

Commission on Management and Economics of Map Production

The Commission on Management and Economics of Map Production stated in 2003 that one of the major topics must be the education on map production and economics. Special attention is needed for countries in Africa for both topics or in other countries where the economical aspects of cartography is a new important matter.

To organize instruction and training for African countries there is a need to bring together participants of different countries in a centre. The costs - in order to be efficient must be supported by the organizers - exceed 25 000 € for 12 to 15 participants. The chair tried several times to obtain credits by cooperation funds. Up till now it was impossible to find this funding in spite of different proposals.

Nevertheless for the second topic better success was booked. In 2005, 2006 and 2007 the chair participated with other members from ICA, in particular Prof. Tikunov, at workshops about cartographic quality and production management:

- ICA Workshop, Lomonov Moscow State University, Sebastopol Branch, July 2005;
- ICA Workshop Chinese Academy of Science, Institute for Ecology and Geography, Urumqi, August 2005;
- ICA Workshop Chinese Academy of Science, Institute for Ecology and Geography, Urumqi, July 2006.
- a new one will take place also at Urumqi end of August 2007.

Essential topics are still:

- education in developing countries sp. Africa;
- definition of quality in map production;
- management of map production (including economic approach).

The chair is convinced that for the well functioning of a commission some practical problems must be considered:

- it is difficult to find funds for ambitious programs;
- in the present world, where not only business but also academic people is involved in a strong competition, teaching and education, or even brainstorming around ideas, that not necessary lead to quoted publications is no longer a priority for academici;
- for both reasons alternative ways of knowledge transfer must be found, but again I'm afraid that creating e.g. a non-lucrative web platform should not be evident. It is one of the topics to be discussed at the ICA meeting with direct involved colleagues.

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