

**Report to the 29th General Assembly
FIG Congress in Munich, October 2006**

FIG Commission 10 – Construction Economics and Management

Report of Activities 2002-2006

1. General

As my term comes to an end, I am disappointed at the lack of progress Commission 10 has made bearing in mind the objectives we set ourselves at the Congress in Washington in 2002.

This has certainly been due in part to some unfortunate family circumstances since early 2005 that have prevented me giving FIG and Commission 10 the focus and drive it deserves. However, it must also be said that it could have been better prior to that time and more progress should have been made in the initial years of my term of office.

Unfortunately the main underlying problem continues to be the almost complete lack of involvement from the national member associations.

As can be seen in the report under Working Group 10.3 from the current Chair-Elect of Commission 10, Mr Andrew Morley, his considerable efforts to engender and stimulate interest from the members has proved futile and it will be interesting to see what else can be done to achieve more involvement and interest in the work of Commission 10. Several papers have been submitted for presentation during the Munich Congress and it is hoped that these may stimulate greater interest and involvement from the wider FIG community. At the congress in Munich in October 2006 a joint paper for Commission 1 and 10 will review cross country comparisons exploring change management issues in large land management projects titled 'Changing the World We See Through Land and Building Project Management'.

I am sure that Commission 10 can make a worthwhile contribution to the overall work of FIG particularly with joint initiatives with other commissions. Particular relevant areas being Human Settlements and Sustainability.

May I take this opportunity to thank my Commission 10 colleagues and the FIG Office for their support and hard work and particularly to Markku Villikka for his consideration and understanding.

2. Achievements

2.1 Working Groups

Working Group 10.1 – Human Settlements, Economics and Environment Sustainability

Murtala Oladapo, the Chair of this working group, has been seeking additional input to this important group. The conference in Johannesburg in August 2002 built upon previous

meetings and various commitments were made from organisations in working together to further the very worthwhile objectives.

Having received assurances from three people to be members of the of the Working Group at an ICEC Congress in Cape Town during April 2004 it appeared that progress in this important area would finally be made but unfortunately no output or information has been forthcoming.

Working Group 10.2 – Database for Quantity Surveying Education and Cost Management Professionals Worldwide

A chair for this working group has never been appointed.

The ICEC, with which FIG has a Memorandum of Understanding, has assembled quite an amount of information that is on its website and provides education and competency standards from many countries. These may be downloaded at no cost.

ICEC is looking for any organisation that has similar standards to submit copies or summaries to them so that they may be added. In particular, standards and best practices from Africa and the Asia-Pacific Region are most welcome because the coverage of these areas is currently very limited.

Working Group 10.3 – Construction Procurement

Andrew Morley, the Chair of this working group, reports as follows:

The working group was formed early in 2003 with four UK based professionals (2 practitioners and 2 academics). The scope of work and a plan to carry it out were agreed and some research was completed. Because of its small number of members it was difficult to arrange convenient meetings and to progress the work plan.

Invitations to other FIG members to participate in the group's work were unsuccessful and a Commission 10 meeting during the Paris Working Week in April, 2003 did not attract any support for the group. A paper was presented during the Commission 10 Technical Session at the Working Week in Athens in 2004.

At the Cairo Working Week in April 2005 contacts were made with the Ghanaian Institution in an effort to enlist support for both WG 10.3 activity and Commission 10 presentations at the African Regional Conference in March 2006. In the event, indications of support by the GhIS Quantity Surveyors division did not materialise.

During 2005 WG 10.3 produced a paper that set out to explain the role of Commission 10 within the FIG family and propose an agenda for its future work. The paper was published in November 2005 and has been widely circulated throughout FIG but very little response has been received.

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10 will review cross country comparisons exploring change management issues in large land management projects titled 'Changing the World We See Through Land and Building Project Management'.

Working Group 10.4 – Standards, Research and Development in Cost Management, Quantity Surveying, Cost Engineering and Project Management

Sara Wilkinson formerly from the School of Environment and Development at Sheffield Hallam University was appointed as the Chairman of this working group at the Athens meeting.

Research is still taking place into the usage measurement methods, particularly in the UK.

Furthermore the ICEC International Standard Working Group has compiled an extensive summary of standards and best practices which have been developed by many organizations in North and South America and Europe for cost engineering, project management and/or quantity surveying. Some standards from the Republic of South Africa are also included. The document summarizes the various standards and best practices and provides e-mail and Internet addresses from which copies of the various standards may be obtained.

Progress has started to be made and hopefully this important work will carry on in the next term.

2.2 Co-operation

2.2.1 Co-operation with Other Commissions

There was co-operation with Commission 1 in regards to Working Group 10.4

3. Events

We have attended all Working Weeks i.e. Paris, Athens and Cairo and the Regional Conference in Ghana.

At these commission meetings have been held and a technical programme provided.

It is a good sign that we are providing more technical sessions in Munich than ever before.

4. Publications

There have been no publications other than the papers presented at the conferences.

Phil Shearer

Chair of Commission 10

July 2006