

Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications

The FIG Agenda

Prof. Stig Enemark, FIG Vice-President Elect

FIG Regional Conference, Jakarta, 3-7 October 2004

Mutual Recognition - what is it ?

- A HOT issue
- POLITICAL by nature
- CULTURAL by appearance
- PROFESSIONAL by substance

Mutual Recognition - what is it ?

- EU Mutual Recognition is a device for securing the free movement of professionals within the single market
- WTO Mutual Recognition is a device for creating a global marketplace for services
- FIG Mutual Recognition is a device to ensure global exchange of professional qualifications - through a concept that serves the nature of the surveying profession

Mutual Recognition - what is it ?

- Mutual understanding
- Mutual respect
- Mutual trust
- Mutual recognition

FIG Publication on Mutual Recognition



Mutual Recognition - definition

- Mutual recognition is a process which allows the qualifications gained in one country – the home country – to be recognised in another country - the host country
- It is a device which allows a qualified surveyor who seeks to work in another country to acquire the same title as that held by surveyors who have qualified in that country, without having to re-qualify

Mutual Recognition - of what ?

- Recognition does not relate to "getting a job"
- Recognition may relate to becoming a member of the professional association of the host country
- Recognition becomes important when a foreigner wants to practise - setting up a company - in the host country
- Recognition becomes crucial when a foreigner wants to practise within a licensed area - e.g. cadastral surveys - in the host country. Subject to special national/state licensing procedures.

Advantages and Barriers

Globalisation is on the very top of the international agenda. We need to respond to this challenge

Advantages

- Greater transparency, predictability, and irreversibility of policies
- Ease and expand cross border trade and service for small and medium size firms
- Enhance global professional competence

Barriers

- Lack of knowledge and fear of change (protectionism)
- Cultural interpretation of professional competence of foreigners
- Licensing regulations and procedures

The Principles of Mutual Recognition

The principle of mutual recognition of professional qualifications requires certain pre-conditions:

- degree-level entry to the profession in both countries;
- appropriate regulation of the profession in the "host" country;
- degree-level entry to the profession in both countries;
- a corresponding profession;
- an adaptation mechanism; and
- a willingness to trust the professionalism of migrants

(WTO, 1997)

The FIG Approach

- Based not on the process of achieving professional competence, but on the nature and outcome of that process;
- Each country is allowed to retain its own kind of professional education;
- Encourage dialogue between professional organisations to investigate the nature of professional activities and qualifications;
- In turn this should lead to an enhancement of the global professional competence of the surveying profession;
- A pragmatic approach.

A Methodology to Assess Professional Competence

- An individual must be professional qualified in the home country
- A similar profession must exist in the host country
- A representing organisation must exist in the host country
- Political will to support the process

Assessment of professional competence must reflect:

- The nature of the profession in the host country
- The nature of the professional education and training of the surveyor up to the point of application.
- The professional status of the surveyor at the point of application

Surveying Activities and Surveying Professions

Necessary for the surveying organisations in each country to identify which surveying activities are comprised within their surveying profession.

Professional Qualifications

There are a number of difficulties involved in assessing professional qualifications :

- There are many different kinds of surveyors world-wide and the process should operate equally;
- differences in surveying areas and surveying practice in different countries;
- a lack of understanding and agreement about the nature of the surveying activities as practised in other countries.

Information and Communication

the DK business card....



Information and Communication

...the DK business card



Joint FIG/CLGE Seminar



The Role of the Professional Organisations

Efficient communication between the professional organisation in home country and the professional organisation in the host country

The home country should provide:

- details of the professional qualification held
- details of the nature of the particular surveying profession
- confirmation of the status of individual's qualification

Based on simple questionnaires and assessed against adopted threshold standards of professional competence.

FIG Policy Statement...

"The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) recognises the importance of free movement of surveyors in a global marketplace.

The mutual recognition of professional qualifications provides means whereby professional qualifications held by individual surveyors can be recognised by individual professional organisations as comparable to those acquired by their own national surveyors."

...FIG Policy Statement

FIG will promote the concept of Mutual Recognition by:

- Encouraging communication between professional organisations to ensure a better understanding of how surveyors acquire their professional qualifications in different countries;
- Developing with professional organisations a methodology for implementing mutual recognition for surveyors;
- Supporting professional organisations where difficulties are identified in achieving mutual recognition, and encouraging debate at national government level in order to remove such difficulties;
- Working with external organisations (such as the WTO) in order to achieve mutual recognition in both principle and practice of professional qualifications for surveyors world wide.

Mutual Recognition is about

To establish a process which allows the qualifications gained in one country – the home country – to be recognised in another country - the host country – it is about:

- **Mutual understanding**
- **Mutual respect**
- **Mutual trust**



Mutual recognition

