

Report to the 43rd General Assembly FIG Congress 2020, 10-14 May 2020, Amsterdam, Netherlands

FIG Commission 1 – Professional Practice and Standards

With the endorsement of the Work Plan (2019-2022) for Commission 1 in the 42nd General Assembly in Hanoi, Vietnam, three working groups formed in the previous term were continued in this term.

2. Working Groups

2.1 WG 1.1 International Ethics and Standards (Gary Strong)

Gary Strong has represented FIG as a Trustee on the International Ethics Standards Coalition (IESC) with Winnie SHIU as his substitute. FIG is fortunate that this is also a part of Gary's regular work at the RICS and as a result no costs have been incurred. The IESC, with 128 Member organisations, has produced a International Ethics Standards in 2016, which consists of 10-point international ethical principles (<https://ies-coalition.org/standards/>) in five languages including English, Bulgarian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. The Principles include Accountability, Confidentiality, Conflict of Interest, Financial Responsibility, Integrity, Lawfulness, Reflection, Standard of Service, Transparency and Trust.

Quite a number of FIG Member Associations have already adopted this new Ethical Principles for themselves. FIG Council supports IES and the ethical code. As the IES is a general Code of Ethics, FIG council has asked the Working Group to look for best practice examples of the IES-Code in our professional environment (surveying, geospatial, land management, valuation, construction surveying, cadastre,). Once these best practice examples are presented and discussed FIG Council will check whether the current FIG Ethics Code should be updated or adapted to the IES-Code. This can finally lead to a discussion about a harmonisation or replacement of the existing Ethical Code of FIG.

The round table discussion held in the FIG Working Week 2018 in Hanoi has successfully shared with the delegates the update on ethics in the working group, gained their opinions, information on uptake and implementation of IES, and discussed individual challenges within each country represented. It also went through the 10 International Ethical Standards principles and agreed they remained fit for purpose, though additional consideration should be given to 'Social Responsibility', 'Environmental considerations', 'Impact of Tech on Ethics'. A number of ethical scenarios were posed and worked through, with input from participants reflecting the breadth of the profession and geographical reach. Whilst cultural differences were discussed and considered, there was unanimous agreement primarily on the principles of transparency, integrity, honesty and conflicts of interest - which are universal regardless of the specialism or location. There was commitment from a number of participants to provide case studies as to the success and implementation of IES in their respective member associations and jurisdictions.

The WG would continue looking into how to implement the Standards in FIG, and perhaps take the opportunity to review if the Statement of Ethical Principles and Model Code of Professional Conduct published in 1998 (FIG Publication No. 17) need to be revised.

2.2 WG 1.2 Women in Surveying (Robyn McCutcheon)

Roundtable discussion in the FIG Working Week 2019 in Hanoi had a fruitful discussion on the action items, which include promoting women in surveying, addressing hidden bias towards women in surveying, tackling the lack of gender diversity and how best to promote women in the surveying industry and to discuss individual challenges and case studies in each country represented. There were also good submissions about women in surveying, today and tomorrow and opportunities for female land surveyors in emerging economies.

The FIG women in surveying network are working towards improving communications for the group. A website is proposed although has not been designed. The network is also proposing a 'Charter for women', the scope of which is to ensure that the FIG community reflects the values of diversity and inclusion. In the WG we do need to make sure we are highlighting diversity and do not specifically overburden women with leading the change to inclusion, therefore all members of the FIG community are invited to contribute.

At the round table discussion which will be held during the working week in Amsterdam this year, there will be focused discussions on the diversity and inclusion issues which face our members. A 'Charter for women' is proposed which will be presented to the council for consideration. The 'charter for women' will be a statement listing specific actions that FIG, as an organisation can use to support greater diversity and inclusion. This must be agreed upon by the members of the Women in Surveying group before we submit it to the council. Some examples of statements which may be included:

- FIG promotes diversity and inclusion as a key value
- FIG members must challenge unconscious bias by seeking out diverse views when making decisions or collaborating with colleagues
- FIG commits to equal gender balance on speaking panels.

The women in surveying network will also consider issues relating to women including the World Bank 'Stand for her land' and the SDG Goal 5 Gender Equality.

2.3 WG 1.3 International Boundary Settlement and Demarcation (Haim Srebro)

There had been good discussions on topics about the centre of valley versus thalweg: revisiting the Israel-Jordan Arava Boundary, and about river boundaries: the influence of changes in the Jordan and Yarmuk Rivers on the International and Cadastral Boundaries at the FIG Working Week 2019 in Hanoi.

Haim Srebro and his Working Group members Don Grant from RMIT University Melbourne, Bill Robertson and Vince Belgrave from New Zealand and Andrea Cantile from Italy, have been preparing a follow-up publication to FIG Publication 59 International Boundary Making edited by Haim Srebro, which was produced through Commission 1 in 2013. This new volume is an addendum to # 59 regarding international boundaries on unstable ground. It is expected to be published before the end of 2020.

3. Events

A FIG Commission 1 Workshop on Professional Standards and Practice in Surveying and Mapping in the Countries along the Belt and Road Routes would be held in Deqing, China from 17-18 Sept 2020. The workshop will be organised with the People's Government of Deqing County, China and hosted by the Zhejiang Provincial Society for Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography and the Administration of Huzhou Moganshan High-tech Industry Development Zone of China.

4. Publications

A newsletter had been prepared for publication by Vice Chair Communication and Administration Gary Strong in early 2020.

Submitted By: Winnie SHIU, Chair, FIG Commission 1 (2019-2022)