

Proposed Commission 2 Work Plan (2011-2014)

Steve Frank, USA

SUMMARY

The proposed Commission 2 Work Plan will build on the work of previous terms of Commission 2. It will continue the work on e-learning, work with identifying core survey knowledge, work with building capacity in surveying education, promote opportunities for Young Surveyors, promote FIG Academic Membership, work with educational management and marketing, and identify educational standards and accreditation procedures.

The work will be done through 4 proposed working groups. Annual workshops are planned. Each planned conference will focus on one or more themes from a working group. Times and locations of these workshops are still in being considered.

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INTRODUCTION

The FIG Congress changes every four years after the FIG Congress meetings. The next change will be in January 2011. At this point a new FIG President and FIG Commission Chairs will take office. Prior to commission chairs taking office, they are elected to a two-year term as Chair-elect during which time each of the FIG Commission Chair-elects is charged with reviewing and updating their commission work for the coming four year cycle.

The commission work plans should build on the success of past work plans, eliminate outdated programs and integrate new ideas and interests. The work plans should also have relevance to overall FIG goals and aspirations such as capacity building, gender equity and other social issues.

The objective of the commission work plan is to focus the direction of the commission to topics of interest and need to FIG and to the surveying profession as a whole. The work plans of each commission would ideally mesh with one another without duplicating efforts. Topics of interest in each commission are determined by the members of that commission and by the FIG board.

These are then endorsed (or not) by the FIG General Assembly.

The Proposed Commission 2 Work Plan

The proposed Commission 2 Work Plan for 2011-2014 is given below. It is based upon preliminary thoughts and discussions with others. It will be further refined by discussions with members of Commission 2, with the chairs and chair-elects of other commissions and with the FIG board.

The first part of the proposed work plan identifies terms of reference and the commission mission statement. These are modified and updated from the current 2007-2001 Commission 2 Work Plan. These are followed by the general statement of commission activities and the proposed working groups to carry out these activities.

The preliminary work plan identifies four proposed working groups. Each of the working groups represents an area of focus in professional surveying education. We are also proposing the development of four work shops, one for each of the working groups. The workshops are proposed to be held annually with tentative locations set in the U.K. (near London), Hungary, and Texas. Preliminary discussions have been held with potential chairs of two of the working

groups. Names of other potential working group chairs have been discussed and those persons will be contacted soon (if not by the time of this conference).

CONCLUSION

The final work plans will be adopted at the 2011 Working Week in Morocco. The Commission 2 Work Plan will be fully developed at that point with input from a variety of sources within FIG and from other relevant parties. We hope that the work plan will build on the successes of previous Commission 2 work plans and will help move the aspirations and plans of FIG towards a brighter future.

FIG Commission 2 – Professional Education
(Proposed) Work Plan 2011-2014

1. Title

Professional education

2. Terms of reference

- Curriculum development
- Core surveying knowledge
- Learning and teaching methods and technologies
- Educational management and marketing
- Continuing professional development
- Networking in education and training

3. Mission statement

Promoting good practices in professional surveying education:

- Exploring the needs of society and endorsing universities and other educational organizations to develop mechanisms and processes that will help to meet those needs
- Supporting and promoting advances in survey education through identification of core surveying knowledge
- Promoting cooperative ventures in surveying education and research
- Support the building of capacity for surveying education in the developing world
- Reinforcing contacts to educational commissions of related professions
- Improving dissemination of information on all of the above

4. General

The Commission 2 Work Plan 2011-2014 will build on the experiences of previous Commission 2 Work Plans to fulfill and implement the FIG General Council Work Plan. In general the 2011-2014 work plan aims to:

- Identify and promote professional surveying education standards and accreditation
- Identify and promote core surveying knowledge
- Identify and promote best learning and teaching practices in surveying education
- Identify and promote educational management and marketing processes
- Continue development on the FIG Survey Education Database
- Promote FIG Academic membership of universities and other educational organizations
- Identify and promote opportunities for Young Surveyors within Commission 2 and FIG
- Identify and promote cooperative education and research opportunities
- Organize workshops on topics related to the above
- Work with other FIG Commissions on topics of mutual interest

The mission will be realized by the following Working Groups:

Working Group 2.1 - Curriculum and Core Survey Knowledge

Professional surveying involves use of rapidly changing technology. Yet core theory and practice of surveying remain almost constant. Identifying core survey knowledge and practice will help to understand curriculum needs for a consistent and interchangeable education for professional surveyors.

Working Group 2.2 – Learning and Teaching Methodology

Like surveying itself, learning and teaching of surveying can also involve the use of rapidly changing technology. Identifying and promoting best practices in e-learning and other educational methodologies plays an important task in the universal continuous development of the surveying profession.

Working Group 2.3 – Marketing and Management of Professional Survey Education

Some parts of the world exhibit a declining interest by potential professionals in surveying education. Other parts of the world have an interest but few opportunities to pursue surveying education. Commercial aspects of education must be recognized but opportunities for cooperation between educational organizations and a logical, universal approach to promotion of professional survey education need be developed and promoted.

Working Group 2.4 – Accreditation and Quality Assurance

The Bologna Process in Europe and NAFTA in North American show a trend to cross-border assurances of quality in professional survey education. Academic accreditation of surveying education programs is growing internationally through organizations such as ABET. The promotion of quality survey education that can meet international needs will promote a universal understanding of the role that surveyors have in developing a sustainable and vibrant living environment for society.

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