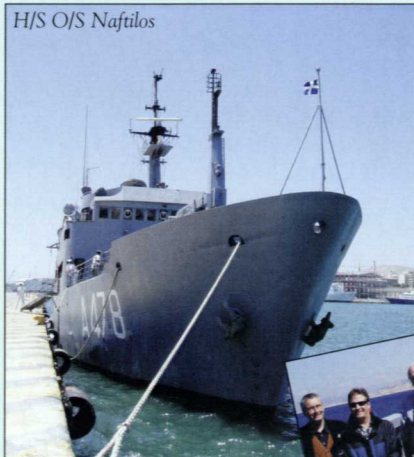
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## Hydro Workshop Day – Tuesday 25 May

Comm 4 held a 'One Day Hydro Workshop' on the Tuesday consisting of 10 papers over three technical sessions that were all well attended. Subjects covered ranged from hydrography and charting, through to marine cadastre and onto vertical reference frames. This last session saw presentations from Steve Shipman, IHB and Ruth Adams which turned into an excellent round-table discussion on vertical reference surfaces in the marine world. Ruth is currently preparing a white paper on this important topic, the latest version of which can be found on the FIG website. Your comments would be most welcome.

The highlight of the day was the signing of the new FIG/IHO MoU, which will allow closer co-operation in areas of mutual interest.

## Technical Tour – Wednesday 26 May



H/S O/S Nautilus



Commission 4 all at sea! - Technical tour on H/S O/S Nautilus

Commission 4 arranged a technical tour on board the Hellenic Survey vessel H/S O/S Nautilus. Our hosts were superb and we spent the day discussing survey issues (not to mention running some lines) and all under the glorious Greek sun.

## Commission Meetings

During the working week, Commission 4 held its Annual Meeting where the progress of the working groups (WG) was discussed. WG 4.1 (Strategic Partnerships), WG 4.2 (Vertical Reference Frame) - a joint WG with Commission 5, WG 4.3 (Coastal Zone Management) - a joint WG with Comm 7, WG 4.4 (Education and CPD) - a joint WG with Comm 2 all reported back and the minutes of the meeting will be found at [www.fig.net/commission4/](http://www.fig.net/commission4/).

We also held a separate WG 4.2 meeting with Comm 5 (Positioning and Measurement), with whom we are increasingly having closer ties. A Comm 5 takeover of Comm 4 was hotly debated over ouzo later that evening but the hydrographers are holding out!

## Summary

All in, it was another successful conference. As ever, the social events were fun, allowing us opportunities to get to know our international colleagues. On the work front, Ruth Adams is continuing to rework the WG 4.2 white paper on vertical reference surfaces. There was much comment about the work she had done so far and she is keen to hear from as many people as possible on this subject. The next official Commission 4 meeting will be at the FIG Working Week in Cairo, Egypt April 2005, but there may well be an informal gathering at Hydro4, Galway, in November this year. If you have any comments or require further information on FIG or Commission 4, please do not hesitate to contact Ruth ([ruth.adams@ukho.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.adams@ukho.gov.uk)).