



Newsletter December 2004

Dear colleagues,

Close to the end of this year let us wish you the best for the next 2005 and express my hopes that the next year comes plenty of activity, work and success in our Federation and our lives.

Following with the Marrakech decision to organize a thematic educational network in Africa, as we have done in Latin America, our colleagues Prof. H. Rüter, from South Africa, and Prof. E. Semlali, from Morocco, have continued working in this field and, although we have not had many answers to our questionnaire, some of them are coming and we hope to reach a level of information which allows us to get an accurate map of the educational situation in this continent.

Last spring the educational network for Latin America had its second meeting in Costa Rica, where, under the umbrella of the Costarriquean Association of Surveyors (Colegio de Ingenieros Topógrafos), there were several sessions in which was analyzed the received information from the different countries and was established the calendar of the next meetings and presentation of results. So, the next meeting will probably be in February or March this year to discuss the final steps and prepare our presentation during the Regional Meeting to be held next September in La Habana (Cuba). For this meeting relevant colleagues from Latin America and outside are being invited to take part and give some papers related to our project. Let me cordially invite all of you to this meeting in the certainty that Cuba and the event will fulfil all your hopes; our Cuban colleagues and our Council are doing their best to get a success. Please, have a look to the FIG web site to maintain updated regarding this event.

During the Athens Working Week there were several sessions in Commission 2 with very interesting papers, most of them related to Education, and one session in conjunction with Commission 1; this one was a very interesting and valuable experience which should be repeated in the future and with other Commissions as well.

In Jakarta, during the Regional Meeting, Commission 2 has had a very intensive activity not only during technical sessions but also analyzing the present and preparing the future of our activities. So, there were two sessions, with seven papers in total, with participants from Africa, Asia and Europe. It was decided to strengthen our communication with the seventy four Academic members, with the students, through their organization (IGSO), trying to offer them very low registration fees and to increase activities with summer schools in the next future (the first one next August in Hungary), and to our sister organizations ICA, ISPRS, AGILE, EEGECS, etc. The Elect Chair gave his first draft about the proposed structure for the next term 2006 – 2010.

In April next year FIG, together with the Egyptian Association of Surveyors, is organizing the annual Working Week. This WW is extremely important for our Commission because of two causes:

- There will be one or two round tables on the Educational Situation in Africa, following that held in Marrakech, to study, analyze and propose solutions, or ways to get them, to the enormous problems that our Profession and our Faculties have, here and now, in that Continent. We are inviting relevant

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people from Africa to take part in this round tables in order to get the best information and find, all together, the ways to solve them, bearing always in mind that the solution of these problems is something to be faced by the National and International Authorities and Bodies (UN, FAO, UNESCO, FIG,...); this is a long way, plenty of difficulties, but none of them should be enough to stop us if we are convinced that something must be done and are ready to work in the project. You are very kindly invited to take part in these round tables and in the project, as a whole, knowing that we are trying to help our colleagues very much concerned by this situation.

- As a pre-congress event, Commission 2 is organizing a Workshop on “**Virtual Academy and the Surveying/Geoinformatics Community**”. This workshop is, in some way, continuation of that held in Helsinki some years ago. Virtual Academy is something more and more important nowadays and Commission 2 has been working in this field since several years; this time, with this Workshop, will be closed this project and the final results will be given as a book in Munich during the Congress in 2006. All of you interested in this field will be very welcome giving a paper or just attending presentations and discussions. Information is available in the FIG web page and the “Call for papers” has been sent by the FIG office. This workshop will take place on Saturday the 16th April, there will be three sessions and will be held at the Semiramis Intercontinental Hotel in Cairo.

In September next year FIG, together with the Cuban Association of Surveyors, has decided to organize a Regional Meeting in Latin America; this is the first time that this kind of event is held by a Latin American country. This is the best occasion for all of us to know the professional and educational situation in this continent. Your participation is of vial importance; we all have a lot to learn: ones from the outside of the continent people; the others from our Latin American colleagues; the work to do is enormous; the needs infinite; one and others can only be faced with possibilities of success if, and only if, all work together and giving our best, bearing in mind the same considerations expressed above about Africa. You will never regret to attend this Regional Meeting.

Thank you very much for your time to read these lines and let us, once again, wish you all the best during the New Year 2005.

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Chair
Prof. Bela Markus
Chair Elect

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