Administration

CET was renewed at the 2015 General Assembly under continuing chairmanship of Dr David Fairbairn, Newcastle University (UK). Dr Ing. Stefan Peters (Malaysia) was elected as new vice-Chair. Employed at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor at that time, he moved to a position at the University of South Australia, Adelaide, in late 2016.

Approved Terms of Reference (ToR) were

- aspirational – e.g. promote and deliver workshops; and work with the education commissions of sister societies and with UN GGIM
- ongoing – e.g. maintain a record of educational courses which include cartography; and note ad hoc courses, recording the wide scope of cartographic education
- innovative – e.g. explore the possibilities of developing a Body of Knowledge (BoK) for cartography; and examine formal accreditation, of cartographic qualifications
- generic – work to the aims of ICA and engage with ICA initiatives

Activities

The commission’s contribution to the International Map Year (IMY) 2015-16 was primarily through the commission chair who was on the IMY Working Group, and contributed a chapter, with exercises, on ‘Education in cartography’ in the online textbook The World of Maps (also translated into French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Hungarian) (www.mapyear.org).

The commission contributed to the further ICA-wide initiative to map the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: CET input was to the poster on SDG No. 4, ‘Inclusive and Quality Education’.

The commission web site was managed by the vice-chair during 2015-19, and allowed for organisation of members, publicity, and recording of the directory.

Body of Knowledge

A major focus of work 2015-19:

RATIONAL
- to advertise the subject of cartography to higher education curriculum planners
- to enlighten accreditation agencies
- to engage with diverse groups of people across cartography
- to acknowledge existing BoKs
- to present associated exercises, skill sets, knowledge outcomes
- to ensure a maintained and updated document
- to be produced quickly

CONSIDERING
- the ongoing replacement of in-depth instruction, by short-term competencies delivery
- the dilution and de-skilling of cartography as a profession
- the divergence of definitions of cartography, its nature and its scope

INITIAL OUTCOME: UNCERTAINTY AND SLOW DOWN DUE TO
- lack of interest and engagement on the part of many in the cartographic community
- perceived overlap and duplication with other existing BoKs and initiatives
- antipathy of some close to (but outside) our discipline
- recognition that cartography is a democratised and unfocussed activity that should not, perhaps, have a restrictive BoK imposed
- a view that the creation of a BoK cannot be a ‘top-down’ activity
- a realisation that there is such a vast range of material available to inform and instruct people in cartography, that putting cartography into a ‘box’ marked ‘BoK’ may deny the wide-ranging, diverse and vigorous nature of our discipline.

Meetings

- April 2015 Chicago, USA
  Association of American Geographers
  Session on cartographic education
  Engagement with the UCGIS GIS&T BoK
- August 2015 Curitiba, Brazil
  Pre-ICC symposium (with the ICA Commission on Maps and the Internet)
  Advances in Cartographic Practice in the Classroom and on the Web
- August 2015 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
  27th ICC – main sessions, poster session, and Commission business meeting
  33 papers on Theme T22 (‘Education and Training in Cartography and Geotechnologies’)
- September 2016 Zurich, Switzerland
  Joint meeting with ICA Commission on Atlases
  Atlases and Education – Concepts for the Future
- September 2016 Cheltenham, UK
  British Cartographic Society / Society of Cartographers Annual Symposium
  Practical workshop using Delphi method to promote and develop Body of Knowledge
- June 2017 Williamsburg VA, USA
  Pre-ICC symposium (with the ICA Commission on Maps and the Internet)
  Contemporary internet cartography and its educational implications
- July 2017 Washington DC, USA
  28th ICC – main sessions, poster session, and Commission business meeting
  19 papers on theme of Education and Training in Cartography
- July 2017 San Diego CA, USA
  ESRI Education Summit
  Discussion on the nature of geo-education
- July 2019 Beijing, China
  Pre-ICC symposium
  Geospatial and Cartographic Education – Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities
  14 papers on a range of topics, Chinese and international, plus open BoK session
- July 2019 Tokyo, Japan
  29th ICC- main sessions, poster session, and Commission business meeting
  22 papers on Education and Training theme