

**FIG (INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SURVEYORS)
LIAISON REPORT TO ISO TC211 PLENARY,
THUN, MAY 2003**

Introduction

FIG remains committed to active engagement in the work of TC211, which it sees as of great importance to FIG's members. A key development within FIG in the last 5 years or so is that each annual conference sees a large number of papers directly addressing standardisation issues, and a larger number referring to standardisation as a necessary component in their subject matter. The various efforts to raise the profile of standardisation over the last few years therefore seem to be bearing fruit. This brief report outlines current FIG activity related to TC211 and standards in general.

FIG Standards Network

The Network of representatives from each of FIG's Commissions continues its work. A useful meeting held in Paris in April 2003 reviewed progress to date, and focussed on priorities for the next year. It has collated a summary of the work of the FIG Commissions, and of FIG's Sister Societies, in and around standardisation. This summary is currently being refined but will then be shared with relevant organisations and may, for instance, lead to an article in the ISO Bulletin. The Network's priorities for the next year include several areas of TC211's current or possible work, including:

- Qualification and certification of personnel;
- Location-based services; and
- Standardisation of the cadastral domain.

Outreach

FIG fully supports the TC211 work on outreach and has appointed two members – Gerhard Joos and Iain Greenway – to the TC211 Outreach Group. Both are and intend to remain active members. FIG will continue to work with the Outreach Group to ascertain how FIG's meetings and publications can best be used to provide a channel for TC211 information. FIG also intends to use the Factsheets that the Outreach Group is preparing, as input for determining which TC211 standards are most relevant to the work of the various FIG Commissions.

Qualification and Certification of Personnel

FIG participated in the Editing Committee for the Draft Technical Report. FIG sees the next stage of the process as a sectoral meeting to review the various activities in and around mutual recognition, certification, etc, so as to agree a common way forward. FIG continues to see standardisation as a sub-optimal approach to the issue, preferring the more practical route of mutual recognition, but sees coordination of the various activities as a priority.

Terminology

The FIG Multi-Lingual Dictionary website and the ISO 19104 terminology repository have mutual hotlinks, as agreed in communication between the two bodies. No further developments of the linkages are envisaged at present, but communication between the two groups will continue as appropriate.

Other areas

Current areas of active interest to FIG remain:

- International Valuation Standards, where FIG continues to develop its relationship with the IVSC
- Instrument standards (ISO TC172 SC6)
- Hydrographic standards, both for the coordinate systems etc, and also for the calibration of survey equipment
- Influencing the development of standards in the construction and spatial planning areas

FIG Publication 28 – FIG Guide on Standardisation – summarises a wide range of information relating to standards and standardisation. It is of use to all involved in the standardisation area and is available at www.fig.net, under ‘publications’.

World report on good practice

The FIG Council is currently developing an idea of bringing together all of FIG’s work in the various fields of surveying, to provide a searchable repository of good practice. This could include links to other relevant material as well. A web-based search engine would be required as a suitable entry tool to the repository. FIG believes that such a repository will provide an extremely valuable tool for surveyors and the wider community.

Final words

FIG is pleased with the way that the profile of standards has risen over the past few years, and is committed to continuing to work, including within TC211, to further this development.

Iain Greenway

Chair, FIG Standards Network and Lead Liaison with ISO TC211