

**Report for the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
FIG Working Week in Athens, May 2004**

**Commission 4 – Hydrography  
Report on Activities 2003 – 2004**

**1. Commission 4 Mission**

- 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.
- Foster closer links with all sister organisations currently active within the global hydrographic community.
- Develop guidelines and standards that will assist hydrographers in the provision of their services.
- Disseminate information relevant to the profession through participation in international meetings, conferences and committees.

**2. Workplan 2002-2006**

To date the Commission has adhered to the published workplan. Full details of the workplan (including an Adobe .pdf format version) can be found at <http://www.fig.net/figtree/commission4/workplans/workplan.htm>

**3. Chairman's Report**

Commission 4 held one official meeting during April 2003 at the FIG WW in Paris. However, to judge the work of the commission in 2003 on this alone would be misleading as all members of the commission have worked hard to ensure steady progress in meeting our aims and objectives. The priority for the Commission remains the need to raise awareness and increase the profile of FIG and Commission 4 to the wider international hydrographic community.

In pursuit of this overarching goal Commission 4 participated in the SEASC in Hong Kong, visited the IHO in Monaco to agree on future co-operation and finalise the new MOU (to be signed in Athens), organised a meeting on Marine Cadastre Issues at UNB, Canada and attended the FIG Regional Meeting in Morocco. In addition, the commission has continued to publish its work in leading international surveying journals. Full details including reports with pictures are available on the Commission 4 website.

At the time of writing, a CD containing the work of the Commission to date is in production and will be distributed throughout FIG and to the wider international hydrographic community. Copies of the CD will be available in Athens.

The international hydrographic community has now consolidated its position after a significant restructuring and changes to the executives of both IHO and the Hydrographic Societies. FIG Commission 4 has been successful in fostering and maintaining close links with both of these important bodies.

Commission 4 remains committed to the joint IHO/FIG/ICA Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers. Svante Asterno, the

current Chair will be leaving the IAB after their next meeting to be held in Malaysia (early May 2004) and will be replaced by Tiina Tuurnala of the Finnish Maritime Administration.

I wish to thank Svante for his valuable contribution to the work of the IAB over the years and welcome Tiina, who will bring much skill and experience to the group. Svante will attend the FIG WW in Athens to present the work of the Advisory Board during the Hydrographic Workshop.

One of the highlights of 2003 was the FIG Meeting on Marine Cadastre Issues organised by the Chair of WG 4.3 Michael Sutherland at UNB, Canada. This was a highly successful meeting making a significant contribution to this emerging area of our profession.

To conclude, Commission 4 will continue its work over the coming year in fulfillment of the workplan. In particular, there is a need ensure progress across all workgroups and the FIG WW in Athens will provide an excellent platform from which to launch our efforts for the coming year.

**4. Working Group 4.1 – Strategic Partnerships Chair - Mr. Adam Kerr (United Kingdom), e-mail: Adam.J.Kerr@btopenworld.com**

Progress Report

A successful year in respect of building our relationship with IHO, culminating in the new MOU - to be signed in Athens. There are many areas of common interest between FIG and IHO and these are the subject of continued discussions.

It is unfortunate that similar progress has not been forthcoming with the national hydrographic organisations and the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies. However, we will continue our efforts in forming new alliances and encouraging membership of FIG.

**5. Working Group 4.2 – Vertical Reference Frame (A Joint Working Group with Commission 5). Dr. Ahmed El-Rabbany, Canada, e-mail: rabbany@ryerson.ca**

Progress Report.

At the latter end of 2003 and over the last few months there has been steady progress in producing a white paper and recruiting new members to this workgroup. At the FIG WW in Athens Ruth Adams (UK) will present the paper as part of the Hydrographic Workshop and the WG will meet to decide upon future strategy. A full report will be available after this meeting.

**6. Working Group 4.3 – Coastal Zone Management (CZM) (A Joint Working Group with Commission 7). Chair Michael Sutherland (Canada), e-mail: d8kw@unb.ca**

Progress Report

In April 2003, Working Group 4.3 had a meeting during the FIG Working Week in Paris, France. The agenda dealt with outlining the group's objectives for the next 4 years. Plans were made to expand the membership of the group. Additionally, plans were made to have a meeting on marine cadastre in Fredericton, Canada later in 2003.

Between September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003 The Land and Coastal Studies Group, Department of Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering, University of New Brunswick, Canada in conjunction with Working Group 4.3 of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) hosted a "Meeting on Marine Cadastre Issues". The meeting was held at the Wu Centre, University of New

Brunswick, in the city of Fredericton, Canada. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for international stakeholders and experts to share their perspectives, and to learn about international initiatives relating to this the marine cadastre. The event was sponsored by the University of New Brunswick (Canada), Terradigm (Canada), The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Geomatics Faculty (United Kingdom), The Canadian Institute of Geomatics, the FIG, The Association of New Brunswick Land Surveyors, and the Canadian Hydrographic Association. There were delegates in attendance from Australia, Canada, the United States of America, the Netherlands, Malaysia, and Trinidad and Tobago. Papers and presentations covered country status and initiative with regard to the implementation of marine cadastres, as well as related technical, institutional, and conceptual issues. Links to these papers and presentations may be assessed at [http://gge.unb.ca/Research/LandStudies/MarineCadastre/marine\\_cadastre\\_2003.htm](http://gge.unb.ca/Research/LandStudies/MarineCadastre/marine_cadastre_2003.htm)

In November 2003, Commission 4 (Working Group 4.3) was represented by Michael Sutherland at the Association of Canada Lands Surveyors (ACLS) 2<sup>nd</sup> Offshore Consultation Workshop in Calgary, Canada. The work of FIG Commission 4.3 was presented.

Plans for 2004, include:

- Publication of the work of Commission 4.3 in the *Geomatics World* journal.
- Representation of Commission 4.3 at the UN sponsored Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP) Marine Cadastre Workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in May
- A meeting of Working Group 4.3 at the FIG Working Week in Athens in May to continue to pursue the objectives of the Group

## **7. Communications**

The Commission 4 website is part of the main FIG website, which is maintained and operated by the FIG permanent office in Copenhagen.

Over the last year articles on Commission 4 were published in leading International Surveying Journals and all are available from the website in Adobe .pdf format. They offer the reader a good overview of current policy and current/future activities.

Details of all meetings and conferences attended, with comprehensive minutes and pictures, are available on the website.

The Commission keeps a full and comprehensive list of addresses of delegates, correspondents and friends of the Commission.

## **8. Conferences and Events**

The Commission attended and participated in two conferences:

- the SEASC in Hong Kong, which included a technical session and technical tour to the Hong Kong Civil Engineering Department and Hydrographic Office, and
- the FIG Regional Meeting in Marrakech, Morocco.

Commission 4 Meeting on Marine Cadastre Issues, UNB, Canada.

Visit to IHO, Monaco.

## **9. Future Plans**

The Commission will hold meetings as and when appropriate throughout the coming year, normally arranged to coincide with conferences that the commission is involved in.

The Athens WW in May will be the first opportunity for Commission 4 to come together since Paris last year. The WW will include an official Commission 4 meeting, meetings of the WGs and a Hydrographic Workshop with a one-day technical tour.

Commission 4 will fully participate in and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> FIG Regional Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, 3-7 October 2004.

Commission 4 will visit the IHO in Monaco during 2004.

The Commission is co-sponsoring and will attend HYDRO4, the 14<sup>th</sup> biennial conference of the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies, to be held in Galway, Ireland, November 2004.

### **Adam Greenland MRICS**

Chair of Commission 4 Hydrography