

International Cartographic Association (ICA) Commission on Education and Training

Business meeting at International Cartographic Conference (ICC) Rio de Janeiro, 26 August 2015

Attendees: Ferjan Ormeling, Monica Sester, David Forest, Evangelos Livieratos, Bengt Rystedt, Chrysoula Boutoura, Elger Heere, Otakar Cerba, Malgorzata Wieczorek, Megan Brittell, Alexandra Koussoulakou, Robson Lopes de Frehes, Necla Ulugtekin, David Fairbairn, Rakesh Malhotra ... plus others

1. The Chair introduced the business meeting which was intended to reflect on the role of the Commission, consider upgraded Terms of Reference for the 2015-2019 period, and develop some practical policies relevant to the management and operation of the Commission.

2. It was noted that the Commission on Education & Training (CET) is the only ICA Commission for which research is not the primary activity: CET is primarily concerned with knowledge transfer rather than knowledge discovery. However, it does have a formal place in the Statutes and ongoing development of the ICA, and the meeting felt that the Association as a whole should aim for a *realistic and sustainable model of provision of cartographic education*.

This could involve:

- Liaison with education in other sister societies, through the Chair or through a specific person on the ICA Executive Committee. To increase efficiency, it might be possible to integrate the education commissions of IAG, ISPRS, FIG etc under the auspices of the Joint Board.
- Planning of education activities in a better way by ICA (including budget) in order to make them sustainable:
 - Monika Sester suggested a summer school model as used by ISPRS; and advertising planned courses with other commissions
 - David Forrest stated that CET should be ready and equipped in terms of both lecturers and themes/content for potential courses that will be planned in the future.
- Developing a “Body of Knowledge” (BoK), specifically devoted to cartography:
 - Not only can the education community help to design the BoK but they must also be encouraged to use it. Cartography should be well defined in the Body of Knowledge and the word ‘cartography’ used liberally throughout to re-inforce the emphasis on a specifically cartographic focus.
- Formalizing cartographic qualifications:
 - The Body of Knowledge could be considered as the first step of this qualification process.
 - Accreditation, although straightforward for subjects such as engineering, is probably not suitable for the nature of cartography. Certification may fit better than accreditation.

3. It was reported that the Commission held one recent major workshop, in 2014 in conjunction with the Commission on OpenSource Geospatial Technologies. Other opportunities were being examined in the Maldives and Fiji, but it was also pointed out that web courses had been an aim of the Commission for many years, and that we should direct our limited resources to this type of cartographic education (possibly through the MOOCs model).

4. In terms of the 2013 and 2015 ICCs, education and training had a high profile, and it is hoped that Commission members will ensure that this is maintained at ICC and other conferences in the next quadrennial period.

5. The wider context of educational pedagogy was discussed: ideally CET would be able to monitor cartographic courses and their content, but educational methodologies and practices must also be noted: they are changing fast and the Commission needs to embrace changing technologies and approaches to education in general, as well as specifically for cartography.

6. It was reported that Stefan Peters, Senior Lecturer at UTM, Johor Baharu, Malaysia had been approached and agreed to act as vice-Chair for the Commission during the 2015-2019 period. It is noteworthy that succession planning within Commissions is encouraged by ICA, so it is pleasing to note that Stefan is willing to step up to the Chair position in 2019. Having a vice-Chair with wide experience of education in Europe, and now practicing in South-East Asia, is beneficial.

These notes were prepared by Necla Ulugtekin, who acted as vice-Chair of CET from 2012-2015. Her interest in the Commission, specifically, and in education, in general, along with her support is much appreciated.

Terms of reference, approved by the ICA General Assembly on 28 August 2015

- To promote and deliver workshops (and online, eLearning alternatives), possibly in conjunction with other ICA Commissions, introducing, in particular, knowledge transfer to developing member nations of ICA.
- To maintain a record of educational courses at all levels which include cartography, with an emphasis on learning from those ICA member nations which have been successful in expanding cartographic education in recent years.
- To record ad hoc courses (notably those delivered online, commercially presented, or professional development courses) and their creators/deliverers, to confirm the scope of cartographic education.
- To explore the possibilities of developing a Body of Knowledge (BoK) for cartography, which could be used for developing contemporary educational programmes and encouraging the creation of specific cartographic modules with valid and viable learning outcomes.
- To examine the role of accreditation of educational courses by professional bodies and to report on the formalisation of cartography qualifications.
- To work towards the overall aims of ICA: long term as indicated in the Statutes, shorter term such as International Map Year, and ongoing including contributing to the new International Journal of Cartography and to International Cartographic Conferences.
- To work with other ICA Commissions, with committees on education of sister societies within the JBGIS, and with other international bodies including UN-GGIM.

