

# TG20 - Geographical Information Systems



The first meeting of a newly established Commission or Task Group is usually vested with some added interest, quite apart from the fact that it is decisive in charting the early directions of the Group's existence.

Certainly the first meeting of TG20 which took place in Gävle, Sweden on 4th and 5th October 1996 under its Coordinator Bengt Rystedt can be counted as a most auspicious start.

There was not a large number of participants at the National Land Survey Educational Centre where the meeting was held but those who were there were enthusiastic.

The meeting commenced with a study tour through the Headquarters of the National Land Survey.

After mutual introductions Bengt Rystedt recalled the Terms of Reference which had been adopted by the CIB Programme Committee at its Meeting in London in May 1996. He suggested to start with the state-of-the-art report, which should be ready for presentation at the next CIB World Congress in 1998.

He pointed out that the goal of the meeting was to devise a structure for the report and working measurements to produce it.

The CIB President Prof. Christer Sjöström then described CIB and its activities for the benefit of those participants who were not well acquainted with it.

## The Report

The greater part of the meeting was given over to a discussion of the possible contents of the report. The main points to emerge from these discussions are summarised in what follows.

The title might read: **Geographical Aspects of the Built Environment.**

The target group for the report consists of the members of CIB, both those in research and practice. It is intended to be used as a source of information in planning research projects and for decisions on investments in how to handle geographic information not only within the member organisations but also other organisations which are engaged with the built environment.

The report will be divided into Sections:

### Section 1

- A description of GIS, that is how it is adopted by the users.
- An overview of the GIS market with examples of applications.

### Section 2

- The geographic information infrastructure.
- Sources of spatially referenced data.
- Accessibility of data.
- Standardisation of geographic information.

### Section 3

- Problem orientation.
- The problems should be structured in accordance with this matrix:

Descriptive Items

	Building Environment Activity		
Effects on			
Materials	x	x	x
Health	x	x	x
Energy	x	x	x

Svein Hågenrud demonstrated how the project Wood Assess, where the degradation of wood as building material is studied, worked. The key words are Building and its Surroundings, and Integration. In his view the GIS approach looked to be very promising.

### Section 4

- Visions and prospects of GIS.
- GIS as a research tool.
- Special techniques, such as spatial statistics, new sensors.
- 3D urban models and visualisation.
- Conclusions and recommendations.

## Time Table and Next Meeting

In order to complete the report in time for the CIB Congress in June 1998 the manuscript must be ready for printing in March 1998. During 1997 two working meetings should take place, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn.

Bengt Rystedt proposed holding the Spring meeting in connection with the Joint European GIS Conference in Vienna, 15-18 April 1997. This was accepted. Bengt Rystedt will send an abstract to the stream Urban Data Management Symposium.

It was also noted that Task Groups Work related to that of TG20 were to be found within RILEM, CERF and ICA.

The meeting discussed the research agenda formulated by CERF (Civil Engineering Research Foundation in the USA) with the vision: **To stimulate a worldwide commitment to accelerate innovation and the application of research for improving design, construction, and engineering practices within the context of sustainable development for the twenty-first century.** The research agenda will be followed up at the CIB Congress in June 1998, then in the US in 2000. Several items in the research agenda were judged as suitable to be addressed by TG20.

ICA (International Cartographic Association), where Bengt Rystedt is one of the Vice Presidents, also works through its commissions and working groups. Visualisation and generalisation might be the ones closest to TG20.

At the end of the meeting the Chairman expressed his personal satisfaction. He gave a special vote of thanks to the participants for their constructive contributions. It had indeed turned out to be a good start for the new Task Group.