

Council Committees and Board Support



FIG COMMISSION 2 AND 4 REPORTS

FIG Commission 2 - Professional Education

The mission of Commission 2 is to promote good practices in professional surveying education by:

- Exploring the needs of society and endorsing universities and other educational organizations as they 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.
- Supporting 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.

At the FIG Working Week held in Hanoi in April this year, David Mitchell from RMIT was appointed the Chair of Commission 2 for the term 2019-2022.

Three particular Commission initiatives stand out. In the first, and in an attempt to widen its partnerships, a new strategic alignment with the UN-GGIM academic network has been developed. The aim here is one of sharing research, teaching, training and learning activities. While this initiative is in its early days, the link to the UN network offers considerable potential to all parties.

A second has been the attention to be given to innovative learning and teaching techniques. These have the potential to offer wide benefit to the global surveying community.

The third encompasses the attempts that are being made to build and develop academic networks at a regional level. This, of course, has real significance to our Pacific Island neighbours.

Prof. John Hannah

FIG Commission 4

The mission of Commission 4 is to:

- Promote the aims and objectives of FIG to hydrographers through the active involvement of national delegates from member associations and other interested parties in the activities of the commission.
- Develop standards and guidelines that will assist hydrographers in the provision of their services.
- Work pro-actively to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 14.
- Work with all interested parties to protect the marine environment.
- Achieve goals relevant to the commission, FIG and the profession through active participation in international committees, meetings and conferences.
- Work with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) to promote safe navigation and assist with regional capacity building
- Develop and maintain close links with the global hydrographic community.

The Commission 4 Chair is Dr. Mohd Razali Mahmud of Malaysia. The 2019-22 work plan was approved by the FIG General Assembly at the 2019 Working Week in Hanoi in May and has now been put into effect. The Commission 4 work is being addressed by the following working groups

Working Group 4.1 Standards and Guidelines for Hydrography (Chair: Neil Hewitt, Australia)

Objectives

- Assist in the development of standards of competency for hydrographic surveyors;
- Assist in the development and review of technical standards and guidelines;
- Promote the need for, and benefits of, professional hydrographic surveyor certification.
- Cooperate with FIG Commissions, sister organisations and other bodies, particularly IHO.

Working Group 4.2 Blue Growth & UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Chair: Gordon Johnston, UK)

Objectives

- Develop and promote the sustainable management of our seas and oceans
- Develop and promote the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 – protection of the world's oceans
- Cooperate with FIG Commissions, sister organisations and other bodies (IHO, UN-FAO, World Bank, NGO's etc.);

Working Group 4.3 Mapping the Plastic (Chair: Simon Ironside, New Zealand)

The effects of plastic pollution on the Earth's oceans are well documented, potentially

catastrophic and increasing exponentially year on year. The UN Environment Programme has calculated that each year more than 8 million tonnes of plastic ends up in the oceans, wreaking havoc on marine wildlife, fisheries and tourism, and costing at least \$8 billion in damage to our marine ecosystems. Eighty per cent of all litter in our oceans is made of plastic. This is an intolerable but not insurmountable problem that needs immediate and far-reaching action to remedy.

Rivers have been identified as a significant contributor to and enabler of the plastic pollution problem. Working Group 4.3, a combined initiative of the FIG Young Surveyors Network and Commission 4, will focus on the dumping of plastics (and other waste) into major rivers, river systems and deltas at strategic locations around the world. Waste measurement in these water bodies using remote sensing, bathymetric, current measurement and topographical surveys of plastic waste along the banks of rivers will enable a greater understanding of the quantum of plastic waste being transported to the oceans and inform the control and regulation of land use practices with the goal of eradicating the dumping of plastics into river systems.

Working Group 4.4 Marine Development and Administration (Chair: Dr. Abdullah Hisam Omar (Malaysia))

Objectives

- Assist in the development of institutional policy and framework.
- Assist in the development of conceptual and technical standards, guidelines and practice.
- Assist in the land and sea governance for a marine cadastre.
- Assist in the development of indigenous marine management systems.

FIG has a strong focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG's 1 (Eradication of Poverty) & 5 (Gender Equality). Whilst Commission 4 strongly supports these goals our primary focus is on SDG 14, which drives the work of WG's 4.2 and 4.3.

Commission 4 is co-hosting KL GeoHydro 2019 to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 18-19 November 2019. I will be reporting on the work of WG 4.3 at this event.

Members of S+SNZ YP's and WG 4.3 are currently organising a Mapping the Plastic Hackathon to be held in Wellington in December to coincide with the Aotearoa Plastic Pollution Alliance AGM.

Simon Ironside, Commission 4 Delegate

2 September 2019.

