

## INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SURVEYORS

### PRESIDENTS' MEETING

#### MEMORANDUM

of the meeting held in Rose Room at the Kowloon Shangri-La in Hong Kong SAR, China,  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2007 8:30-10:30

In attendance:

Participant list attached as appendix to this memo.

#### 1. OPENING

President Stig Enemark opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the traditional Presidents' meeting on behalf of the FIG Council. The Vice Presidents were also invited to this meeting to collect ideas and impressions from the Presidents of member associations or their representatives. Recorded that altogether 49 people were present at the meeting, out of which 38 Presidents or their representatives from member associations.

President Enemark mentioned in his opening remarks the need for good co-operation between FIG and the member associations and direct contacts between the President and FIG Council and the Presidents of member associations. As a tradition the discussion was planned to include comments from all Presidents present at the meeting. President Enemark wanted to collect comments especially on three subjects: 1) how to better serve individual members of member associations and how to get them better involved in the FIG activities; 2) How member associations could be integrated in the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals; and 3) any issues related to implementation of the FIG work Plan 2007-2010. In addition the members were requested to comment on conference and arrangements of the Working Week in Hong Kong, and were invited to raise any other issues they might find relevant.

#### 2. DISCUSSION

The discussion focussed on remarks and proposals from member associations related to the issues raised by the President and other issues that are relevant to the member associations.

Jürg Kaufmann (geosuisse, Switzerland): geosuisse having 700 members is at the moment focussing on implementation of the Bologna reform in studies. The second hot topic in Switzerland is the new legislation on geoinformation and cadastre. The only disappointment in the conference was the big number of non-show of speakers. The plenary session topics "good governance" and "risk management" showed a way to the future that together with core issues like cadastre will be important.

Helen Murray (SCS, Ireland): Congratulations for the conference organisers. Peer-review opportunity and peer-reviewed journal and proposal on academic newsletter are warmly welcomed by the academic participants. In Ireland INSPIRE is now the hot topic. How to get

it into the national legislation will be problematic as registration of land title is not needed. Second issue is that anybody can call himself/herself a land surveyor.

Francis Gabele (UBG, Belgium): UBG has less than 1,000 members. Focus on cadastre and relations to private sector (security and quality management). In INSPIRE the aim is to get all public and legal data in the system.

Daniel Roberge (CIG, Canada): GeoConference Quebec 2007 is the big challenge and also a platform for FIG and the Francophone surveyors to meet. There are three land reforms under preparation in Quebec including registration of all public land.

Doug Culham (Association of Canada Lands Surveyors, Canada): The association will apply FIG membership in near future. The big problem is that cadastral surveyors (3,000 in Canada) are in danger because of aging. What can the government do? What can we do? Working hard to distribute information of and from FIG to individuals in Canada.

Diane Dumashie (RICS, United Kingdom): RICS is representing more than 120,000 surveyors. Reduced number of students in UK needs to be addressed. Plenary sessions in Hong Kong were excellent and should be transferred to technical sessions – what is our future, what are we going to do and how to do it?

Luke Keonye Asika (NIS, Nigeria): NIS has 300 members. FIG needs to address the issue of getting visas (FIG office to help with lists from member associations to avoid problems like in Germany). There is need for recognition from the government. FIG to look after so that the government shall take advice from professionals like NIS in Nigeria on surveying and land issues during the conflicts in Nigeria. There is lack of involvement in Nigeria from professionals in policy implementation. Participation to international events is important and this is why NIS has been very active in the recent years.

Stig Enemark (FIG President): Getting visas is a responsibility of the hosting country but FIG will see if any help can be given in this respect. FIG has given and is willing to give institutional support to member associations in their discussions with the government. FIG can e.g. write letters to the government but the initiative needs to come from a member association.

Sverre Steen (NJKF, Norway): NJKF will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2008. In Hong Kong there were too many parallel sessions and too many non-shows among speakers. The role of technical commissions is crucial in reaching individual members of member associations. It is important to send meeting agenda papers and e-Newsletters to delegates well in advance of the meetings (annual meetings, meetings at the working weeks).

Stig Enemark (FIG President): National delegates are responsible to report back to their member association. The General Assembly papers are sent to the member associations and they should inform their national delegates on the programme during the Working Week /Congress. All papers are available on the FIG web site to distribute the agenda papers to broader audience. From 2008 only the agenda itself will be sent as a hard copy and appendices will be mailed as a hard copy only by request.

Freddy Bolaños (CFIA, Costa Rica): CFIA represents 18,000 engineers and architects including 1,300 surveyors. CFIA will organise the FIG regional conference in San José in November 2007 on coastal regions, land management and capacity building – all important topics for Central America. It will be an attractive conference: good programme, great social events and affordable prices and good value for money. CFIA is already working on the visa issues.

Stig Enemark (FIG President): The regional conference in Costa Rica is the first one to really focus on regional needs. FIG will also publish a report on pro-poor coastal zone management as a result of the conference.

Sarkis Fadous (Order of Surveyors, Lebanon & AUS): Expressed his thanks on the meeting with the FIG President and FIG support to the association on institutional issues in Lebanon.

Valeriu Manolache (APCGC, Romania): APCGC is a new member of FIG. It is 1) collecting objective information from FIG and harmonizing the professional qualification based on FIG's guidelines; 2) appointing delegates to FIG Commissions, 3) co-operating in Romania with state agencies, universities etc. to follow the FIG examples; 4) supports young surveyors. Proposal to organise a regional conference for young surveyors (free registration to next Working Week, award best paper etc. Plan to organise an international symposium in Romania in 2008 together with FIG on land issues.

Gert Steinkellner (OVG, Austria): OVG has about 600 members. FIG e-Newsletter is good for individual members. Working Week in Hong Kong was expensive. Would there be any ways to organise the conferences in a cheaper way? Students' meeting was very good – happy with the proposals how to improve students' participation. There should not be too many parallel students' organizations.

Brian Coutts (NZIS, New Zealand): NZIS has about 1,000 members. There is shortage of qualified people – however latest figures show increased interest to surveying. Many young professionals are however leaving the country that leads to lack of professionals. e-Governance, re-regulation of licenses (surveyors/lawyers) are ways that are considered to solve the problem. In Hong Kong there were too many good parallel sessions – however offer good choice for the participants.

Robert Šinkner (CUSC, Czech Republic): Less than 10 per cent of surveyors belong to the professional association in Czech Republic. There is still problem to join because of the reputations of unions in the past. Good impressions from Hong Kong and support to Commission 10. Thanks to HKIS and LOC for a good conference. Invited members to attend the Commission 2 seminar in Prague in June 2007.

John Bacon (ICES, United Kingdom): ICES has about 5,000 members that are split in equally in three sections. Problems for ICES are that 1) land surveying is unregistered profession (constant under cut by unqualified people); 2) aging membership (during the next 15 years decline in membership). At the conference offering 10 minutes or less per presentation is not enough. We should consider longer days, cutting down number of papers and give speakers at least 15-20 minutes for their presentation. FIG must present itself better so that it is commonly known that it represents commercial surveyors (good in 40 degree spectrum, but

what about 320 degree spectrum on cost engineering, valuation management etc.) – surveyors are carrying out also the remaining 320 degrees.

Stig Enemark (FIG President): There was a special forum on project management in Hong Kong. Surveying is not only services but more and more about management.

Bela Markus (MFTTT, Hungary): MFTTT has 300+ members. It has elections at the end of May 2007. Problems in Hungary are budget cuts (20 per cent cut in staff in cadastre) with the aim to make cadastre self supporting service. All cadastral maps are now in database. Coordinated marketing is the main lesson learnt from Hong Kong. Bologna procedure is under way. In FIG offering peer-review opportunity is a good step forward. At the sessions 15 minutes should be reserved per paper.

Joseph Forrai (ALSI, Israel): Greeting from Yossi Kraus who is recovering in Israel. 50 per cent of Israeli surveyors (400) belong to ALSI. FIG guidelines and statements are most useful. ALSI welcomes FIG to Eilat in 2009. In Hong Kong non-shows were a big problem. Fees are high – reduce number of papers and reduce fees.

Stig Enemark (FIG President): Issues related to conferences (such as non-shows) will be addressed by the new Council as part of FIG's new role in organizing the conferences starting in Stockholm 2008. There was a good meeting between ALSI and FIG in Hong Kong.

Dalal S. Alnaggar (ECSM, Egypt): Problem is that with modern technology anyone can play with PC and Internet and claim to be a professional. FIG needs to market itself more to make the difference between FIG and other international organizations (e.g. in Egypt ISPRS is better known than FIG).

Rafic Khouri (OGE, France): Francophone Group (FGF) and CLGE have opened their meetings for Europeans, organise summer schools and publish e-Newsletters. There is need for closer co-operation with FIG in the coming years. CLGE is organizing meetings in Europe to attract students and young surveyors (the big issue is shortage of surveyors in Europe and also globally). Especially the meeting in Lyon was successful. Thanks to HKIS for organizing an excellent meeting.

Dick Gangnihessou (SYNAGETAB, Benin): This is the first time for Benin to attend an FIG event. Benin is a small country with 7 million people and struggling with superior education. Asked FIG and the surveyors' community to help in establishing suitable surveying education. Aim is to establish links with FIG on training and education. FIG should consider to establish programmes for small countries like Benin (integrating local characteristics).

Orhan Ercan (HKMO, Turkey): The hot issue in Turkey is the renovation of the cadastre. FIG should start to make publications in scientific manner like ISPRS. These would help in education and help young professors and researchers to get their studies to be published. Turkey has good experiences on young surveyors summer schools – these are all funded by HKMO. The 7<sup>th</sup> IGSM will be organized at the surveyors' summer camp.

Stig Enemark (FIG President): FIG has decided to start an online journal with peer-reviewed papers. However we should keep in mind that FIG is a professional association providing at

global home for the surveying associations throughout the world. FIG is not scientific association focusing on a specific area like e.g. ISPRS.

C. K. Au (HKInstES, Hong Kong SAR, China): HKInstES is a new FIG member and proud to attend the meeting for the first time as a full member. HKInstES is organizing in spring 2008 a conference on engineering surveying (surveying services from economic aspects). FIG's role is to promote surveyors and their role globally.

Le Quy Thuc (VGCR, Vietnam): Focus is in land activities. FIG should help young surveyors. VGCR is trying to cover expenses of young surveyors to attend FIG events.

Hannu Ridell (MIL, Finland): In discussion of benefits to individual surveyors, FIG should consider how to get surveyors from private sector and local authorities to attend. At the moment these groups are under-represented in FIG. E.g. in Finland these groups cover 65 per cent of membership. Best or good practices and e-mail networks could be a good tool to benefit from the international community (find colleagues easier). The goal should be "you cannot stay outside FIG". Proposal: FIG should agree on a mission within FIG and within member associations to increase participation from the private sector and young surveyors within next two years.

Hagen Graeff (DVW, Germany): DVW has 8,000 + members. The biggest challenge is to get more students. In attracting new students new visions are needed. In this discussion e.g. MDGs is a good topic. Give real issues to the hands of young people. At the conference there were too many non-shows. Are there any other options to organise sessions (published papers only, only oral presentations, forums etc.)?

Svante Asterno (SLF, Sweden): Welcomed all members to Stockholm in 2008. The theme of the conference is Integrating generations. The LOC is working in close co-operation with WG 1.2 Young Surveyors. Challenged each member association to send at least one young surveyor to each working week – starting from Stockholm.

Henning Elmstrom (DdL, Denmark & President of CLGE): Congratulations to HKIS for the conference and to the Council on the new Work Plan. The big problem is low numbers of students. CLGE has addressed this issue by organizing in March a conference in Lyon to address this issue and another European conference in October 2008. Further there is a plan to organise a conference for 300-400 students in Germany in 2009 with DVW. One example of good progress is the educational co-operation between Sweden and Denmark in surveying education.

Jim Curnow (ISA, Australia): Numbers of students are decreasing. ISA has started a programme for young surveyors. A good sign is the success that the young ambassador programme has created for FIG 2010.

Matt Higgins (FIG Vice President, Australia): The Council is aware of the non-shows in Hong Kong and the general issue of balancing number of papers, quality and possibility to attend the conferences. Timing needs also consideration. Peer-review procedure will raise the quality of papers. Commissions are also considering to increase number of invited papers that will also raise the quality of presentations. Poster concept will be considered as well as having standby papers (working group chairs). Commission 10 and other smaller commissions need

to be considered by member associations. At the moment 3 commissions have more than 50 per cent of all papers.

Jan Hardos (KGK, Slovak Republic): Congratulations to HKIS on logistics of the conference. The discussion at the General Assembly was very satisfying. Agrees with Rafic Khouri et al on how to bring benefits of the FIG work to individuals. Khouri and Hardos will study how to get the latest information from technical commissions distributed to individuals – e.g. possibility to make edited summaries from each commission (1-2 pages). It would be good to have summary from each technical session for publishing (include the new ideas and findings) and translation to other languages. Too much information is sometimes no information.

Stig Enemark (FIG President): Summary from a national delegate would perhaps be better as this allows transforming the results to local needs.

Matt Higgins (FIG Vice President): Summary report is a good idea and will be brought to the Commission chairs.

Randolph Camilleri (Land Surveyors Society, Malta): Actual issues in Malta are: 1) professional education; 2) getting recognition from the government; 3) the association has only 50 members. In July the name will be changed to Malta Institute of Surveyors to allow broader membership. At the moment education is mainly taken from United Kingdom. With help of CLGE and meetings with the Ministry and university the first master course in surveying starts in September 2008. Recognition from the government is the next step but needs the university level education behind. Thanks to HKIS for good arrangements.

Masao Ishihara (JFS, Japan): JFS has 11 member associations. In Hong Kong number of young people in technical sessions has increased and thus looks promising for the future. To help with non-shows, we should cut number of accepted papers.

Makis Apostolatos (TEE, Greece): Thanks to HKIS and LOC. The absence of speakers was a problem – must be better filtered by the Commissions. Secondly publishing same papers again and again should also be stopped and better filtered out from the technical programme.

Chryssy Potsiou (HARSE, Greece): Poster presentations should be considered and be selected based on statistics (non-shows at previous events) and how well the papers fit to the FIG agenda. MDGs and other new challenges should be addressed also in basic education so that the education can respond to new challenges. Thanks to support from member associations for delegates. If there is no delegate in Commissions the representatives to the General Assembly should take care of bringing the information back home.

C. H. Teo (Association of Authorised Land Surveyors, Malaysia): To access individuals the best way is to use electronic media. The new work plan is ambitious and good. Individuals are focusing on bread and butter (25 miles from home) – so there needs to be a balance between the sky and grassroots. We need to enhance the change and bring the industry together. This has worked in Malaysia e.g. by making joint booklets etc.

Curt Sumner (ACSM, USA): First time in Commission 1 there was a good students participation. Students chapter for universities (publications available for students, students' competitions, outreach to mid and high schools). In USA there are 50,000 licensed surveyors

with average age of 58. There is need for stakeholder groups at the universities (educational programmes and understanding on technical programmes). ACSM Journal is available also for non-US authors. The conferences should be considered as credits for CPD and certificate level programme for technicians). Thanks to HKIS.

John Hohol (ACSM, USA & FIG Foundation): Numbers of applications to the FIG Foundation have been decreasing. Need to find other ways to help students and young surveyors.

Francis Leung (HKIS, Hong Kong SAR, China): Key issue is how to market the profession. Surveying profession is understood as land surveying only in China. Need to help the average people to understand surveying. Quantity surveying in China belongs to valuers (QS is not part of surveying in China). Help national associations to achieve more and national institutions need to do more. FIG should provide information packages available. The current membership structure may need consideration as not all surveyors feel themselves home in FIG – could there be flexible fee structure based on different disciplines? Thanks to all who have expressed their thanks to the organizers. The Working Week has been an exciting experience. HKIS benefited also in the good media coverage. The conference also gave some financial surplus. After the conference HKIS feels itself now more home in FIG.

Elbe Janse von Rensburg (PLATO, South Africa): There is economic boom in South Africa which results as lack of staff. At the moment review of the cadastral legislation and registration systems is under way to streamline the registration systems and bring in e-governance. Thanks to HKIS

Antonio Benvenuti (CNG, Italy): CNG is a public body representing more than 100,000 surveyors. Greetings from President Panunzi who was not able to attend the meeting this time because of meetings with the Minister on reform of professionals in Italy. Also the social role of surveyors is high on the Italian agenda. Thank to FIG President and Council and General Assembly on support to FIG 2012 and welcome to Rome in 2012.

Wafula Nabutola (ISK, Kenya): Greeting from the ISK President. There is big transformation going on in national land policy in Kenya. Surveyors role in this discussion is increasing. Lot of collaboration is going on and ISK is now more involved in informal settlements. Something has to be done to slum upgrading not only “slum tourism”. There shall be improvement by 2015 and slum problem eliminated by 2020.

### 3. SUMMARY

President Enemark thanked the presidents for their valuable comments. He then summarised the discussion to few points:

1. The goal is to both fly high and keep feet on the ground. This does not mean that both have to happen at the same time. It is necessary to fly high to get recognition - at global as well as national level for surveyors. Individuals need this recognition to get butter on their bread. Each national association have the responsibility to contribute to the society
2. Benefits of being a member. This issue is crucial one will be addressed in the new FIG promotion leaflet.

3. The discussion has been focused on three key issues: 1) young surveyors; 2) non-shows at the technical sessions; and 3) lack of students

**Young surveyors.** The new Working Group 1.2 Young Surveyors is has now strong team and is preparing big activities for the Stockholm Working Week in 2008.. Under-represented Newsletter has also now new editors so the Newsletter will move forward

**Non-shows at the technical session.** In the case of non-shows we always need to find a balance between attracting people to participate and the quality of presentations. In the future FIG has more influence on the overall arrangements of the conferences. The quality and non-shows will be a key issue for the Commission chairs in preparations for Stockholm

**Lack of students.** This is a global problem. There is a contradiction as at the same time there is a big demand for surveyors. This issue is under consideration in Commission 2 but this issue cannot be solved by FIG alone. It is even more a challenge and responsibility of national member associations

Thanks for attending the meeting.

**XXX FIG General Assembly and Working Week 2007  
13-17 May 2007, Hong Kong SAR, China**

**Attendance List  
Presidents' meeting 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Member association</b>
Stig Enemark	President, FIG, chair
Jürg Kaufmann	geosuisse, Switzerland
Helen Murray	SCS, Ireland
Francis Gabele	UBG, Belgium
Daniel Roberge	CIG, Canada
Doug Culham	Association of Canada Lands Surveyors, Canada
Diane Dumashie	RICS, United Kingdom
Ken Allred	FIG Vice President, Canada
Luke Keonye Asika	NIS, Nigeria
Sverre Steen	NJKF/NIF, Norway
Freddy Bolaños C.	CFIA, Costa Rica
Sarkis Fadous	Order of Surveyors, Lebanon & Arab Union of Surveyors
Valeriu Manolache	APCGC, Romania
Gert Steinkellner	OVG, Austria
Brian Coutts	NZIS, New Zealand
Robert Šinkner	CUSC, Czech Republic
John Bacon	ICES, United Kingdom
Bela Markus	MFTTT, Hungary
Joseph Forrai	ALSI, Israel
Dalal S. Alnaggar	ECSM, Egypt
Pierre Bibollet	OGE, France
Alain Gaudet	OGE, France
Rafic Khouri	OGE, France
Dick Gangnihessou	SYNAGETAB, Benin
Orhan Ercan	HKMO, Turkey
Ali Fahri Özten	HKMO, Turkey
C. K. Au	HKInstES, Hong Kong SAR, China
Le Quy Thuc	VGCR, Vietnam
Hannu Ridell	MIL, Finland
Hagen Graeff	DVW, Germany
Svante Astermo	SLF, Sweden
Henning Elmstrom	DdL, Denmark
Kjeld Lohmann Scholer	DdL, Denmark
Soren Andersen	DdL, Denmark
Jim Curnow	ISA, Australia
Matt Higgins	FIG Vice President, Australia
Jan Hardos	KGK, Slovak Republic
Randolph Camilleri	Land Surveyors Society, Malta
Masao Ishihara	JFS, Japan
Makis Apostolatos	TEE, Greece
Chryssy Potsiou	HARSE, Greece
C. H. Teo	Association of Authorised Land Surveyors, Malaysia
Curt Sumner	ACSM, USA

John Hohol	ACSM, USA
Francis Leung	HKIS, Hong Kong SAR, China
Elbe Janse von Rensburg	PLATO, South Africa
Antonio Benvenuti	CNG, Italy
Wafula Nabutola	ISK, Kenya
Markku Villikka	FIG Director, secretary