

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Kickoff Event for the
Incoming President and Council of FIG
January 24, 2015

Robert W. Foster, Hon. Pres.

(Speaking for the first 25 presidents)

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

“Ensuring a rapid response to change; Ensuring the Surveyor of tomorrow”

- “The next best thing is here” Samsung
- “Anyone can change anything” Rolex
- Machine learning: An approximation of human intuition & cognition
- AI: Speech recognition; anticipatory computing; cognitive simulation
- Carbon-based brain + Silicon-based brain = Hybrid brain?
- (Cryptocurrencies: Bitcoin)

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Fig Congress Themes

- 1938 "The Role of the Surveyor as a Professional in the Social Order of Today"
- 1965 "The Effect of Modern Technology on the Surveying Profession"
- 1971 "Surveying and the Space Age"
- 1990 "The Challenge of the Information Society"
- 1994 "Surveying Global Changes"
- 2006 "Shaping the Change"
- 2010 "Facing the Challenges..."
- 2014 "Engaging the Challenges..."
- 2015 "Ensuring a Rapid Response to Change; Ensuring the Surveyor of Tomorrow"

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

The challenges of the times

- Modern technology
- The space Age
- The information society
- Globalization

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

- The Photogrammetrist
- The Boundary Surveyor
- The Valuer

= The Surveyor, by FIG definition

= Land Management, Land Administration

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Land:

The only irreplaceable, indestructible world resource
for

National economic vitality, social/cultural identity

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

1878 FIG objectives, 1st Congress:

- Exchanging views
- Liaison among members
- Comparison of social conditions
- Dissemination of research results
- Coordination of professional training
- Encouraging good relations with authorities

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

- FIG Congress History

- 1st FIG Congress: 1878, Paris
- 2nd FIG Congress: 1910, Brussels
- 3rd FIG Congress: 1926, Paris
- Then every 4 years until 6th Congress 1938, Rome
- Scheduled 1942 Congress in Warsaw cancelled re WW II
- 7th FIG Congress: 1949, Lausanne
- Subsequent Congresses every 3 or 4 years

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

- The FIG presidency:

Determined by Congress location until 2002 – 2006
presidency, then by election by General Assembly

1st President E. Lefevre de Soucy, 1878, France.
Then Belgian, Swiss, UK, Dutch, Austrian, German,
American, Swedish, Canadian, Finnish, Australian,
Malaysian presidents.

1st Greek President, Professor Chryssy Potsiou, the 26th
FIG President

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

President Potsiou

Talent over tradition

Results over reputation

Progress over protocol

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

My thanks to the Greek Surveying Profession for its support of FIG all these years.

My congratulations to President Chryssy.

And

my Congratulations to the FIG General Assembly for electing FIG's
1st Greek President.