



Newsletter to Delegates. September 2005

Dear Delegate,

First of all my apologies for this delay sending this Newsletter, but a personal disease and many problems in the Association and University, made impossible to send it in the proper time; I am sorry very much and I hope this will not happen in the future.

Cairo WW.

During Cairo WW Commission 2 had several important activities, such as:

- **Workshop on Virtual Academy and Surveying/Geoinformatics Community.**

Unfortunately Prof. Esben Munk Sorensen could not attend this event because of a illness; Prof. Bela Markus, Chair Elect, took the responsibility and made an excellent work.

According to the programme there were five papers, all of them extremely interesting.

For Munich Congress we hope to have a publication on this topic.

- **Students meeting.**

Chaired by Gabriele Dasse and Prof. Bela Markus, there was a students meeting, whose main topics were:

- Bologna process
- Decreasing the number of students in Europe
- Chances of finding good job finishing the studies is becoming better

- Regarding the Munich Congress:
 - To have guest lecturers
 - To prepare a list of the student-participants
 - To organize some students session and, afterwards, a student meeting
 - To prepare some social event for students
 - To try to offer accommodation in youth hotels

There were eleven participants from Sweden (4), Germany (3), Egypt (3), UK (1) and Uzbekistan (1).

- **Commissions 1&2 sessions.**

TS – 5----- 40 Participants ----- 5 papers

TS – 10----- 39 Participants ----- 5 papers

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- **Commission 2 sessions.**

TS – 20 ----- 37 Participants ----- 4 papers

TS – 25 ----- 27 Participants----- 4 papers

- **Commission 2 Delegates meeting.**

As it is usual in every WW, Commission 2 had a Delegates meeting. There were 15 participants, 8 of them from Africa, coming most of the speeches from them.

There was an analysis of the situation in that continent; summarizing, we could say: Nigeria, Tanzania, Ghana and Morocco are in good academic situation; the other ones are in a worse one; this impression was confirmed during the round table on Africa.

The main topics discussed were:

- Decreasing the number of students.
- It is needed a new methodology of teaching
- We should try to involve more academic members in FIG events
- Commission 2 should prepare meetings in Universities
- It would be desirable to get economic support from the FIG Foundation for students and academic staff to attend the FIG events.
- Commission 2 should prepare a seminar on curriculum quality
- e-learning should be improved in Africa
- CPD should be an important role of Comm. 1&2
- There was a short analysis of the African and Latinamerican Educational Networks; unfortunately the answer from Africa has been very poor: only 6 answers from 50 letters sent.

- **Round table on “ Surveying and GIS Education in Africa and the Arabic countries”.**

There was a round table specifically devoted to analyze the situation of Education and Profession in Africa.

The number of participants was 28, ten of them from Africa.

It was discussed the situation in South Africa, where the only Department of Surveying in the Cape Town University will probably be closed; FIG Comm.2 has been in contact with the South African Authorities and there are serious doubts about its survival.

There was information from Ghana, Tanzania, Algeria, Morocco and Nigeria where the situation is good. In Egypt Surveying, Geodesy, etc. are taught in the Civil Engineering Schools. In Arabia Saudi there are five Institutes of Surveying (one of them military); there is one University teaching Surveying; there are special programmes on Hydrography and not so good training in Photogrammetry. In Bahreim Universities don't teach Surveying; most students go to UK or ITC; recruitment of professionals is made abroad and there is a big demand of professionals. Finally, in the Middle East the situation is good.

Cameroon proposed the creation of an International Institute of Geomatics in Central Africa; there was a large discussion, there is the possibility of using a model similar to that used in Malawi and was taken the decision of making deep studies about the possibilities, implications, etc. of organizing such a Center.

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The about topic was discussed again in the specific meeting held to study the creation of such Institute, with 21 participants, deep and alive discussions; it was emphasized the big difficulties of this project and Mr. Fabien Omboudou Ndjina, from Cameroon, proposed to organize a seminar in Jaundeé on this topic.

International Summer School.-12 – 19 August 2005.

In 2001, a series of one-week courses, called the “Geoinformation International Summer School (GISS)” was started at the University of West Hungary, College of Geoinformatics.

This year, GISS focused on the area of GIS applications in agricultural planning and monitoring. Some of the topics which were touched upon were: Comparison of implementations of the EU area-based subsidizing system, agricultural parcel identification systems, remote sensing based monitoring and change detection, land use planning, interaction between wetlands and the surrounding areas; developing different land use scenarios in GIS, Internet GIS in public use and collaboration. Special emphasis was given to the impacts of the accession of new countries to the EU.

The students were enrolled into 3 thematic work groups:

- WG1: Remote sensing based monitoring of agricultural subsidies utilization
- WG2: Sustainable land use planning and monitoring
- WG3: Web GIS in public use and collaboration

The project-oriented programme has included lectures in plenary session, methodological seminars, training sessions, fieldwork, work in computer labs and presentation of the results achieved by the students in the work groups.

Regional meeting in Havana.

Unfortunately, because of logistic motives, the Regional meeting to be held in Havana, in September, was cancelled and postponed, perhaps to be held in other country in the incoming years.

Commission 2, and, mainly, members of the WG 2.2, who have worked so much trying to organize an “Educational Network in Latinamerica”, were very much affected because their idea was to give the first organized information about their work before Munich.

We hope that the incoming Council will organize, as soon as possible, this Regional Meeting in Latinamerica.

5th FIG Regional conference in Africa.

Next year, since 9 to 12 March 2006, there will be a Regional Conference in Africa, devoted to “Promoting Land Administration and Good Governance”; this meeting will be held in Accra, Ghana, and all information can be found in the FIG web site.

For Commission 2, and bearing in mind the educational needs in Africa and the idea of organizing some Institute of Geomatics in Central Africa (there probably will be a seminar on this topic), this is a very important event where our colleagues, meanly that from Africa, should take part, give their ideas to try to solve the enormous problems in some countries and improve the quality of our Profession and professionals.

So, Commission 2 invites all of you to take part in this meeting and give as many papers as possible, mainly on “Surveying Education in Africa”, Virtual Academy, e-learning technologies and experiences”, “Capacity building and mutual recognition”, etc. The deadline for abstracts is 10 November.

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Workshop in Budapest.

Since 27 to 29 April 2006, organized by Comm. 2,3&7, there will be in Budapest a workshop on “e-Governance, Knowledge Management and e-Learning”.

The goals of the workshop:



e-Governance, the Knowledge Management and e-Learning intertwine. Discipline and practical aspects in the professional education cannot exist without considering them simultaneously. It was a joint decision of three FIG commissions, namely Commission 2 on the Professional Education, Commission 3 on the Spatial Information Management and Commission 7 on the Cadastre and Land Management, they have intention to get closer to each other in these fields. For this reason, the workshop is an excellent possibility to strengthen the relationship between these commissions.

Educational needs in e-Governance, solutions and trends in knowledge management and knowledge transfer, furthermore educational and training services in e-Learning will be on agenda. Speakers are expected to give information on the present state, trends, and would-be developments of these three up-to-date topics.

Information can be found in www.fig.hu ; Commission 2 invites all of you to participate in this interesting workshop.

Thank you very much for your time to read these lines whose information we hope will be interesting for you all.

Our best wishes.
Prof. Pedro J. Caverio
Chair

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Chair Elect

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