

Surveyors Crossing International Boundaries –

**The Australian and New Zealand
Bureau for Assessment of
Overseas Qualifications**

Emeritus Professor John FRYER

FIG2010

**Each State in Australia, and New
Zealand, has a Board of Surveyors to
License and Regulate Cadastral
Surveyors and Surveying**

**They formed a joint committee in
1892 known as CRSBANZ**

What is CRSBANZ?

CRSBANZ is the Council for the Reciprocating Surveyors Boards of Australia and New Zealand.

Reciprocating means there are reciprocal rules and rights for surveyors to practice within and across these jurisdictions.

CRSBANZ has met regularly for 118 years to

- **Understand each others problems and develop common approaches to challenges facing the cadastre;**
- **Maintain educational standards, initially through common examinations (from 1900) then through university degrees (from 1970);**
- **Determine the entry level standard for overseas surveyors wishing to practice cadastral surveying (ongoing).**

Bureau for Assessment of Overseas Qualifications (BAOQ)

- **From 1970 to 1992, academics at Melbourne University assessed the standard of the qualifications of the low numbers of overseas surveyors coming to Australia.**
- **When the number of enquiries increased, a more formal system was needed.**
- **In 1992, CRSBANZ formed the BAOQ to provide a simpler, more timely, mechanism to assess overseas surveyors.**

BAOQ

- **For the last 19 years BAOQ has provided an approximate weekly (or less) turnaround for overseas surveyor's assessments for a fee (now \$220)**
- **The Bureau has a Chairperson and has academic contacts who may assist from time-to-time**

BAOQ

- **The key criterion is that overseas academic qualifications are compared to the ‘standard’ Australasian degree in surveying, but**
- **Other factors such as cadastral knowledge or practical experiences are reported to the Boards of Surveyors as a recommendation**
- **It is the statutory Boards of Surveyors which make the final determination.**

Why have the BAOQ?

- **Consistency and Transparency**
- **Before BAOQ some surveyors would “shop around” to see if a Board of Surveyors would accept them**
- **Once accepted, they could automatically transfer to another State. This led to uncertainties between States**

What is the Australasian 'standard Surveying degree'?

- **The Australian government was concerned that some States had their 'own rules' and prevented professionals from transferring their work internally within Australia**
- **The government urged all professions to prepare a 'Set of Competencies' for their profession.**
- **Surveyors did this from 1994 to 1996 ...
"The Brown Book"**

The Brown Book

- **Prepared by the Institution of Surveyors it describes a full set of Surveying Competencies ... but acknowledges that a professional surveyor only requires certain basic competencies plus a few of the specialist competencies, such as Cadastral or Mining or Hydrographic, etc.**
- **It is a template against which to judge an overseas degree in Surveying.**

The Brown Book

- **The Brown Book is a comprehensive 96-page document which allows the judgment of overseas degrees to be:**
 1. **Transparent**
 2. **Fair (not biased)**
 3. **Consistent**

Since 1992

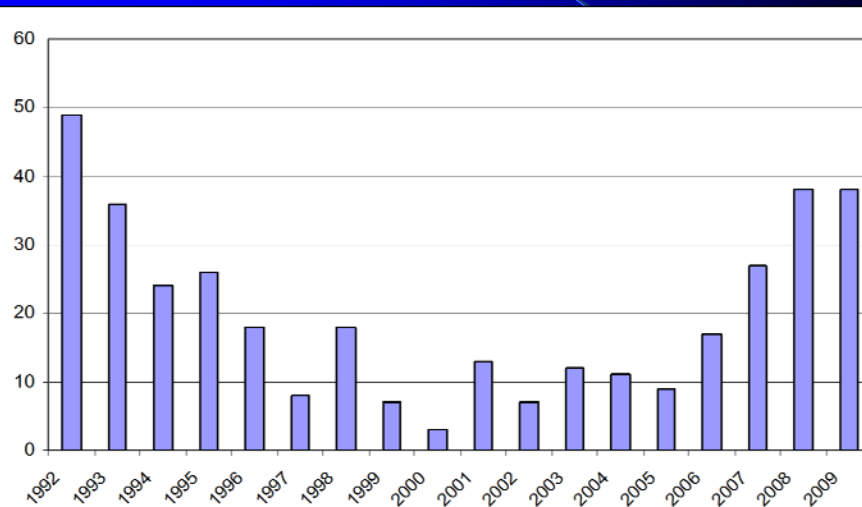
- **Over 360 formal overseas applications, plus several informal enquiries from employers and Boards**
- **Success rate has remained steady at around 60%**
- **Most 'failures' are from persons with 'Technical College' qualifications**

Success Rates per Region

Region	Applications	Successful	Success Percentage
Europe	143	88	62%
South Africa	85	48	56%
Asia	80	44	55%
Pacific Region	24	15	62%
North America	18	14	78%
South America	6	4	67%
TOTALS	356	213	60%

Applications: from 3 to 49

Average number is 20 per year



Where From? A total of 55 Countries, mainly

Country	No.	Country	No.
South Africa	51	Bulgaria	9
England	37	Iraq	9
Germany	21	Papua New Guinea	9
Philippines	17	China	9
Zimbabwe	16	Canada	9
Hong Kong	14	USA	8
Poland	12	Italy	7
Sri Lanka	11	Russia	7
Fiji	11	Egypt	7

Any Questions ?