

REPORT ON ISO/TC 211 MEETINGS

COPENHAGEN, MAY 2008

1. OVERVIEW

The main highlight for FIG was the start of work in ISO on the Land Administration Domain Model. This Project Team held a very productive meeting during the week, and work is now underway to refine the draft version and move to the next ISO stage – Committee Draft (CD) – in late 2008.

The attendance at the meeting was higher than for several previous meetings; this perhaps reflects the breadth of work underway in the Technical Committee at the moment, as well as the growing interest in ISO standards in Europe because of the work on INSPIRE.

Other work of interest to FIG included:

- An informal meeting on 19130 – Imagery Sensor Models – to resolve comments submitted (including those from FIG);
- The continuation of Outreach Work, with a focus on getting more material into Wikipedia and a requirement to provide a prioritised plan at the next meeting in December;
- A draft new work item proposal on Observations and Measurements which may be of relevance to Commission 5; and
- Continuing delays in setting up an ISO-complaint register for geodetic codes and parameters (this is STILL under discussion between TC211, BKG in Germany and The International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP). Given that registers are for many the practical realisation of standards, this delay is very frustrating.

2. MY ACTIVITY

I attended the following meetings during the week:

- Monday and Tuesday morning – Project Team meeting on Land Administration Domain Model
- Tuesday afternoon – meeting on ISO 19130 – Imagery Sensor Models
- Wednesday morning – FIG meetings
- Wednesday afternoon – Standards in Action workshop
- Thursday and Friday – TC Plenary meeting

3. PROGRESS ON WORK

TC211 seems to be going through a new burst of activity. There were more than 160 people attending, up on recent meetings. There is a wide range of work underway, with new standards being finalised and published on a monthly basis. Progress in outline is as follows:

- Working Group 4 – Geospatial Services
 - The extension to 19119 (Services) has been published
 - Work is commencing on revision of the Simple Feature Access standards (19125 parts 1 and 2)
 - A revision to 19128 – Web Map Server – will be proposed soon
 - The revision of 19117 – Portrayal – is continuing and is not without problems. The standard is being converted into a multi-part standard, probably along the lines of General – Portrayal Services – Finishing Rules. There is a real possibility that this work will run out of time
 - The editing committee on 19118 – Encoding – grinds on. All comments have been resolved in principle
 - 19142 (Web Feature Service) and 19143 (Filter Encoding) are making some progress but the timetable is slipping
 - 19149 – GeoREL – met during the week and made some progress. A CD is declared to be imminent
- Working Group 6 – Imagery
 - 19101-2 – Reference Model for Imagery – has been published
 - 19115-2 – Metadata for Imagery – received mainly minor comments and is being processed, with the plan to submit the final version for publication later this year

- 19130 – Imagery Sensor Models – this was balloted as a new work item earlier in the year (the earlier attempt having run out of time). 784 comments were received from the USA, along with 40 from FIG and a number from others. Most of the comments were resolved during an informal meeting, but one accepted comment is to restructure the whole document. Editing will now proceed, with a new draft likely during the summer. FIG’s main concerns were taken on board, and the new version will be more generic, thereby allowing for hydrographic sensors
- 19129 – Framework – the vote closes in mid-June
- Working Group 7 – Information Communities
 - Discussion continued on the amendment to 19110 – Feature Cataloguing. This hinges on an issue of backward compatibility. However, 19110 is itself up for 5-year review at the moment. There were concerns about all possible administrative procedures on the way forward. In the end, the issue went to a vote on the floor of the Plenary meeting and it was agreed (UK voting against) that the amendment should proceed to completion, alongside the review of the full standard
 - 19126 – Conceptual Data Dictionaries – DIS approved with minor comments
 - 19144 covers Land Cover Classification Systems, based on UN FAO input. Part 1 covers the principles and the DIS was accepted. Part 2 goes into more specifics on the FAO model, but in light of comments received, it will move to being a meta-language. It is likely to come for voting in the autumn
 - The preliminary work on Ontology (19150) continues
 - A workshop was held in Copenhagen on addressing standards, considering whether an international standard is required. More than 40 people attended, and the presentations will be made publicly available
- Working Group 9 – Information Management
 - Revision of 6709 – an 1983 standard on Representation of Geographic Point Location – is nearing completion
 - A new work item proposal on a Register for Geographic Point Locations – arising from the preliminary work in 19145 – will come forward shortly
 - The revision of 19103 – Conceptual Schema Language – has begun. There are many unplaced feature types to be considered, and there is a need to upgrade to UML version 2. This upgrade, including the transition arrangements, are the main topic of discussion in the Harmonised Model Maintenance Group

- A project to revise 19113 – Quality Principles – met and concluded that the work should be extended to incorporate 19113 and the other two quality documents (19114 – Quality Evaluation Procedures, and 19138 – Data Quality Measures) into a single document. A formal proposal to begin work on this will be brought forward
- A small amendment to 19131 – Data produce Specification – is underway
- Working Group 10 – Ubiquitous Public Access – is getting up and running. It has inherited two location based services work items (19147 – Transfer Nodes and 19148 – Linear Referencing) and is preparing proposals for other work items
- The Land Administration Domain Model (LADM) – 19152 – held its first meeting. It was a very positive meeting, chaired by Christiaan Lemmen as Project Leader. There had been concerns, particularly from European countries, about the standard, when becoming a European Standard, thereby requiring changes to national cadastres. A revised scope statement to make clear that this would not be the case, was agreed. The standard now is intended to provide a reference model for national systems, and to aid data transfer between nations. The meeting also refined the UML model, with agreement that the new model was an improvement. A new draft will be completed by the end of July, a further project team meeting in September, and then a candidate version for Committee Draft is planned before the end of the year. The plenary assigned the work item to Working Group 7.
- A draft new work item proposal on Observations & Measurements was discussed. It requires further work, but may be of relevance to Commission 5
- A new project proposal – 19153 – on Geospatial Digital Rights Management Reference Model – has been approved and will commence work.
- The editing committee for 19146 – Cross Domain Vocabularies – resolved all issues. The Terminology Maintenance Group is making good progress at harmonising all terms in TC211 standards, and is beginning to translate these into various languages (translation into Chinese is complete and into Japanese underway)
- The Programme Maintenance Group reported:
 - It is making good progress in preparing a forward plan for the TC. This is particularly important as 9 standards (19110, 19119, 19107, 19109, 19115, 19127, 19112, 19113, 19114) are due for periodic review this year. Other potential topics listed were calibration and validation, imagery and coding, amending 19139, climate variables, address standards, and portrayal services.
 - It endorsed the new work item proposal on Partnership Production Working, as long as it made clear that it provided a framework, did not

add any audit requirements, and allowed activity across the full domain of TC211 standards

- It made some suggestions for improving the new work item proposals system and timetable – the aim being to deal with major issues before entering the formalities of the ISO process
- The Advisory Group on Strategy considered a number of items reported elsewhere on the agenda, and also how to engage ISO in the standardising of relevant climate change variables. The TC is to write to the ISO Technical Management Board suggesting a Joint Steering Group to progress the work
- There is still no agreement of how to create an ISO-compliant register of geodetic codes and parameters. Discussions of how to do this have been going on for several years now. Agreement was at least agreed to set up the control body for the register (Larry Hothem will be chair or vice chair) – so we may be inching forward to a solution. The delay is very frustrating, as the parent document (19127) is up for periodic review this year but has yet to realise any action

4. OUTREACH ACTIVITY

The Advisory Group on Outreach met during the week. It continues to do solid work in arranging workshops on TC211 standards at various conferences. It also ran the Standards in Action workshop during the week. This workshop is perhaps in need of some rejuvenation – its original intention was to explain the TC's work to people in the country where the meeting was being held. It now largely consists of TC members presenting to other TC members.

The Outreach meeting became somewhat heated as to whether it was feasible to prepare and report against a definite programme of work. Resourcing continues to be a problem, as does some lack of focus on any agreed list of priorities.

One useful topic discussed was the references to TC211 and its standards in web search engines and Wikipedia. Perhaps unsurprisingly, ISO 19115 received very significantly more references than any other TC211 standard. The current article in Wikipedia is very short. The meeting noted that a TC211 Outreach Guide is nearing completion of the drafting stage, and suggested that it could form the basis of the Wikipedia article. It was also agreed that four of the most referenced standards should have their own articles in Wikipedia, to see how much revision of the content took place. The future of the Fact Sheets was left for decision when the Outreach Guide was completed.

The Plenary passed a resolution extending the term of office of the co-chairs (Hans Knoop and Henry Tom) by a further year, and instructing them to bring a prioritised programme of work to the next meeting in December 2008. To assist this, an updated membership list for the Advisory Group is to be prepared.

5. NEXT MEETINGS

The next TC211 meetings will take place as follows:

- Japan, December 2008
- Probably Norway, May 2009

Iain Greenway

30 May 2008