

FIG YOUNG SURVEYORS CONFERENCE

Vice President Chryssy Potsiou

Background

Several social and political causes have led to an aged surveying community especially within the western world. However, the situation varies significantly among other regions. Competition on students, decrease in the number of new surveyors and decreasing number of young members in member associations in developed countries is a challenge for national member associations and FIG. This reflects on the FIG administration and participation to FIG conferences as well. One important parameter, among others, that keeps young professionals far from FIG activities are the increased participation costs and also the concept of the conferences. FIG has responded to these challenges by establishing the Young Surveyors Network that has brought new ideas to the work of FIG and to the FIG events.

The “Young Surveyors” initiative was started within FIG in 2006, as the Young Surveyors Working Group under FIG Commission 1. The target groups of this working group were Master- and PhD students and young professionals. During the four year period 2006-2009 the “Young Surveyors” structure was well established and was upgraded into the Young Surveyors Network (YSN) in 2009. Since 2006, the WG has organised small meetings and have met at all FIG Working Weeks and conferences and at the 2010 Sydney Congress where they have organized technical sessions and networking events. The work of YSN under guidance of Vice President Dalal Alnaggar and under Cecilia Lindén as the chair has managed to strengthen and mature young surveyors existence within FIG.

The FIG Council 2011-2014 has initiated to start FIG Young Surveyors Conference as part of its Work Plan. The first conference will be organised in 2012 and thereafter every second year. This will be a new addition in the FIG conference structure (congress, Working Week, regional conference and young surveyors’ conference). The concept of the Young Surveyors Conference will be developed under the leadership of Vice President responsible for young surveyors (2011-2014 Vice President Chryssy Potsiou) and implemented by the FIG Office (FIG Director) that will also be responsible for the organisation of the conferences in the same way that it organises the other FIG conferences. The conferences will be planned in close co-operation with the Young Surveyors Network and organised in co-operation with the local member association.

Definition of Young Surveyors and target group of the Young Surveyors Conference

The objectives of the “Young Surveyors” initiative can today be briefly described as following:

- to attract more young professionals to FIG,
- to share knowledge, skills and experience with them, and
- to improve the global image of the surveying profession united across disciplines and generations.

In general, “Young Surveyors” concept and target group for the conferences include all surveyors under 35 years old from the private and the public sectors, students, researchers as well as young academics. Young Surveyors Network will continue its activity within FIG in an upgraded manner. Young Surveyors will increase their contribution to FIG Commissions, Working Weeks, conferences and congresses. As a new activity, young surveyors will be given the opportunity to make their debut in international events by organizing the FIG Young Surveyors Conference every two years.

FIG Young Surveyors’ Conference

The FIG Young Surveyors Conference (YSC) is launched by the Council in its Work Plan 2011-2014 to be held every two years. It may be organised back to back with another FIG event (e.g., a Working Week or Congress) or independently. Preferably, the target is to organise the YSC in various regions and continents. The first YSC will be held in 2012 in Rome immediately preceding the FIG Working Week 2012: Consiglio Nazionale Geometri e Geometri Laurentii, CLGGL from Italy has agreed to be the local host of the first conference.

In the future the YSC will be hosted organised by FIG in a similar manner than the Working Weeks and regional conferences. The local member association will act as the local host of the conference. The process for selecting the host and agreement on hosting the conference will be made in similar way as is done for regional conferences. Decision on the YSC and the venue is made by the FIG Council. FIG Office will act as the professional congress organiser. FIG office will provide organizational support to the technical/scientific programme by collecting the papers, facilitating the peer review and communicating with participants.

The local host will contribute by providing local expertise, ideas and local contribution to the programme. It will work under instructions and in coordination with the FIG Office in terms of regulations and costs.

The theme of the conference will be selected so that it is attractive and address the current challenges of young surveyors and the society. It should also be attractive to the interests of all FIG Commissions.

All authors, presenters and participants should be under the age of 35. Elder *co-authors* are also accepted. As in all FIG Working Weeks and conferences young professional from relevant fields are encouraged to participate for the sake of knowledge and experience sharing.

Important: The costs of this Conference must be kept *low* and *affordable*. The conference will be budgeted on non profit basis. The expenses shall be covered by registration fees and sponsorship. The target is to use venues that are affordable. If possible venues that can offer packages including accommodation will be studied. Member associations and universities will be encouraged to support young surveyors to attend the conference. Attendants over 35 years may be charged higher fees.

However, the challenge is not about organizing an *FIG Conference for less*. It is about “*can you take the experience, quality and uniqueness of an FIG Conference and translate it for another audience?*”

FIG Council appoints Vice President responsible for young surveyors (Chryssy Potsiou in 2011-2014) to undertake the leadership in this initiative together with the FIG Director and in communication with the Young Surveyors Network.

The Vice President and FIG Director will cooperate with the local member association for the successful planning and organization of the events. The Vice President will be the chair of the organising committee and report to the Council, ACCO and the General Assembly about the progress of the conference. The Vice President will also be responsible for the themes and technical programme. As in FIG Working Weeks, the peer-review process will be carried out by the FIG chief editor.

As in FIG Working Weeks, preparatory visits and meetings will take place during the year prior to the conference. FIG Vice President as chair of the organising committee of YSC, and FIG Office (FIG Director) and possibly the chair of YSN (or its regional representative) will mainly participate to the preparatory meetings with the local organising committee.

Preparatory meetings may also provide facilities for optional one-day informal short workshops that will be open to those member associations (mainly from the region) and their young delegates that are interested to contribute, for in-depth discussions on the topics of interest, YS WG meetings, in order to build the spirit and activate more speakers and presenters.

First FIG Young Surveyors Conference - Ready for Action: Young Surveyors Debut

The first FIG Young Surveyors Conference will take place in Rome in May 2012 just prior the FIG Working Week. Initial discussion with CNGGL took place in Copenhagen during the handover ceremony in November 2011. At this meeting it was decided that the YSC will be back to back with the FIG Working Week 2012 but in another venue in Rome or in Italy, mainly with a purpose to reduce costs and create a more intimate atmosphere. The target for the conference is to have 2-3 day event including technical sessions and time for open discussions. The target is to attract about 200 participants.

A preparatory meeting is proposed by CNGGL to take place in Athens in March 2011, where besides the FIG Vice President, FIG Director and the chair of the YSN (if possible), also the Italian and Greek member associations and some of their young surveyors will participate. This workshop has been postponed and will be considered at later stage whether it will be needed. The planning meetings will take place in Rome.

The topics and the organizational details will be presented by FIG and discussed during that meeting. Final target of the first YSC is the compilation of an FIG publication as the YSs contribution to the topics of the Conference.