

Report to the 44th General Assembly eFIG Congress 2021, 21-25 June 2021, 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. This report covers the progress update since then.

2. Working Groups

2.1 WG 1.1 International Ethics and Standards (Timothy Burch)

Welcome Timothy Burch of the National Society of Professional Surveyors of United States joining us as the Chair of Commission 1 Working Group 1.1 with effect from Dec 2020 and thanks to the work of the outgoing WG chair, Gary Strong of the United Kingdom.

Winnie SHIU has represented FIG as a Trustee on the International Ethics Standards Coalition (IESC). 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 have been successfully applied in the surveying related profession, which are presented and discussed, FIG Council will discuss 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 2019 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 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 based on the outcome of the best practices.

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.

A round table discussion which was planned in the working week in Amsterdam in 2020 were meant to focus discussions on the diversity and inclusion issues which face our members, but unfortunately it didn't happen due to the pandemic. Unfortunately as advised by Robyn that there hasn't been much progress throughout 2020 due to the pandemic. Hope there would have updates in the next General Assembly covering the issues relating to women including the World Bank 'Stand for her land' and the SDG 5 Gender Equality, and whether we should come up with the following statements for 'Charter for Women':

- 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.

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 Isreal-Jordan Aravah 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.

Following the FIG Publication 59 International Boundary Making edited by Haim Srebro, which was produced through Commission 1 in 2013, Haim Srebro and his Working Group members Vincent Belgrave, Andrea Cantile, Donald Grant and William A. Robertson, who are all highly qualified experts and practitioners in 'boundary marking', published the FIG 76 International Boundary on Unstable Ground through Commission 1 in 2020. This publication is a fine and profound supplement to FIG 59 and focused on the boundaries in rivers and lakes and on the boundaries on unstable ground especially on glaciers and in conjunction with tectonic plate movements. It also covers the new challenge of precise GNSS-measurements in conjunction with international borders, promotes just, peace and inclusive societies throughout the world and achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal No. 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Thanks to the authors for their valuable contribution as international experts of boundary-makers. I hope that this publication will be an informative guide for the definition of future international borders.

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 had been held in Deqing, China from 17-18 Sept 2020. The workshop was organised by FIG Commission 1 and The People's Government of Deqing County, China, hosted by Zhejiang Province Society for Geodesy Photogrammetry and Cartography, The Administration of Huzhou Moganshan High-tech Industry Development Zone, China, and Beijing iSpatial Co., Ltd., FIG Corporate member, and guided by the Chinese Society for Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography. Owing to the COVID-19, it was held in a hybrid mode, onsite and online, and was well attended by 200 participants. Thanks to the support given by China in organising the workshop successfully.

4. Publications

a. FIG 76 International Boundary on Unstable Ground:

<https://www.fig.net/resources/publications/figpub/pub76/figpub76.asp>

b. Commission 1 Newsletter in Dec 2020:

https://www.fig.net/organisation/comm/1/Library/newsletters/com_1_Newsletter_Dec2020.pdf

c. A joint publication Commission Chairs Publication on 'Key Global and Technology Drivers impacting Surveying: Reflections by the FIG Commission Chairs', Mar 2021 at GIM International Issue 1 Business Guide 2021:

https://issuu.com/geomarespublishing/docs/gim_international-issue_1business_guide_2021?fr=sYmEwZjMwODM2Nzc

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