

David Neale of Trinidad and Tobago Passed Away on 7 June 2011



David Neale was a former Commission 4 vice chair Administration (2007-2010). Until his passing, he was an active member of the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC), and also the chairman of RICS Caribbean (2009-2011). He was also a part-time lecturer on Hydrography at the Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management, Faculty of Engineering, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. David Neale of Trinidad and Tobago passed away on 7 June 2011.

I have known David Neale, a native of Trinidad and Tobago, since 2002. I first met him at the University of New Brunswick, Canada when I was still a graduate student there. My first impression of him was of a man with an easy-going nature and big smile - a true Caribbean man - and with a deep knowledge of his field of expertise (Hydrography). Always willing to help, David never stopped contributing professionally to workshops, conferences, papers and other publications, and other initiatives associated with the hydrographic profession and FIG. For this he is well known. I have had the good fortune to share many international FIG-related trips with David, and even shared a room with him in Ghana in 2006, arriving there on my birthday. As usual, he was easy and pleasant company.

As fate would have it, in 2007 I ended up living and working in his native country. David was quick to orient me to his country, taking me on local trips and introducing me at his home to his family, and to his culture. We shared teaching loads at the University of the West Indies, and he graciously offered his expertise to my students' projects whenever asked, beyond the call of duty. The foregoing is a small window into the life of a man whose life was full! Most importantly, he was a good man who made me laugh - a lot! He is greatly missed!