



The bridge to the future: Student networks

Cemal Özgür Kivilcim¹, Petek Tatlı² and Semra Gunes³

Considering that education is the key element of the future and that knowledge is power, young scientists and students have never been so lucky like they are today considering numerous opportunities. Technology based, up to date education of geodetic institutes, e-learning projects and exchange programs such as International Association of Exchange of Students for Technical Experience-IAESTE and European Union Higher Education Exchange Program-Erasmus are the means to improve their skills.

Moreover, many organizations and government related establishments are now trying to provide professional standards and a free movement of the

surveyors. On the other hand, new possibilities increased the demands of highly qualified professional circular and standards.

The need for professional standards and vision is coming out with more fresh ideas and synchronization of knowledge all over the world. To help the progress of uniting geodetic profession's future, many nation wide student communities and university geodetic students' clubs have been running for years now, annually having meetings not only to get to know each other but also to discuss the future of their working careers. In addition to this, many international organizations are now willing to provide special op-

portunities to promote and to meet the students. The International scientific meetings and summer schools (SS) are nowadays in trend, where the young professionals can attend to improve their skills and knowledge according to their study of special interests. Here, in this essay, you can find some recent works and examples from all over the world.

Since 2001, a three-day organization with technical and social events is annually organized in one of the Turkish Universities every two years: GHG-Young Surveyors' Days in Turkey aim to integrate the students to discuss educational differences and problems during the social forum ses-

[1] Cemal Özgür Kivilcim, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey, e-mail: kcemalozgur@hotmail.com

[2] Petek Tatlı, Yıldız Technical University, Turkey, e-mail: petektatli@gmail.com

[3] Semra Gunes, Yıldız Technical University, Turkey, e-mail: semragunes@gmail.com

sions. Although it is a nationwide organization, international participation and contribution have always been welcomed to this meeting. This year, students from Zonguldak Karaelmas Technical University and Chamber of Geodesy and Cadastre Engineering of Turkey, will organize the event.

IGSM is the official meeting of the International Geodetic Students Organization since 1988. In the year of 2005 IGSM and GHG organized together, was an integration effort to get together all the geodetic students of the world in the city of Istanbul, »where the Continents Meet«.

»International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing-ISPRS is an organization that enhances international cooperation between worldwide organizations with an interest in photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences.« Established in 1910, it was the first umbrella organization in this scientific field; it was also the first organization that established such a student network. As the organization aimed the contribution of the students who are related to these sciences, during the ISPRS Congress in 2004 in Istanbul, an international students' forum was organized and a summer camp for the young professions was held near the ancient city Troy. Officially, ISPRS Student Consortium (SC) was founded under the Commission VI within the working group »Promotion of Profession to Students«. From United States to Australia, from India to Finland, a profile of 30 countries are members of the SC. A student portal on the worldwide web was the first major task of the SC. To follow up, with cooperation of the students, a Summer School took place in Istanbul in the year of 2005. It was a technical school with many lectures but also played a very



important role in learning different cultures and socializing the students and the lecturers.

»Today ISPRS SC provides a platform for students and young researchers for exchanging information and organizing student-specific ISPRS events or larger events within the ISPRS. The Student Consortium is a major connection between the students and the ISPRS professional activities, a way to evoke interest of the students in ISPRS activities.«

Encouraging active participation of students in ISPRS activities, after the SS in Istanbul, next summer school will be held in Slovenia in July 2007 and another one in Beijing before the ISPRS Congress in 2008.

ARGEOS-German Spoken Countries Geodetic Students Working Group is another regional network that experiences the international contribution. In the year of 2006 the organization invited students from three different countries, Finland, Slovenia and Turkey in order to learn more about the other student societies and to introduce the ARGEOS Meeting to the world.

During the XXIII International Federation of Surveyors- FIG Congress, held in Munich, Germany, from October 13 to October 18 2006, an international student meeting was arranged by the students who are believed to be the future of the profession under the theme »shaping the change«. The goal was to lead them to a professional life. The contributors accepted the meeting

as a fruitful experience. Moreover, a network idea was developing at the same time in the working group meetings. The idea of working groups among student members of FIG will be an issue of the next FIG working week meeting in May in Hong Kong City.

Among other organizations and working groups

listed, IGSO has the most significant and major aim to unite the world of geodetic students. During the recent meetings of the IGSM, ideas and opinions were expressed- on how to activate and produce long-term projects within the groups and how to widen the borders of the organization to gain more members, hoping to build together the future in the Network of Geodesy Students.

The essential need is clear, to unite and get together the youth of the profession under the roof of the international student networks, combined with the international organizations. The mission of these organizations is to point out to the road line of the future and to shape the change with the ideas of the ones who will bridge the future of the world and sustain the development of the organizations.

Resources

- ISPRS: <http://www.isprs.org/publications/prospectus>
- ISPRS SC: <http://www.students.itu.edu.tr/~isprs/>
- ISPRS WG VI/5: <http://www.tric.u-tokai.ac.jp/ISPRScom6/tc.html>
- FIG: <http://www.fig.net>
- ARGEOS : <http://www.argeos.de>
- IGSO: <http://www.igso.info>
- Prof. Ing. Hogel Magel's presentation notes, IGSM 2006, Poland ◆