



## **Professional Practice Commission. 2009 annual meeting Delhi (India) 24-25 September 2009**

Point 9.2 of the agenda

### **STATUS OF PRACTICE STANDARDS DATABASE AND WEBSITE**

#### **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION AND COUNCIL DECISION**

---

At the PPC meeting in Marrakech, in December 2008, the Commission decided to strongly recommend to the UIA Council that the work of the COAC in developing and running the database and web service on practice standards be gratefully acknowledged, the Council accept the offer from COAC to provide UIA with the database, and that the Council take over and operate the database and web service.

Council, at its meeting in San José, Costa Rica, in February 2009, accepted the proposal made by the Professional Practice Commission.

#### **DEFINITION OF NEEDS**

---

In order to clearly define the steps necessary to take over and operate the database and the web service, I prepared, with the assistance of several people who were involved in its operation at the COAC, the attached document.

This document identifies four phases:

- merging the three existing databases into a single one,
- storing it on a new server,
- re-defining the management and visualisation software and
- defining a new management procedure for the database and the website

A reference is also made to the financial aspects of the operation and the way information is accessed.

#### **INTERESTED PARTIES**

---

The Singapore Institute of Architects, with whom the UIA has signed an agreement to develop an information system, showed an interest in taking over the project and submitted an estimate. Unfortunately, their budget is far higher than what the UIA can spend.

The German Section manifested a similar interest at the Region I meeting in Innsbruck, in March 2009. However, they have not submitted a proposal.

#### **INTERNAL WORK**

---

In parallel to the above, internal research has been carried out to see if it would be possible for the UIA to host the database on its server and outsource its operation, instead of ceding it in full to one of the UIA Sections.

This approach has several advantages.

First, the data remains physically in the UIA's hands, thus avoiding any problems in case the new operator stop activities at some time.

Also, while totally external operation would imply the need to adapt to the software and programming systems of the external agent, outsourcing some of the services while keeping the database as part of the secretariat's information system and under its supervision implies that it will be consistent with the rest of the UIA's IT technologies, which will allow for ample synergies with other UIA databases and the UIA website. In the mid-term, this is clearly beneficial for the UIA.

This internal work has lead to encouraging results. It appears that the new UIA server is able to host the database and that the costs to have external technicians, who are already familiar with the information, operate it through the secretariat are much lower than expected.

Therefore this is the option pursued.

## CURRENT SITUATION AND WAY FORWARD

Work concerning the first of the above-mentioned phases (merging the three existing databases into a single one) is currently under way. It is expected to be ready by the end of October. Pre-definition of the management and visualisation software is also underway.

The whole process is expected to take around eight months.

It would be highly useful to ask the UIA Sections to up-date the existing information while the database is being transferred, so that current information can be up-loaded as soon as the new database and website are in operation.

Jordi Farrando  
Secretary General