

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

**Commission 10 – Construction Economics and Management  
Report on Activities 2003 – 2004**

**1. General**

Progress continues to be made in increasing the number of active participants in the work of the Commission from national member associations. However there is still a very long way to go and progress is slower than we would like.

**2. Working Group 10.1 – Human Settlements, Economics and Environment  
Sustainability**

Murtala Oladapo, the Chair of this working group, is still seeking additional input to this important group. The conference in Johannesburg in August 2002 built upon previous meetings and various commitments were made from organisations in working together to further the very worthwhile objectives.

He has now received assurances from three people to be members of the of the Working Group:

- Mr Hussein Dikko (Nigeria)
- Mr Osei- Asante (Ghana)
- Mr Francis Githaiga (Kenya).

During the 18<sup>th</sup> International Cost Engineering Council/4<sup>th</sup> World Cost Congress in Cape Town, South Africa 17th-21st April 2004, Murtala will be seeking additional members particularly from South East Asia/Oceania, Americas and UK/Europe.

**3. Working Group 10.2 – Database for Quantity Surveying Education and Cost  
Management Professionals Worldwide**

A chair for this working group still needs to be appointed. However, related organisations are reviewing their accreditation requirements and these will be entered on the database.

The ICEC, with which FIG has a Memorandum of Understanding, has assembled quite an amount of information that is on its website and provides education and competency standards from many countries. These may be downloaded at no cost.

ICEC is looking for any organisation that has similar standards to submit copies or summaries to them so that they may be added. In particular, standards and best practices from Africa and the Asia-Pacific Region are most welcome because the coverage of these areas is currently very limited.

**4. Working Group 10.3 – Construction Procurement**

Andrew Morley, the Chair of this working group, reports as follows:

The core members for the Working Group have been recruited: Barbara Hellett, Posford Haskoning (Consulting Engineers); Richard Davis, Sheffield Hallam University; David Keel, Leeds Metropolitan University. These members are UK based but the group is seeking to recruit additional members, probably as correspondents, to widen the experience available to it. The group invites and would welcome contact from any prospective contributor.

A meeting was held in November 2003 and it is proposed to meet again ahead of the Athens Working Week. A work plan has been agreed and research for, and of, existing information/data and of work currently planned or in progress by others is being undertaken. It is expected that the pace of work will increase through this year so that an interim report will be published for the 2005 Working Week.

Andrew Morley's abstract for a paper entitled 'Development and Continuous Improvement of Construction Procurement Using Private Finance' has been accepted for presentation during the Athens Working Week.

#### **5. Working Group 10.4 – Standards, Research and Development in Cost Management, Quantity Surveying, Cost Engineering and Project Management**

Sara Wilkinson from the School of Environment and Development at Sheffield Hallam University, is being proposed as the Chairman of this working group at the Athens meeting.

Research is currently taking place into the usage measurement methods, particularly in the UK.

Furthermore the ICEC International Standard Working Group has compiled an extensive summary of standards and best practices which have been developed by many organizations in North and South America and Europe for cost engineering, project management and/or quantity surveying. Some standards from the Republic of South Africa are also included. The document summarizes the various standards and best practices and provides e-mail and Internet addresses from which copies of the various standards may be obtained.

As can be seen, progress continues to be made on a number of issues but needs to really accelerate to achieve the objectives of the four year work plan.

**Phil Shearer**  
Chair of Commission 10

19 March 2004