



FIG Presidents Meeting 2023 Summary Notes

Held on 31 May 2023 in Orlando, Florida

1. Introduction

FIG President Diane Dumashie presented her thoughts on the need for Council to consider Scenario thinking for FIG, a Not For Profit members organisation (NFP). Council wishes to consider FIG organisation model scenarios: What are potential value propositions for members given the income business model for FIG.

FIG Council will use the input from members to the further work on considering future business model ways for FIG and focus on activities that are of value for members.

Presentation by FIG President Diane Dumashie

Towards the end of the presentation Diane Dumashie asked all to consider two questions:

You and your experience in your own organisations

- What is happening with member retention?
 - Perhaps your Subscription rates and financial resilience?
- What do you hear from your members regarding the value of FIG membership?
 - Perhaps- To help Workforce flows (recruitment and retention) and/ or other things?

All attendees were given time to write down on post-it notes considerations/comments to the above questions. Hereafter several were asked to mention 1-2 of their comments.

2. FIG Presidents Feedback

Comments from the following discussion and from the post-it notes sorted under three headings: Benefits, Current in-country situations and Working Week

2.1 FIG – benefits of membership

- Webinars with members – knowledge sharing
- Use “Member of FIG” logo
- Communication from FIG is in English – consider languages
- Do differently to engage members – need to feel their voices are heard
- If a person attends a FIG conference they are “blown away” but only then...
- We always recommend the FIG publications and other material on FIG web site
- What is the difference between what FIG members and what others get offered?
- Open data – positive
- Strategies: act now – increase speed substantially – things go fast (FIG works on the field)
- Carbon compensation policy
- “good discussion – we need to change!
- Need marketing e.g. more use of # (social media)
- Hope that this conversation continues



- The role of FIG does not come to the individual members since the local organisation do not transfer the value of FIG to them
- Relevant for land and geomatic surveyors – less relevant for property, general practice surveyors
- Only those members that participate in FIG get value
- Too much focus on geomatic and geodetic disciplines – valuations, quantity surveying and facility management are underserved in FIG
- Engagement between Working Weeks for those not in a commission – e.g. host webinars to keep momentum, otherwise year to year hard to keep in touch
- Heterogeneous quality & communications
- FIG helps with the visibility of the profession
- Value for those involved directly
- Majority of members wouldn't know of FIG
- Need for better connection
- We share the FIG information to members, but members are quiet
- Net membership growth in our country | +5% for the last 3 years
- Can FIG host webinars throughout the year to provide wider value e.g. 1 x per commission chair
- Has FIG considered having annual awards for its high achievers? E.g.
 - Professional of the year
 - Researcher of the year
 - Best innovation
 - Leadership
 - Future leader
 - etc
- FIG promotion material for new members
- Value of FIG: network and knowledge sharing and Global surveyor day
- “my members do not understand very well why FIG is useful. It is difficult to explain inside our organization”
- Members wish to see more value from membership in FIG as it is another call on the budget
- Give member bodies authority to use logo prominently on their letterhead as it is a source of pride and promotion – Branding
- Support member associations more by being more visible on local activities such as recognition in newsletters
- Profiting from materials – publications, FIG journal, library – knowledge
- FIG support in critical situations “local”
- National members show very little interest in FIG

2.2 Situation in National Member Associations

- Member retention
- Creating educational programmes and training
- Inviting students for free to national meetings
- Young surveyors need more than technical training – they need soft skills as well
- Several members report that their membership has kept constant
- Increased interest from Young Surveyors
- Decrease of members
- Increase of actual membership
- Subscription rates are not a problem



- Hosting a future conference increases the national interest in International matters
- Average age: France 47; UK 55, USA 63...
- Demographic change in these years; now increase of young and decrease of older
- Has increased annual subscription fees nationally
- Difficult to sustain membership nationally because of includes membership fees
- We have still more seasoned surveyors active than young surveyors
- Member retention is a challenge for our local association
- Attempts to increase subscription are being challenged
- Relative stable subscription rate – not changed the last 10 years, but will be increasing
- We should still explain for the members the importance of international connections and organisations

2.3 Working Week related comments

- Instead of sessions with only presentations then organised discussions & paper output
- Quality of papers – scientific content is not at level (seen from an academic point of view)
- Bring home info to members from conference – e.g. nationalise some of the papers (translate)
- Maybe the cost of participation makes them to think about the circumstances after the covid period – reduced the income of the local associations
- Lower attendance: could be because of the reduction of members in our local organisation hence less income from subscriptions and high costs of living- so less money to participate
- Expectations on scientific content in FIG event
- New tools and methods to improve quality
- Lack participation from middle east countries / Arab group
- Having face-to-face events is vital for people to get involved