



## Initiation of new Task Force:

### To evaluate the establishment of a FIG peer-review scientific Journal

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FIG 38th General Assembly 2015

17–21 May 2015, Sofia, Bulgaria

## Rationale

- In recent years, there is a growing activity of academics in FIG
- The number and quality of their published articles is a very important parameter while examining their achievements
- This issue is particularly important for scholars in their early stages of academic career
- Many international professional organizations have established peer-review journals, e.g.
  - “*ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information*” by the ISPRS
  - “*Cartography and Geographic Information Science*” by American Cartography and Geographic Information Society
  - “*International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructure Research (IJS DIR)*” by the Spatial Data Infrastructure Association

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## Aim of Task Force

- Is there a need for a new Scientific/professional journal under the umbrella of FIG?
- Will it have a negative effect on the current channel of full peer-review submission of papers to the annual FIG event?
- Alternatively, will it have a positive affect by improving the quality of the submitted papers to the annual symposia?
- How can we compete with other existing journals?
- How we will get enough high-quality papers for the journal?
- How we will be able to motivate our academic and professional members to submit their research/papers to the new journal?

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## Aim of Task Force (cont.)

- An e-journal vs. printed journal - what are the implications of each one of the two alternatives?
- Will it be established as an open-access Journal?
- What international impact such a move will have?
- Will it motivate FIG delegates/members with poor-means that cannot participate in events – to contribute and be heard?
- What is the procedure and how long will it take for the journal to be indexed in citation databases (Scopus, ISI)?
- What are the financial implications - if any - of establishing the journal?

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## Composition of the Task Force

- The proposed composition of the Task Force (in an alphabetical sequence) is:
  - Prof. Dr. Pengfei Cheng, China - FIG Vice President
  - Prof. Dr. Yerach Doytsher, Israel - Task Force Chair
  - Prof. Dr. Charalabos Ioannidis, Greece, FIG WG 3.2 Chair
  - Prof. Dr. Rudolf Staiger, Germany - FIG Vice President
  - Prof. Dr. Volker Schwieger, Germany – FIG Commission 5 Chair
  - More members TBD

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## Proposed Work Programme

- 05/2015 – the TF is presented at the FIGWW'2015 GA
- 06-12/2015 – relevant data to be collected, discussions among the TF members via emails
- 01-02/2016 – optional - face to face meeting of the TF members (probably at a council meeting)
- 02-03/2016 – preparing of final report and recommendations
- 03/2016 – FIG council decision on the report
- 05/2016 – the report and recommendations to be presented at the GA in Christchurch for acceptance

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## Outcome

- A summarized report and recommendations on the following:
  - ✓ Report on the proven necessity
  - ✓ Procedures to be followed for the establishment of the journal
  - ✓ Necessary costs (for the establishment and annually in future)
  - ✓ Times (time schedules of all steps and expected achievements)
  - ✓ Responsibilities
  - ✓ Action plan for the speeding of the procedure and the increased participation (e.g., engagement of potential authors, FIG members, etc.)