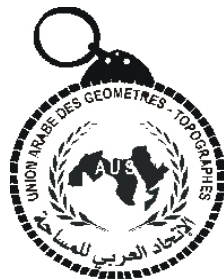


Report for the 27th General Assembly
FIG Working Week in Athens, May 2004

Regional Reports



Report about the activities of the Arab Union of Surveyors
and the Cooperation with Other Organizations
Activities 2003 – 2004

1. Introduction

Since 1994 the Arab League decided to establish a new Organization for the profession of Surveying as they obviously noticed its importance and role in developing the social and economical status of each Arab country. The meetings started with professionals from all around the Arab nations when the Order of Surveyors-Lebanon organized its first international Conference in Beirut in 2001. Among the final recommendations of this conference was the article that mentioned the establishment of the AUS as soon as possible.

In October 2002, in Beirut, delegates from Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Tunisia, Sultanate of Oman and Lebanon discussed and confirmed the Basic Regime and Internal Rules of the Arab Union of Surveyors and declared the foundation of this new Organization with precise aims to ameliorate the level of the profession of surveying in the Arab world and reach a common system and structure for this profession in the Arab World as also to develop the cadastral systems for improving the land management and real estate investment as an important part of the socio-economical development in our countries.

Here I would like to draw your attention to the continuous preoccupation of the profession stated in the third article of the regulations of the First International Comity of Surveyors created in Paris in 1878: “To propose the best possible cadastre related to the bases and fair distribution of land tax, agricultural, industry and commerce...”

Then in the Vth International Congress of Surveyors, held in London in 1934, Mr. René Danger, from Paris, lectured about the possibility of creating an international type of cadastre. It means that the profession of Surveying is one of the most important pillars of society and socio-economical development all over the world, and a common or adapted cadastral system is a basic element in development projects.

This will lead us to the necessity of developing not only techniques but also regulations and laws to go side by side with this fast evolution of the technology and means. I will expose in

my report the aims of the AUS and its cooperation with other Organizations especially with the FIG, as well the activities we have achieved in just only 18 months from the foundation of this Union.

Finally, I will try to make some suggestions, which I hope, will be useful in the improvement of our profession.

2. The Arab Union of Surveyors, Aims, Strategy and Perspectives.

As it was written in the Basic Regime second chapter article 3 the Arab has as aims the following:

1. Organizing and ameliorating the level of the profession of surveying in all the Arabic countries by acting with the following strategy.
 - a. To permit only to the specialists' members of specialized organizations and Orders to exercise the profession of surveying according to the international norms.
 - b. To encourage all the Arabic countries to issue rules and regulations to organize the profession of surveying.
 - c. To unify the aims and acts of the countries members of the AUS in front of all international Organizations.
 - d. To encourage the foundation of Orders and Organizations in Arabic countries in which there are no such Corps.
 - e. To ameliorate and develop the academic and technical programs in the Universities and institutes.
 - f. To assure the professional training for all the specialist to develop there competences.
 - g. To work on unifying the technical and professional characteristics and terms in all the Arab countries.
2. To participate in all scientific and professional studies in the field of Surveying and to work on making the exercise of that profession based on scientific and technologic means.
3. To prepare permanent studies and reports about the profession in our countries.
4. To support all dual and commutative relations with all the international Federations and organizations around the world especially the FIG and CLGE.
5. To exchange experiences between the Arab specialists to Passover the technical and professional difficulties.
6. To develop a technical and professional common database as a basic element to create a new GIS that is adopted in the Arabic area.

Therefore the Arab Union of Surveyors (AUS) is actually on its way to execute this strategy and the most important for us now is to be able to integrate those aims and experiences into the international professional communities through a well-defined and organized cooperation with the FIG and CLGE.

3. Second part: The Professional concerns

During the FWW in Seoul-Korea 2001 the FIG delivered to the Order of Surveyors-Lebanon an Official Statement in which the FIG defined the projects and studies that are considered as surveying studies and the role of a surveyor.

Now with the AUS we are trying to apply this document in all the Arab countries and to defend the surveying profession with the help of the International Federation and through our cooperation with FIG and CLGE and the other Orders and Organizations all around the world.

As we do encourage any individual cooperation between our members and the members of those two Federations also with all other international Organizations.

4. Third Part: the Activities of AUS since it was established to date

Since it was established in October 2002 the AUS has organized and participated or cooperate with the following events:

1. The Geographic Days in Beirut in Collaboration with the IGN, ESGT, ESGT-T, CNRS, AGD and all other professional surveying Companies in Lebanon.
2. The Regional Symposium in Amman-Jordan 2003.
3. National Training Sessions in GPS and GIS for the Municipalities in Lebanon.
4. The Support of the Palestinian Organization with its membership inside the FIG.
5. Cosponsoring the second Regional meeting organized by the FIG and ONIGT-Morocco in Marrakech December 2003.
6. The Official Visit to the Arab League and the meeting with the AUS delegation and the General Secretary Mr. Amrou Moussa, the AUS has now the Legal aspect towards all the Arabic Countries as a reference for the profession of Surveying in this Area, working under the Umbrella of the Arab League and became a sustained professional member of this League.
7. Finally we are now working on organizing the administration inside the AUS to plan for the our future steps as well we established already the data base center to collect all the information about all the specialists in surveying in the Arab world and also to collect all the studies and conferences made in this region about surveying in order to issue the following publications:
 - a. **The Arab Guide for surveying:** in witch you will find all what you need as information about all those who are working in the field of Surveying in the Arab region also the addresses and contacts of all firms and professional Organizations.
 - b. **The Arab collection on Surveying Researches.** Where you can be informed about all the new researches and studies about surveying in the Arab region.
Hope those publications will be as useful for the FIG as they are for us.

Finally I present my respect and my best wishes to the general assembly and to ACCO as to FIG Council and President Holger Magel and a special thanks to Mr. Markku Villikka, our friend and colleague because without his help and comprehension too many things we couldn't do.

Also I thank on behalf of the AUS and the Order of Surveyors Lebanon, the LOC in Athens and we hope a fruitful cooperation with the Greek organizations in the future.

Dr. Sarkis Fadous

President of the Arab Union of Surveyors

President of the Order of Surveyors-Lebanon