Our session today -

- Look at the current FIG definition of a surveyor
- Hear about our workshop held last year to gather views and inspire discussion to update the FIG definition.
- Consider the topics we discussed and the findings about the definition and around each of the topic areas.
- Hear the findings of discussions held at the Young Surveyor’s Conference on Wednesday 18 June.
- Join the discussion at this session.
**FIG Definition of a Surveying/Spatial Professional**

- A surveyor is a professional person with the academic qualifications and technical expertise to conduct one, or more, of the following activities;
  - to determine, measure and represent land, three-dimensional objects, point-fields and trajectories;
  - to assemble and interpret land and geographically related information,
  - to use that information for the planning and efficient administration of the land, the sea and any structures thereon; and,
  - to conduct research into the above practices and to develop

**Workshop Outcome**

- Facilitated workshop in Melbourne September 11, 2013
- 20 local and 3 Skype participants
- Aim to “...gather views and inspire constructive discussion from a wide cross-section of interested parties... to update the FIG definition ... to define the long term future role for surveyors and spatial professionals.
- Existing definition has a wide definition of surveyor to include all professional fields.
- The outcome of the workshop has been a set of findings to stimulate analysis and debate at the FIG Congress in Kuala Lumpur.
- This will be combined in a paper recommending changes to the definition to be submitted to the FIG Council at the end of 2014.
Workshop Format

- Scene setting presentations

- Group work on five topics with three rotations:
  - New technology/ future scan
  - Young professionals view, new ways of working, fitting into the spatial industry
  - The future of surveying as a regulated profession
  - Education and professional development
  - Under-represented groups, remote areas, indigenous groups

- History break – Looking back to look forward

- Plenary discussion on group topics

- Next actions

About the Definition

- The current wording no longer works well:
  - The wording is not ‘modern’
  - Most content is right but it misses some vital elements

- The definition has a curious role:
  - It is primarily inward looking
  - Some considered that only limited use is made of it

- But:
  - It defines who we are and how we see ourselves
  - It informs many other documents and narratives about us
  - It creates a framework within which we can work together
  - It puts a boundary around our expertise
  - It formalises and adds credibility to our expertise so our value is recognised
Overarching Findings

- Our definition needs to focus on function (outputs we deliver for the end user) rather than our skills (inputs)

- The role of the surveyor has changed significantly since the previous definition, as much in emphasis as activity

- International diversity makes it difficult for it to work for everyone and to capture local issues and peculiarities

Topic Findings 1

- Technology
  - Technology is a massive and obvious driver of change
  - But surveyors select technology, rather than being driven by it
  - Surveyors may need to be data curators not creators
  - The skill of the surveyor will be needed to identify authoritative data in a crowd sourced or machine sourced data world
  - Surveyors may no longer ‘own’ the data
  - Surveyors must be technology experts
A regulated profession

- The regulated element is small but vital to the definition
- Regulation and licensing creates confidence in the advice
- Global differences mean the definition must be carefully framed
- Reliability of interpretation (new model) is at least critical as accuracy (old model)

Education

- The description affects enrolment
- Career decisions are made very young
- There are many influencers including parents, teachers and institutions
- Specific words create lasting impressions
- Other terms complement the word ‘surveyor’:
  - Specific words (e.g. Geomatics)
  - General words (e.g. Spatial)
Topic Findings for 4 and 5

- Young professionals
  - The language must be work for young people
  - The definition must demonstrate the breadth of our scope

- Under-represented groups
  - We are not alone in having an interest in the land so we must focus on outcomes
  - Under-representation varies between countries and cultures so our definition must be general
  - Our definition must aim at 100% of people and use ‘inclusive’ words

Exploring the Topics with the Young Surveyors on Wednesday 18 June 2014

- A session was held with the Young Surveyors Conference Chaired by Tom Champion from Victoria who had been at the 2013 workshop with Benedicta Ugwulebo from Nigeria as Rapporteur.

- Tom outlined the findings from the earlier workshop and the ran a condensed version of this for the session with the young surveyors and a couple of young surveyors at heart.

- There was a very spirited discussion and all aspects of the topics were reviewed. This led to a range of additional points to feed into the process.
Key points made by the Young Surveyors – 1

- Technology
  - The focus of technology is the end product, not the technology which is an enabling tool and always changing.
  - The use and cost for online data is an emerging issue
- A regulated profession
  - Regulations vary between jurisdictions and this needs to be considered
  - Regulation protects the interests of the public
  - Self regulation as a professional is important as well as government or professional regulations.
- Education
  - Needs to accommodate difference across the jurisdictions.
  - Being a member of a professional organisation is important for ongoing growth and development
  - Ongoing self development is needed as a professional and also assisting the profession to develop

Key points made by the Young Surveyors - 2

- Young professionals
  - Involvement of young professionals in considering key policies like definitions is needed as they will be the future leaders
  - There is an increasing awareness by this group that their professional work has important social, ethical and environmental impacts
- Under-represented groups
  - Surveying terms are not accessible to a broad range of people in society this limits participation to groups ‘in the know’
  - Need to increase involvement of different groups including women, underrepresented ethnic and social economic groups and different religious – this will allow our profession to better serve a diverse society
**So Where's the New Definition?**

- The workshop was about:
  - Validating the need
  - Defining the scope
  - Setting out major elements which must be covered
  - Enlisting champions and experts

- We think it is worth:
  - Getting endorsement and ownership
  - Getting more people to discuss this like the Young Surveyors on Wednesday 18 June
  - Getting it right

**Framework to develop Discussion Paper**

- Champions from the workshop will prepare:
  - Summary of requirements for definition in regards to their topic
  - Tentative ideas or examples of how current definition may change

- Collaborative Commission 1 activity will develop an integrated discussion paper

- We will present a discussion paper to FIG

- FIG Commission 1 will then progress towards a formal change of definition

- We may also consider the development of a policy paper to take this further
Join the Debate - Contact me:

- send your ideas or discussion points to me or Robyn McCutcheon, Vice Chair Commission 1

-join FIG and Commission 1 discussions on LinkedIn

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