

International Cartographic Association Commission on Education and Training (CET)

Business meeting, Dresden Congress Center, Wednesday 28 August 2013

Present: David Fairbairn (UK, Commission Chair), Necla Ulugtekin (Turkey, Commission Vice Chair), Christian Häberling (Switzerland), Vaclav Talhofer (Czech Republic), Shosuke Hosoi (Japan), László Zentai (Hungary, EC liaison and webmaster), Paula Ahonen-Rainio (Finland), Paul Corcoran (Australia), Elger Heere (Netherlands), Raffaella Balzarini (France), Terje Midtbø (Norway), Huayi Wu (China), Jianya Gong (China), David Forrest (UK), Bert Veenendaal (Australia), Andrea Pődör (Hungary), Suchith Anand (UK)



Standing: Huayi Wu, Vaclav Talhofer, Shosuke Hosoi, David Forrest, László Zentai, Andrea Pődör, Paula Ahonen-Rainio, David Fairbairn, Necla Ulugtekin, Terje Midtbø, Elger Heere, Raffaella Balzarini, Jianya Gong, Bert Veenendaal, Paul Corcoran.

Kneeling: Christian Häberling, Suchith Anand

Background

The Chair first explained the way in which the leadership of CET had changed since it was formally approved at the General Assembly (GA) in 2011. A vote of thanks was proposed for the Chair of the 2007-2011 period, Dr David Fraser (Australia) who was persuaded to continue his chairmanship, when the proposed Chair for 2011-2015, Prof László Zentai, was elected instead as Secretary-General & Treasurer of the ICA. Dr Fraser agreed to do this on the understanding that he would step down as soon as an acceptable replacement Chair was ready to take over. Dr David Fairbairn, who had been approved at short notice by the GA as vice-Chair, stepped up to the position of Chair in July 2012.

The Chair indicated that he was pleased to see an enthusiastic group of educators and those interested in education and training. An informal presentation was made which covered a number of issues related to the work of CET.

Initial discussion

Firstly, attendees were reminded of the Terms of Reference of CET, as approved by the GA in 2011. These involved holding seminars, developing programmes (notably online programmes), noting need for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for educators, producing publications of interest, engaging with sister societies in international fora, examining contemporary educational technology, and promoting educational competitions.

These general Terms of Reference were supplemented during the 2007-2011 period, and into 2012, by Dr Fraser's list of specific projects which can be addressed by CET (as a whole, or by interested individuals). Progress has been limited in these specific projects, mainly because they need willing individuals to promote them, and most CET members are unable to volunteer the time required for these.

Actual activities

Clearly, however, there is some progress in the areas of interest of CET. The Chair reported on

i) the Joint Symposium, a pre-conference meeting involving the CET, held in Dresden (<http://lazarus.elte.hu/jointsymposium2013/>). This collaboration with the Commissions on Cartography and Children (CCC), Maps and Graphics for Blind and Partially Sighted People, and Planetary Cartography was a one day workshop addressing a range of connected issues. Presentations from Georg Gartner on university education in cartography ("Trends in Academic Cartography Education: The Austrian Way") and Anthony Robinson on massive Open Online Courses ("Bridging Distance in Cartographic Education") are presented in the Proceedings (<http://lazarus.elte.hu/jointsymposium2013/docs/proceedings.pdf>) Contributions from other speakers in the Proceedings are also of relevance, particularly to school education, as was an interesting account of the work of the International Geographical Union in the area of education.

ii) the initiative of the International Map Year working group of ICA has education as one of its major enabling activities, and the Chair reported on the progress so far in developing some outreach projects under this heading, many of which can be disseminated in educational environments.

iii) a number of sessions in the main ICC programme devoted to education, the papers reproduced in the Proceedings of the conference and the other associated publications:

- Geospatial Service Web: Sharing More Than Geospatial Data for Education and Collaborative Research, J. Gong, H. Wu (China)
- Traditional map design vs. info graphics: motivating students to reveal their talents, G. Schaab (Germany)

- Open learning platform for the Open Geospatial Community, Amir Pourabdollah, et al. (UK)
- How much instructions are needed for a good GIS map? Murad-Al-Shaikh (USA)
- GIS-based land-use suitability mapping: cognitive processes and instructions that leads to expertise, R. Balzarini et al. (France)
- The State of GISc Education and SDI Implementation in the SADC Countries: A Comparative Study, S. Eksteen , S. Coetzee (South Africa)
- New technologies as educational resources for teaching cartography: a case study in Guinea-Bissau, I. Mário Nosoline et al. (Brazil)
- A Survey of Books for Potential Use in SDI Education and Training in South Africa, V. Rautenbach , S. Coetzee (South Africa)
- Intelligent Solutions Sustaining Urban Economies – Master Classes casestudy, A. Ciołkosz-Styk et al. (Poland)
- 3D Cartographic Modeling in Educational Process, T. Bandrova , S. Tzvyatkova (Bulgaria)
- Analyses of Visualization Methods of the Earthquake Catalog Mapping for Educational Purposes, A. Pödör (Hungary)
- Perspectives on developing critical GI human capacity in a developing country context, F. O. Akinyemi (Rwanda)
- Issues in cartographic education: how and how many? D. Fairbairn (UK)
- Cartography in higher education: changes in the last decades, L. Zentai , B. Kovács (Hungary)
- University ‘Mapping’ Education in Australia – a Confusing Exposure? P. Corcoran, D. Bruce (Australia)
- First conclusion of the new international Master of Science in Cartography, Stefan Peters et al. (Germany)
- The Web-Based "Swiss World Atlas Interactive": First Evaluation of User Experiences in Modern Geography Education, C. Haeberling , L. Hurni (Switzerland)
- Virtual GIS laboratory for educational needs, A. Medvedev (Russia)
- PaikkaOppi - a virtual learning environment on geographic information for upper secondary school, J. Kähkönen et al. (Finland)
- The role of universities in the Brazilian NSDI capacity building plan – the case of the Open Geospatial laboratory at UFPR, S. Camboim , M. C. B. Brandalize (Brazil)

In addition, many other presentations addressed educational topics.

Further open discussion

Topics which were introduced included:

How can we promote and organize *seminars for developing countries* (following the successful activity in Iran (2009), in Vietnam (2010) and in Indonesia (2011))? It was suggested that the best method would be to work alongside the Commission on Open Source Geospatial Technologies (COSGT).

What are further *sources for online material*? In the past the collection of online material was rather ad hoc, with sources which were often out of date or incomplete. It was pointed out that the MOOCs initiative at Penn State University attempts to be comprehensive and is a useful model to follow; and it was also noted that ETH Zurich has some resources available.

What *publications* should the Commission be considering? This question was not really answered: although it is in the Terms of Reference, there has not been any recent event from which a compiled publication could be prepared. However, the Proceedings of the Joint Symposium have been mentioned already.

How can we *co-operate* with the education commissions in our sister societies (e.g. FIG, ISPRS, IGU) and with other Commissions in ICA? It was reported that the next Commission meeting is likely to be joint meeting with the ISPRS Commission VI (Education) in Wuhan, China (May 2014) – further details below. The linkage between ICA and IGU is more likely to be led by the CCC. The earlier pre-conference Joint Symposium held at the Technical University in Dresden was a good example of co-operation with other ICA Commissions. The possible collaboration with the COSGT is mentioned above. The Chair has met with the Chair of the Commission on Maps and the Internet (CMI), and has agreed to revive the traditional joint meeting between it and CET at a pre-conference workshop in Brazil (August 2015).

How important is *cartographic education in high schools*? It was pointed out that the majority of CET members are in tertiary education, and that secondary education is addressed mainly by the CCC.

How can educators use *emerging technologies*, notably in GIS, for teaching cartographic concepts? Again, collaboration with other ICA Commissions is felt to be important here.

What is the current status of education in *ICA map competitions*? It was reported that the rationalizing of the prizes awarded in the International Map Exhibition has confirmed an award for ‘Educational Cartographic Products’. The Barbara Petchenik children’s map competition is organized by the CCC.

What is the current state of the Commission’s *web pages*? It was noted that these do need to be developed further and made more up-to-date: information about membership, events, relevant publications/papers by Commission members and others, related pages, online discussion area/blog should all be included. The mailing list should be easier to use (this has now been done by László Zentai).

Other dissemination can be improved by a regular *newsletter*. The excellent newsletter presented by the previous Chair of the Commission has not been replicated by the new Chair. However, David Fraser’s comprehensive newsletter has now been expanded into eCARTO news, which is available monthly to the whole ICA community on the main ICA web page. There are elements of interest for cartographic educators in each issue.

It is important to involve as many ICA member nations as possible in the Commission. The Chair will approach each national delegate asking for at least one nominated person from each nation to become an *active member* the Commission.

In *additional discussion*, several contributors discussed the teaching of undergraduate courses, and the possibilities of bi-lateral development of educational projects between nations.

Future meetings

These have been mentioned above:

Joint meeting of ICA and ISPRS Education Commissions, Wuhan, China 19-21 May 2014
(information sheet at <http://www.lmars.whu.edu.cn/isprscom6/symposium.pdf> ; note the call for papers deadline 15 December)

Pre-conference joint meeting of CET and CMI, Sao Paulo? Brazil, August 2015