

**Report to the 28th General Assembly
FIG Working Week in Cairo, April 2005**

**FIG Commission 2 – Professional Education
Report of Activities 2004-2005**

1. Latin América

April 13-15, 2004 there was the annual meeting of the Educational Network for Latin America, held by the Colegio de Ingenieros Topógrafos de Costa Rica. The idea of creating this Network arose during the Symposium held in Puerto Rico by the Colegio de Ingenieros y Agrimensores de Puerto Rico (CIAPR) and the Mayagüez University, when noticing that most countries in this continent face similar problems, have many similarities, lacks and needs. Past President Robert Foster supported and underlined the need of such a network. Members were elected in Mayagüez with the goal to represent most of the participating countries.

The main goals of this Network are:

- To establish strong links among the docent Institutions in Latinamerica
- To facilitate the free flow and exchange of ideas, projects and people among our docent Institutions
- To facilitate the harmonization of curricula, if such is possible and necessary
- To facilitate a “common educational base”
- To facilitate mobility among professionals, teaching staff and students
- To improve the conditions of our professionals, when and where it is necessary, and increase the work possibilities of our graduates

This Network is born with spirit of permanence; it is not only an occasional work studying the state of the art in education in this continent, but being a permanent link among professional and educational Institutions. The final results of this first step will be given in a report to be circulated at the regional conference in Cuba in September 2005.

The first meeting was held last year in Córdoba, Argentina, under the leadership of Prof. Loyácano, Chair of WG2.2. During this meeting the work plan, the agenda and the countries under the responsibility of each member of the network were agreed. Further a questionnaire was designed to be sent to different associations and universities. There were eight members attending the meeting for three days. The Federación Argentina de Agrimensores (FADA) was represented by its President Engineer Norberto Frickx. The atmosphere, the organization and kindness with the participants were excellent.

The second meeting was held in Costa Rica, under the umbrella of the Colegio de Ingenieros Topógrafos of this country. Members from Brazil and Uruguay could not attend the meeting, but sent information to work about. At the meeting following countries were represented:

Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, in addition chair of Commission 2 attended.

The goals of the meeting were:

- To study and analyze the collected documentation from Universities and Associations
- To know the state of the art in Education and Profession in each Latin American country
- To exchange experiences in every country about the strategies developed defending our Profession
- To try to prepare a scheme of a minimum common curriculum for the continent
- To define the contents of the final report

The contents of the final report to be given in the FIG Regional Conference to be held this year in La Habana (Cuba) were defined and approved:

1. Introduction
2. State of the Art
 - a) Profession
 - b) Studies
3. Professional Profile for the 21st Century
4. Draft for a new common core curriculum
5. Comparative analysis
6. Conclusions
 - a) Similarities and dissimilarities between the new and the old curricula
 - b) Needs and lacks
 - c) Proposal of “harmonization”

The final conclusions were:

There is a deep conviction that today’s situation is undesirable for everybody – for Professionals, Associations and Universities, mainly when the globalization process brings so many opportunities and problems.

There is a strong wish of having some curricular harmonization which can facilitate mobility inside the continent.

There is a big hope that this Educational Network can seriously help the different countries, Universities, Associations, Professionals, Professors and Students to a better knowledge of each other and, consequently, to facilitate the access to Graduate, Master, PhD, CPD courses inside the continent with much less problems (economic, linguistic, idiosyncratic, ...) than going outside Latin America.

It is fully accepted that this Network should be a permanent forum for all Latin American colleagues, where make possible contacts, exchange of experiences, problems, solutions,... and reinforce the links among themselves and widen this experience to the Sister Caribbean Associations and Universities, although not Spanish speakers, as well as to the North American countries when needed and suitable.

From 16 to 18 September 2004, Vice-Chair of Commission, Prof. Loyácono, attended by invitation of the Colegio de Ingenieros Topógrafos de Costa Rica and representing Commission 2, the VIII International Congress of Surveying, Cadastre and Geodesy, held in San José de Costa Rica, giving a paper on “Different ways of teaching Surveying: Experiences and Results”.

The objectives of WG 2.2 were exposed before the National Board of University Schools of Surveying of Argentina by Prof. Loyácono.

2. Athens Working Week

The FIG Working Week 2004 took place from the 22nd to the 27th May 2004 in Athens, Greece. The Working Week was organized by the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG) and the Hellenic Association of Rural and Surveying Engineers (HARSE) together with FIG.

Commission 2 had three sessions, one of these jointly with Commission 1, with ten papers in total. There were three papers given by students, two from Lund University, Sweden, and one from Warsaw University of Technology, Poland. In the paper given by the Swedish students the need for involving more students from all over the world in the FIG events was stressed. The way to do this was afterwards discussed based on the very little successful experiences of the past, bearing in mind that one of the first times we tried to get students to a Congress was in 1986, in Toronto. A good number of students participated in this Congress, but this experience was, however, not repeated in the following Congresses.

Prof. Esben Munk Sørensen, Vice-Chair of Commission 2, reported about the workshop on “Virtual Academy” to be held this year during the Working Week in Cairo.

Prof. Bela Markus reported as well activities developed by his WG and the programme for the next years.

During the second General Assembly meeting Prof. Bela Markus, Hungary, was elected Chair Elect to Commission 2 (incoming Chair from the Munich Congress in 2006). Prof. Markus is very well known in our Commission where he has been contributing for many years with excellent papers, ideas and works and we are sure that he will be an excellent Chair of our Commission in the next years. Our warmest welcome to this post, Prof. Markus, and we are sure that FIG has made an excellent choice.

3. FIG Regional Conference in Jakarta

In the Regional Meeting held in Jakarta Commission 2 was represented by Prof. Markus, Chair Elect. The activities developed during this meeting were:

- In accordance with Markku Villikka about FIG Commission 2 working programme it was decided:
 - Strengthening of communication with 74 FIG Academic Members
 - Strengthening of communication with students community
 - low participation fee (50 euro),
 - IGSM,

- Reglar summer schools.
 - Communication on Commission level with ICA, ISPRS, AGILE, EEGECS.
 - Plans for a Summer School in Hungary in August 2005 – experiences in IACS.
 - Seminar on Knowledge Transfer (WG 2.4) in Hungary. Dates September 2004 or Spring 2005.
- Commission 2 proposed WG structure after 2006
 - Educational management strategic issues
 - Needs analysis (surveying the future)
 - Curriculum design
 - Network development
 - Joint diploma
 - Capacity building
 - Business models
 - Quality management
 - Recognition
 - eLearning – Virtual Academy
 - ODL methods & technologies
 - Using web resources (eg. FIG Reference Library, forum)
 - Content development
 - Networked education
 - CPD in practice
 - Life-long learning, carrier
 - Building communities
 - Knowledge management
 - Education of Valuers

There was a Technical Session, with five papers, and a plenary session with three papers.

4. African Educational Network

During the Marrakech Regional Conference Prof. Heinz R ther, from the Cape Town University, explained the educational situation of Surveyors in Africa. It was organized a round table, chaired by Prof. Holger Magel, President of FIG, with experts from Africa; it was decided to establish the African Educational Network, under the responsibility of Commission 2, to know the state of the art, to try to organize some common core curriculum (if possible and desirable) and to give the maximum support from FIG and the international organizations with good relations with our Federation (UN, WB, USAID,...).

Following with the Marrakech decision, Prof. H. R ther, and Prof. E. Semlali, Co-Chairs of the organized Network, have continued working in this field and, although with not many answers to the questionnaire sent to several University and Professional Institutions around the African Continent, some of them are still arriving and thus it is hoped to reach a level of information which allows to get an accurate map of the educational situation in this continent. During the Cairo WW there will be another round table about this topic.

Prof. Pedro J. Cavero
 Chair of Commission 2
 8 February 2005