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EDITOR’S REPORT

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the third issue of the Young Surveyors Newsletter!

We are counting down the days to the FIG Working Week 2008 in Stockholm, Sweden from the 14th-19th June. The YS WG activities are in the final stages of organising, and along with the local organizing committees we aim to help to achieve the goal of the WW “integrating the generations”. Hopefully all working group members will get to meet at this important event.

Our invitations to join the Young Surveyors working group have been widely welcomed and everyday new members are joining our communication network, based on yahoo groups. In addition to this, you will recognize that this Working Week issue specially features the experiences of YS members. We hope that these introductions and experiences shared by our friends from different parts of the world will broaden the ideas of the working group and help us all to make a more visible path for future.

There is no doubt that FIG YS Working Group is not only a gateway to FIG, but also is the only platform where the surveying profession meets without any borders and generations.

With My Best Regards,

Cemal Özugr Kivilcim

Young Surveyors WG Secretary

JOIN THE FIG WORKING GROUP ONLINE!

Join the Young Surveyors Working Group to receive our quarterly newsletter, announcements and become involved in our profession!

Young Surveyors Yahoo Group:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FIG_young_surveyors/
FROM WORKING GROUP CHAIR

FIG Working Week in Stockholm, 14-19 June!

This will be a great conference I’m sure, the number of registered students are now as high as 91. This is 91 out of about 800 registered this makes it 10 % young participants. I have never seen so many young participants during the three years I have participated at FIG-events. This feels promising and it tells us that our work pays off, as one of our goals is to bring more young surveyors to FIG-events. Another one of our goals is to create ways for “wise ones” and “young ones” to meet and get to know each other better, this to get more of the “young ones” active within FIG. One way to do this we believe is speed mentoring and this will be tried for the first time during the working week this summer. And it is our hope that this will mark a new era with people from all ages and that this will be something durable within the FIG organization.

If you are not one of the 91 young surveyors registered for the Stockholm conference there are ways of being a part of this group anyway. And the best way to do that is by being a part of the team producing articles for the newsletter. What is your story? How is it to be a young surveyor in your home country? What do you miss, what is great? Or maybe you have just made the most exciting master thesis that you would like to tell the world about? I’m sure that there are so many out there who would like to hear your story!

Please feel free to comment on the articles and promote some discussion! For instance Ms. Dentons article on the Opportunities and Challenges Facing Young Surveyors today in Canada. It would be interesting for example to hear your thoughts on the upcoming shortfall of land surveyors. Or how do other countries’ land systems compare to Canada or......

Take care and enjoy the summer, the picture is taken at my university in Stockholm, Sweden!

Cecilia Lindén
Chair of the Young Surveyors WG
FROM WORKING GROUP

Student Participation During the FIG Working Week 2008 Stockholm

By

Cecilia Lindén FIG Young Surveyors Working Group Chair

&

Christian Tufvesson FIG Young Surveyors Working Group Events Coordinator

Are you a surveying student with no plans between the 13th and 19th of June? Is the possibility of an international contact network something that sounds interesting? Maybe you are looking for a job or practice abroad for a couple of months?

This summer there will be a unique occasion to meet enthusiastic personalities in the surveying area. The conference theme is Integrating Generations and is arranged by FIG in collaboration with Sweden's Surveying Organization, SLF. The technical program will include all FIG’s ten commissions with focus on land and possession questions. Combining the UN-Habitat with the working week, there will be seminars about slum upgrading and the importance of financial mechanisms.

During the weeks 14 -16 all universities in Sweden (where there is surveying education) got visits of members from the organization committee for FIG Working Week 2008. First were Stockholm and the Royal Institute of Technology on the 2nd of April when we went around and told all classes about an information session at the pub during the evening. It was a day full of running around between classes and up and down the stairs... When the evening came and it was time for the information session we unfortunately had to compete with a very popular comedian Björn Gustafsson. So the Swedish students did not exactly line up outside our venue as they did to hear Björn Gustafsson! On the other hand, we had a big group of very active foreign master students that wanted to help out without thinking about it for too long. Very positively, the conference is going to be held entirely in English, hopefully this also will lead to better contact between Swedish and foreign students.

Next university on this trip around Sweden was Gävle, we (Cecilia Lindén and Karin Löfving) went via the new motorway between Uppsala and Gävle (so much better than the old road, saves about 1 hour) and came to the Lantmäteriets (Swedens National Landsurvey) head office just before lunch, parked and walked in. We had a lunch and after that we went to the university which is located very near by. When we came back out on the parking lot there was a parking ticket on the car... What is there to say 500 swedish crowns, the same amount it costs to register for the FIG Working Week this summer... We had parked the car on the wrong side of the parking lot where it was only pre-rented spots, very confusing as there was a parking ticket machine on that side as well. Unfortunatley there was not many students attending the presentation after all this problems as it was just in the beginning of the period and many studied hard from home that day. Or at least the teacher said that’s where they were...
The week after we went to Trollhättan at 6.30am, which took a quite some time with the route we had selected. Via Skövde with the X2000 train and then via Skara, Lidköping and Grästorp with a local bus which took over 2 hours until we finally came to Trollhättan. From the station, we went for a walk in the beautiful spring weather up to the university that is just newly constructed and very modern. Our own Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm didn’t feel so modern anymore. What a study environment!

We ate lunch with the school’s teachers from the surveying education and Marianne Carlbring from NAI Svefa, who came in to help us talk about the possibility of participating during the week in Stockholm and the contacts it might generate. After the presentation, we got spontaneous applause and also a couple people that wanted to help out during the working week. So we were very satisfied when we departed on our train travelling home via Gothenburg this time. Back in Stockholm at 9pm and there was newly fallen snow all over the town and with a very successful day behind us!

As a final trip we visited Luleå Technical University, but to go here we went by plane, to fly to Luleå takes about 1h and 10 min. It is located north of Stockholm along the coast. On the way up I, Cecilia managed to get a wryneck and the presentation became a bit of a robot presentation. Luleå had recently begun with a direction to putting Surveying education within the Civil Engineers program. Therefore this meeting was also very important from the point of view to show these students that the Swedish Association of Chartered Surveyors exists and that there is a very good network available for them within Sweden.

In Lund, I, Christian Tufvesson, carried out the presentations. I did it for each class and got good reception! Many of the students are interested of knowing more about FIG and what the world’s international surveying organization has to offer. Some students showed a direct interest of joining the Working Week while others had to await answers from summer practices on whether they could participate in the Working Week. Lund and LTH are most likely to be well represented with a number of students. Some girls from class two and three are presently writing an article for the conference about what it is like to be a surveying student in Lund. The article has the name “Land Surveying Education in Sweden - Student Perspective” and concerns our education and how it is edified. Also our student organization L-Tek, the possibilities for exchange studies and the good future prospects are mentioned in the article.
The last time something like this took place in Stockholm was when the FIG congress of 1977 was held here. The FIG events work is that every fourth year a Congress is held - which represents the end of a council’s term and a new council steps in for the upcoming period of Working Weeks until the next congress. The following locations show where the conference has been held during recent year and where it will be held in the future:

**FIG CALENDAR**

- Cairo, Egypt, Working Week (2005)
- Munich, Germany, Congress (2006)
- Hong Kong, Working Week (2007)
- Eilat, Israel, Working Week (2009)
- Sydney, Australia, Congress (2010)
- Marrakesh, Morocco, Working Week (2011)
My name is Bronwyn Denton, and I am very excited to provide the young surveyors of FIG with this article briefly describing some opportunities and challenges facing your colleagues in Canada! I recently graduated with a Geomatics Engineering degree from the University of New Brunswick, and now work as a commissioned land surveyor in British Columbia, on Canada’s western coast. There is lots happening in the Canadian world of land surveying, and I want to share this information with you!

In a country as large and diverse as Canada, many exciting opportunities exist for young people entering the geomatics profession. There are a variety of prospective jobs in branches of geomatics such as hydrography, GIS, cadastral surveying and GPS. I work in a cadastral surveying role, and my article will specifically refer to this branch of the profession.

In Canada, land surveyors are members of a self regulated profession, similar to professional engineers and accountants. The physical expanse of our country has resulted in significant regional differences in surveying systems and practices from coast to coast. As a result, each province is responsible for its own entry standards into the profession, and tests candidates based on the survey systems used in that province. Despite regional uniqueness, all provinces have a core set of entry requirements. In addition to holding a commission as a provincial land surveyor, one can also be licensed as a “Canada Lands Surveyor.” This allows one to survey lands held by the federal government, such as land in the territories and national parks. The Canadian Council of Land Surveyors is a national association that represents the many disciplines of geomatics.

As Canada prepares to host the 2010 Winter Olympics, the British Columbian economy is active in response to the construction and capital infrastructure being put in place to host the Games. In addition, the strength of Canada’s natural resources has resulted in many unique surveying opportunities in the oil and gas, mining and exploration sectors. Land development is also a major contributor to the success of plenty of land surveyors in Canada, specifically in urban centers. Companies actively use modern technology on a daily basis to “get the job done.”

At the current time, it is widely felt that it is an “employees’ market” in the land surveying profession in Canada. Due to retirement of experienced land surveyors, many provinces are facing a potential shortage in the coming years, and several provincial associations have taken steps to raise awareness about the
profession, to encourage students to consider land surveying in their future plans. The shortfall of land surveyors entering the system has provided additional leverage to these new professionals, who are seeking a healthy balance between work and lifestyle.

Distinct demographic trends have been apparent in North America since the increased birth rate that immediately followed World War II. That post war period is known as the “baby boom,” and companies across Canada are trying to fill positions as the “baby boomers” begin to retire. As a result, many jobs are opening up to young people (the children of the baby boomers) entering the job market. Although this may appear to be an advantage for young professionals, this trend is a double edged sword. While our supervisors and managers were mentored over extended periods of time and guided through the ranks of the corporate world, many young professionals are being placed in managerial positions with limited experience. Fortunately, young professionals across the country are stepping up to meet these challenges, and some experienced surveyors are moving into mentorship roles.

I would encourage young surveyors from around the world to consider exploring the surveying opportunities in Canada during their professional career! For more information and links to provincial associations, please check out the CCLS website http://www.ccls-ccag.ca/
I work as a GIS researcher and academician at Karadeniz Technical University (KTU) GISLab, Turkey. Since the FIG Working Week 2005 in Cairo, I have regularly participated in FIG events and presented a paper every year. I have also gained new experiences in the FIG Congresses. My research interests are Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Health GIS and GIS History. I am currently studying my PhD thesis about cancer density maps and environmental risk factors. The aim of my PhD project, which has been supported by The Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), is to build a database using GIS techniques to examine the distribution of cancer cases in the Eastern Black-Sea Region of Turkey and statistical maps relating to cancer cases in allocation units. At the end of the project, cancer cases maps will be produced in digital format in order to examine cancer cases and geographical locations of database content.

Geo-statistical analysis will also be carried out spatially. Specifically, a project which is called “cancer registration and incidence” carried out in Turkey will be converted using the concepts of GIS. This approach may help to increase the capabilities of the National Health Information System works.

Health GIS in Turkey is a new approach which has been realized over the past 5 years. Through the developments of GIS technologies and statistical methods in spatial epidemiology, health and population data has started to be examined together. It has enabled the research of logical spatial variation of disease risk. Disease mapping has made contributions to public health and epidemiology. In Turkey, many Health GIS applications have been produced such as temporal and spatial patterns of hazards for environmental health problems, infectious disease maps, cancer density maps, heart disease maps, hereditary blood disease maps, air pollution mapping etc. Thematic maps are created concerned with the management and planning of health services, managing services of emergency aid, the investigation of spatial variation in disease risk and disease maps. Although there are only a few Health GIS applications where epidemiologists and GIS experts work together, it is becoming more and more common.

GISLab is a geospatial information center at Karadeniz Technical University, Department of Surveying Engineering, providing GIS analysis and cartographic services as well as remote sensing, earth science and environmental data. It was established in 1998 by Prof. Dr. Tahsin
Yomralioglu. Its mission is to support researches and academic activities, as they relate to GIS. This support not only includes the collection of literature, data, software, and hardware; but also, training and assistance in the use of GIS.

GISLab also provide training in the uses of desktop GIS programs and organizing seminars, conferences and workshops about GIS in addition to consultancy services for public, private and corporate establishment. Since 1998, GISLab has awarded 30 doctoral degrees, 55 Master of Science degrees and 62 Bachelor’s degrees. The GISLab staffs consists of a team of a highly skilled, multi-disciplinary scientists and professionals who are knowledgeable in GIS technology, information science, geographical data standards and modeling, land valuation, land administration, cadastre, environmental sciences, geology, health, pipeline modeling, project management, and services planning.
Geomatics higher education in Croatia

Faculty of Geodesy in Zagreb

by Filip Biljecki

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Despite its size and population, Geomatics education in Croatia is very active and by numbers is considered very large in world terms. The only Croatian institution that provides higher education in Geomatics is the Faculty of Geodesy of the University of Zagreb which was established in 1962, after being part of Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy.

Opposed to west European trends, Geomatics education in Croatia is linked with relatively large numbers – currently at the Faculty there are more than 700 enrolled students. The enrolment quota is 115 students per year and the average number of applicants is always near 300 which make Geomatics education very popular in Croatia. Since 2005, when the study programme was reorganised, the Faculty offers four studies respecting the Bologna declaration:

- Bachelor of Science in Geodesy and Geoinformatics (six semesters) – currently 457 students. The first generation (enrolled in 2005 when the programme was introduced) will graduate this summer.
- Master of Science in Geodesy and Geoinformatics (four semesters) with two orientations: Geodesy and Geoinformatics. No students are currently enrolled; the first generation is expected to enroll in September 2008, after completing the undergraduate studies. The enrollment quota is 60 students.
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) which lasts for three years.
- One-year postgraduate course (Spec.).

The old diploma program (nine semesters) was suspended after the reorganisation in 2005, and the remaining students (about 200) were given a deadline of 2010 to obtain their diploma.

Entrance to the Faculty of Geodesy

The tuition fees of the undergraduate and graduate programme are small comparing with the average European fees: first 50% students on the admission list (compiled with the results from the entry exam and high school marks) obtain the tuition fee waiver, and the remaining 50% pay a linear fee varying from 30€ do 1000€, regarding the place on the list.

During their studies, due the high market demands, students have an excellent possibility of work in companies. A total six-week internship in a company (usually in the collaboration with the Faculty) is a requirement for graduation. Thanks to a good collaboration with IAESTE (The International Association for the Exchange of Students for
Technical Experience) every year few students get the possibility to work abroad.

Croatian Geomatics student are regular participants of the IGSM (International Geodetic Students Meeting) and ISPRS Summer Schools thanks to the financial support of the University and Croatian private companies. This year, 15 Croatian students will attend IGSM 2008 in Valencia, and 8 the 3\textsuperscript{rd} ISPRS Summer School in Nanjing.

![Croatian Geomatics students on the IGSM 2007 in Sofia, Bulgaria](image)

Students are well supported for their projects by a large number of a total of 500 Croatian companies in the Geomatics industry. Furthermore, the Geomatics company Geofoto has its own charity for supporting students and projects in the field of Geomatics in Croatia (scholarships, researches, etc.) with 100.000 € per year.

All students are organised within their Student association at the Faculty which is the legal host for their projects. One of the highlighted projects is Ekscentar, a peer-reviewed professional Geomatics magazine issued just by students. Last year, Ekscentar was elected by few different institutions as the best Croatian journal issued by students. Furthermore, it is the largest Geomatics magazine in the region and the largest in the world issued by any Geomatics students. We welcome you to visit its web-page [http://hrcak.srce.hr/Ekscentar](http://hrcak.srce.hr/Ekscentar). The magazine's goal is to become internationally oriented (with all texts in English) so we invite you for a collaboration on ekscentar@geof.hr.

![The cover and a sample page of the last issue of Ekscentar](image)

As well as professional projects, students have their sport teams: soccer, basketball, rowing, water-polo, swimming and pool, which are regular competitors on the University and state level.

This short article is not sufficient for a complete presentation of the Faculty of Geodesy and its student part. So, if you will sometime be in Zagreb, we invite you to visit us for a tour! Do not hesitate to contact me or any other student.
YOUNG SURVEYORS’ EXPERIENCES

Training Abroad – Erasmus Experiences, Importance of Meeting New Geomatic Cultures

By Behroze Ichhaporia
Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz University Hannover, Germany

An Erasmus Exchange with the University College London, UK

Introduction
Since the beginning of my studies at the Leibniz University of Hanover/Germany, I was keen to get as many international experiences as possible. After a very interesting three weeks internship at the Yildiz Technical University in Istanbul/Turkey, I really looked forward to spend a whole semester abroad in a different country to get an insight of a different culture and university life. Besides, I wanted to improve my English, to be able to speak and write English texts in a professional way. Because one of our Professors, Prof. C. Heipke, has a good relationship with the head of the Geomatic Department of the UCL (University College London), Prof. I. Dowman, I was able to spend an Erasmus semester at London.

The Erasmus program
Established in 1987, the Sokrates/Erasmus program is a European Union Commission creation to allow many European students to study at a different university in a foreign country. The abbreviation ERASMUS stands for 'European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students' and is part of the 'Life-Long Learning Programme', which not only supports higher education, but also school and adult education.

A welcome side effect of it is that the students get the possibility to get to know a different culture and language of other European countries. The participants of this program do not have to pay any tuition fees at their partner university, and get financial support of around 170 Euro each month. This is to cover the additional expenses that may come along with a stay in a different country.

London and the UCL
After the formalities were done, I was very excited to start my six months stay in the UK. Although it was possible to do my diploma thesis in London, I decided to join the hydrographic surveying lectures instead. I was interested in hydrographic surveying and the geomatic department of the UCL offers a hydrographic surveying master course, therefore it was a unique opportunity for me to learn more about it than at my home university.

Arriving in London, the first shock was the tube (underground), which was completely overcrowded, and the doors have no mercy with anybody or anything coming between
them. But I just thought – this is London, not a small village-like city in Germany, but a metropole which keeps the world turning. You feel it everywhere in the city. Fortunately the university offered me to stay in a student hall, so I did not have to search for a room in advance. As everybody knows, the rents in London are not the cheapest, therefore the price for a room in a student hall was ridiculously high for a quite low standard room. But no one goes to London to live in a big and comfortable house. I was lucky that the location was good and I was able to reach the university within 10 to 30 minutes by bus, depending on the traffic of course. As mentioned before, the transport system can be annoying. It is never very reliable and it is difficult to plan anything in advance, because you never know, if the required tube is intact, or not. Beside this, London is an amazing city, which has a lot to offer and you can easily get in touch with people from all around the globe.

The first day at the university, everybody had to wait in typical English, very long queue to do the enrollment process – but later during my stay, I realized that it is some kind of a hobby for the brits to stand in queues and wait for something. In general the UCL has a quite small main campus, but it has some nice and well equipped libraries. For subject area of geomatic engineering, it was possible to find sufficient books there.

In the beginning, it was a little bit difficult to understand everything in the lectures, but after less than two weeks, it was easy to follow the lecturer, and most of the teachers were happy to answer questions. There are some courses, where the students have to write exams, and others, where they have to submit one or more assignments. Because the geomatic engineering master students will graduate after only one year of studies – compared to the common two years in continental Europe – the courses are quite intensive. Therefore as an Erasmus student, it is highly recommended to choose some interesting subjects out of the Masters’ programme, to be able to have some free time beside university. Otherwise it will not be possible to enjoy the weekends, Londons nightlife, and all of the other cultural attractions this city has to offer.

My stay in London gave me a very interesting insight to the way geomatic engineering is being taught in the UK. On the one hand, the UCL has a very good reputation, and important contacts to globally operating companies, but on the other hand the teaching techniques were a lot different compared to what I was used to. But, from my point of view, the much more important fact is that I was able to step into another country and had to get along with all the cultural differences – not only with the english people, but also with foreign students from all over the world. Certainly this was an experience I do not want to miss in my life.

Vision for the future

Thanks to the ongoing globalisation, the world is growing together from day to day. Different cultures from all parts of the world are coming together and have to work side by side with each other. Therefore it is not sufficient any more, just to be fixed on your own home country, but also to look over the rim of your tea cup. The international exchange programs like Erasmus are doing a good job in supporting the students, and getting to know what is going on abroad. With these kinds of experiences the students are able to think about their own studies, and collect new ideas to improve the studies at their home universities. But also areas of research will benefit from this kind of exchange, because
the students will know about projects going on in abroad and cooperation will be easier, if one side knows the other.

Hence, it should be in everybody’s interest to further promote the Erasmus program amongst students and universities and even think about including it into the teaching schedule of the course. Doing so, the future generations of international geomatic students will not have any problems with communication between each other, because they learnt it as a part in their studies.

Looking further ahead, it would be a big advantage if every university could build up a network of relationships with not only European universities, but universities from all around the world. *Obviously this is a big challenge, but it should be in everybodies interest to bring geomatic engineering students together.*

---

*Behroze in front of the Palace; After the typical tea-party with Queen*
An Experience from North

By Asude Arslan, Norway
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During my master studies at Geodesy Department at Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey one of my friend informed me about a federation for surveyors. After some meetings with him I decided to participate in this federation. My first step was sending an abstract for FIG Working Week 2008, Stockholm. My paper got accepted and now I am very happy to that I have a chance to experience FIG atmosphere during the working week.

I am a student at University of Bergen in Norway where I am having my second master degree in Geophysics. You may have question about why I started a second master degree.

The reason is; during my first master studies I was more into crustal movements, GPS observations and so on.

Since these are the measurements that we observe on the ground, I was more curious what is happening underground as seismotectonics, seismic risks, hazards etc. This curiosity was ended at University of Bergen, Norway where they have Seismology Department under Geophysics.

Here at the university, master students have their own computers which have been installed all programs they need. We have seismolaboratory where we have all kinds of seismometers and everyday we are observing earthquakes that occur all around the world. It is a very exciting feeling to see how all Earth acts as a jigsaw puzzle. For example, there was an earthquake last month in Indonesia and it took 15 minutes for earthquake waves to travel from Indonesia and to reach to Bergen, where we recorded it.

As it is known, Norway is famous with its natural treasures as fjords, lots of forests, vertical mountains as if they were cut by a very sharp knife.

In August 2006, I was on the stone which shown below. It was an amazing feeling to be at the edges! At the same time it was challenging. Once you are on that stone you feel yourself combined with the nature. Listening to what the ocean and earth say can not be understood without experiencing the fjords of Norway.

Here in Bergen, whenever the weather is nice I prefer to go trekking up to the mountains. I am living in a student hostel, and getting lots of knowledge from my friends who come from all around the world.

Some of the courses here require field surveys, which is also a great experience. There are field courses for seismology, geography, oceanography, climatology and so
on. Besides the courses, you can also take part in surveys which are done by private companies, and earn money beside experience.

Everytime I told people that I am living in Norway; they have stereotypes about having 6 months of day and 6 months of night here. So if you want the correct answer, then check the coordinates and see if it is possible. The days are shorter in winter and longer in summer. Since I come from Turkey, it is a strange feeling to be out around 11pm and have the daylight, but of course it all depends on one’s latitude...

Welcome to downtown!
BOARD OF YOUNG SURVEYORS WORKING GROUP

Today, many of the FIG member organizations are facing difficulties in attracting young people to the surveying profession. The goal of this working group is to create connections between “old” and “young” surveyors.

As a policy, this group aims:

- To improve the number of young professionals participating within the FIG;
- To help young professionals in the beginning of their careers, by facilitating networking and mentoring opportunities;
- To increase co-operation between the commissions and students and young professionals.

Members of The Board of The Young Surveyors

The Young Surveyors Working Group is a newly formed, but as we make ourselves known we hope that the network will spread further around the globe, along with a significant increase in young surveyor involvement across the FIG. The WG board is composed of volunteer active students and young professional surveyors. We come from a variety of countries, cultures, experiences and backgrounds – so please feel free to email us if you have any comments, problems or would simply like to know how you can become more involved!

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http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FIG_young_surveyors/
FIG WG 1.2 Young Surveyors - Newsletter 2008-2

FIG YS Postcard Design By Chris McAlister