Mutual Recognition – Session 1
Developing Professional Networks and MRAs around the Globe

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Status of Mutual Recognition in South Africa

- The core need/driver for MR is the pending SADC Integration – Free Trade and Movement of people. - a 250 million people market (2011) across 15 Southern Africa Countries.
- In recent years South Africa Signed an agreement with RICS for recognition (One way only).
- Historically, a number of Southern African Countries use South African registration as recognition of competence – again a one way system.
- Currently SA, Zimbabwe, Botswana talking on the very periphery of this issue. (Institutes and Councils)
Status of Mutual Recognition in South Africa

- The South African Qualifications Authority has a document “CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR THE EVALUATION OF FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS”
  - Distinction between Academic Recognition and Professional Recognition.
  - Professional Recognition comprises of:
    - De jure professional recognition – South Africa
    - De facto professional recognition
MR process and key achievements/challenges

• What is the process of mutual recognition – None, South Africa has not got that far. Such would have to entail regular audits of the other parties process, models, and systems to meet our legal requirements.
• Key milestones/achievements – None – Currently a one way process.
• Challenges / Problems : Practitioners are liable for Life and Council must protect the public – it is questionable whether the council would be able to properly exercise its code of conduct and disciplinary powers over processionals who do not permanently reside in the country – international reach.
Mutual recognition plans for the future

• Our legislation allows for MR – not withstanding the De jure Professional environment.

• Need to do a study on Legal Requirements to be met by our council with respect to another foreign party and its processes and procedures.

• Key needs & Wants – Similar depth of Theory, Similar legal ability to hold people responsible. Similar Categories of Registration
What is needed from FIG?

- FIG needs to build / provide a platform for debate / communication and a repository of documents – models, possible templates.
- FIG needs to update the MR statement in the form of a members convention / agreement on MR. – a commitment to work towards MR. Such can form the bases for a full convention at a future date.