

**Regional Conference Commission 5 Steering Committee Meeting 1**  
**Teleconference Minutes**  
**Marrakech, Morocco – Brisbane, Australia**  
**Date : Tuesday 2 December 2003**  
**Time : 0900 - Marrakech, 1700 - Brisbane**

**Present**

Matt Higgins – Chair  
Rob Sarib – Vice Chair Administration  
Rudolf Staiger - Chair WG5.1  
Michel Kasser – Co Chair WG5.2  
Mikael Lilje - Co Chair WG5.2  
Dan Schnurr – Chair JWG  
Vaclav Slaboch – Core Member WG5.1  
Adam Greenland – Chair Commission 4  
Markku Villikka – Director FIG Office

**Apologies**

Naser El-Sheimy – Chair WG5.3

Meeting started 1905 Brisbane - Australia ; 0905 Marrakech - Morocco

**Agenda Discussion**

1) Opening remarks

- Participants were welcomed to the meeting and the agenda was confirmed with one addition - 5(a) JWG with Comm 4 on Vertical Reference Frame for Hydrography and one deletion – item 4) Discussion of WG5.3 Report.
- Only a written report from WG5.2 was received before the meeting thus verbal WG reports were accepted.

2) Report by Chair of WG5.1 (Rudolf)

- A 'questionnaire' on standards, calibration of equipment etc has been created and circulated. Response has been slow but the return rate is expected to improve.
- The WG has been involved in German standards for general survey and survey engineering (laser scanners) equipment
- Regarding ISOTC172 SC6, Hans Heister is to be recommended to FIG Council as the representative
- Manfred Sparta is the person in ISOTC172 SC6 looking into Standards for GPS. It was advised that the issues are the result of problems encountered with contractors using GPS for cadastral surveys. The action required to progress this is for Manfred Sparta to develop 'general guidelines' on the use of GPS for cadastral surveys so that 'standards' can then evolve.

- ACTION – Matt is to initiate the appointment of Hans Heister as the representative on ISOTC172 SC6 by nominating and recommending him to FIG Council for endorsement.

- ACTION – Rudolf to email a copy of the questionnaire and summary of responses to date, to Matt and Rob for their records.
- 3) Report by Chairs of WG5.2 (Mikael and Michel)
- Written report tabled. Refer to Appendix A.
  - Generally happy with the member size of the core group however would prefer the reference group to be bigger. It was then suggested to include Graeme Blick from NZ in the reference group because of the NZ ‘dynamic’ geodetic framework.
  - Whilst in Marrakesh, WG5.2 should endeavour to meet with Zhuheir (Altamimi) to discuss how FIG can assist IERS to expose IERS & ITRF to the general surveying community.
  - Work will now begin on the fact sheets (as per written report) and the list will be circulated for comment and allocation of tasks. The first circular will ask and take note of what type of existing material is already available in the country of each member.
  - WG5.2 was to also take note of what IAG was doing so as not to duplicate work.
- ACTION – Matt to review correspondence regarding fact sheets and reply to WG Chairs as soon as possible.
  - ACTION – Rob to circulate WG’s report to all WG members so that comments on the ‘fact sheet’ information can be sought and forwarded to WG Chairs.
- 4) Discussion of report by Chair of WG5.3 (Naser) – Not applicable thus removed from agenda.
- 5) Report by Chair JWG (Dan)
- The current ‘attitude’ of members is positive however the number of core members from this WG present in Marrakesh appears to be low.
  - WG plan is on the FIG Commission 5 website.
  - The WG will now focus on ‘thrashing out’ the overall plan ; focus on co-ordinating the implementation of technology for sustainable development ; and documenting the various applications.
  - Matt indicated that the lack of response to issues from WG members is ‘common’ and not to be too concerned. He then added that the WG must find a balance between input and maintaining the momentum with the enthusiastic people.
  - Matt mentioned that the techniques and applications for the ‘mapping and titling’ of ‘informal settlements’ was also a key issue for this WG. He also added that it is difficult to address every application in every developing country so there is a need to find a few key application areas and concentrate on those.
- 5(a) Vertical Reference Frame for Hydrography – JWG with Commission 4 (Matt and Adam)
- Matt indicated he will continue to be the representative on this topic whilst the white paper on the concepts is being developed. However if Adam holds a meeting in Marrakesh WG5.2 needs to attend.

- Commission 5's involvement is to manage the ellipsoidal height and reference frame issues.
- The current status is – Adam and Ruth Adams are reviewing the current draft while in Marrakesh. Next version will be ready by Xmas 2003 for Matt's comment and input.
- The future plan is to circulate the document for consideration by other stakeholders. Then obtain endorsement by the International Hydrographic Board before the Athens WW in May 2004.
- Adam advised that Steve Shipman has been nominated by IAG to participate / be member of this project and is also on the International Hydrographic Board and is therefore a key player on this issue.

6) Report on ACCO Matters (Rudolf and Adam)

- Rudolf attended ACCO on behalf of Matt.
- Main issues discussed were –
  - ✓ GPR
    - a) The title of the project has been changed to Surveying Reference Library. This was primarily done so as not to discourage potential authors from submitting papers; not to offend those authors whose papers did not qualify; reduce the burden of 'judging' with respect to 'good practice'; and not be 'too limiting' (ie the definition or purpose has been broadened).
    - b) The collection of papers can be chosen from papers that discuss survey applications, techniques, practice, overviews and/ or generally papers that address the 'outputs' of surveying.
    - c) Commission Chairs will do the reviewing of papers selected or chosen for the collection.
    - d) It appears it will not affect the overall WP of the Commission 5, however the workload of Chairs may increase.
    - e) It appears Session Chairs and Rapporteurs will select or nominate or 'classify' the papers at the end of each conference day.
    - f) The above process is being trialed in Marrakesh.
  - ✓ FIG Open meetings forums for future WW
    - a) A revised forum is to be trialed in Athens.
    - b) The proposal to hold open meetings was discussed however the issue of organizing a suitable time slot for such a meeting ; managing / running of such a forum ; the potential number of participants to this open meeting raised doubts on its effectiveness and the logistics SO alternatively – at the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly 30 minutes will be allocated to the Commission Chairs to collectively report on issues, raise / discuss issues and answer any queries raised by the General Assembly. This will enable the FIG formalities and protocols to be maintained.
  - ✓ Future Events – refer to items 10 and 12
  - ✓ FIG and IAG – refer to item 8
  - ACTION – Minutes of ACCO will be circulated by Rob once received.

7) Latest on Good Practice Report – refer to previous item 6

#### 8) IAG Liaison

- Matt referred to the background paper he prepared on this issue. His paper was acknowledged by ACCO as advised by Rudolf. Refer to Appendix B for copy of paper.
- It was advised that once the IAG structure was ratified in January 2004, Matt will initiate a process to start 'matching' the relevant FIG/ IAG people ie the respective working chairs.
- Matt also conveyed that he will continue discussions with IAG and provide regular updates to the Commission.

#### 9) Chair Elect situation

- Matt updated the group on the status of current FIG nominations ; for Commission 5 there was 1 nomination – Mikael ; 3 of the Commissions were without nominations (1, 4, and 6) ; and it has been decided to extend the nominations to 20 January 2004.

#### 10) Next Regional Event - Jakarta

- Involvement of IAG (Chris Rizos) is working well ; also talks PCGIAP (UN) are underway
- Matt advised that in Hong Kong he and Rob had meetings with the Jakarta organizing committee.
- Markku advised conference plans are progressing well.
- It was noted that Australian Government personnel and Academic representatives (also other international persons) might have difficulty with gaining approval to attend Jakarta if the current travel restrictions (based on safety / security) prevail. Hopefully the safety issue will improve otherwise it was suggested that the group consider convening a SC meeting in either Darwin or Brisbane if Matt and Rob cannot attend Jakarta
- It was also advised that the regional conference in BRAZIL is apparently very 'shaky'.

#### 11) Comments on Hong Kong report – Nil

#### 12) Next Working Week - Athens

- Papers on the following technical program need to be obtained – preferably target authors who can provide the 'overview' type papers :
  - Standards, Quality Assurance and Calibration
  - Reference Frame in Practice
  - Integrated Positioning, Navigation and Mapping Systems
  - Low Cost Technology for Developing Countries
  - Positioning and Measurement Technologies and Practices
- It was also suggested that it would good to have more plenary papers that deal with issues relevant to Commission 5. For example papers on some of the technical issues concerning building infrastructure for the Olympics
- Deadline for submitting abstracts: **10 December 2003 now extended to 18 December 2003**  
Confirmation of acceptance: **10 January 2004 now extended to 15 January 2004**

Deadline for full papers: **28 February 2004.**

- Markku outlined that the process for the technical program will be the same as for Paris. That is, the Commission Chair will select / review the papers ; decide on the number of sessions required ; set up the framework / structure of the session.
- Matt requested that 2 'overview' or 'WG specific papers' be prepared from each WG then the remainder of the session can be compiled from the submitted papers list.
- Markku suggested the group considers and promotes 'Short' papers in preference to posters.
- Matt insisted that the group needs to attract as many of the 'working group members' to this conference as possible given that we are half way through the WP.
- It appears the cost involved to attend the Athens WW maybe very expensive. For example the availability and affordability of accommodation, hence it maybe difficult for members and others to attend.
  - ACTION – Matt to email to all working group members urging them to attend and support the Athens WW in may 2004 and then WG Chairs to follow up.
  - ACTION – WG Chairs to produce or invite 2 papers on their WG topics – ASAP given Xmas deadline.
  - ACTION – Rob to source out suitable and cost effective accommodation for Athens 2004 and circulate to SC and Commission 4 Chair.

### **Other Business**

- Matt is to met up with Dan, Mikael in London and asked them to monitor any further developments whilst in Marrakesh.
- Teleconferencing appears to be an effective means of maintaining contact with SC members, hence Rob will investigate the possibility of another teleconference prior to Athens. He will also look into other web technologies used for conferencing.

Meeting Finished 2015 Brisbane - Australia ; 1015 Marrakech - Morocco