

5th FIG Regional Conference
**Promoting Land Administration and
Good Governance**

Accra, Ghana, March 9–12, 2006

First invitation and call for papers

ORGANISED BY



INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION OF
SURVEYORS
(FIG)



THE GHANA INSTITUTION
OF SURVEYORS
(GhIS)

INVITATION

The focus of the 5th FIG Regional Conference will be on land administration and good governance as conditions for sustainable development. It will discuss these topics also through the technical tools that modern surveying technology can offer in achieving these main goals.

Sub-themes of the conference include topics that cover all FIG ten technical commissions as well as the three divisions of the Ghana Institution of Surveyors (GhIS), namely general practice, land surveying and quantity surveying. The objective of the conference is therefore how to utilize effectively modern technologies to promote good land administration strategies in furtherance of appropriate governance practices to bring about integrated economic, environmental and sustainable development.

The 5th FIG Regional Conference is organized by the *International Federation of Surveyors* (FIG) and the *Ghana Institution of Surveyors* (GhIS) and co-hosted by the *Ministry of Land, Forestry and Mines* (MLFM) of Ghana. It is the first FIG Regional Conference to be held in West Africa and continuity to two previous conferences held in Africa in Nairobi, Kenya in 2001 and in Marrakech, Morocco in 2003. As has been the case with the previous FIG regional conferences the conference in Accra will be organized in co-operation with other international and regional organizations like the United Nations and its agencies (e.g. the UN Economic Commission for Africa), as well as with international spatial information societies. The regional partners will include associations in Africa. The conference is open to participants from all over the world however with the main focus on Africa and especially West Africa. To encourage participation from the West African countries the conference will be held in English and French. In all previous FIG regional conferences there have been participants from 30 to 50 countries representing all continents.

FIG is an international, non-governmental organisation whose purpose is to support international collaboration for the progress of surveying in all fields and applications. FIG is the only international association representing all

surveying disciplines. FIG has members in more than 110 countries and in the member associations there are more than 230,000 individual members. In addition to 94 member associations FIG has 80 academic members, 15 affiliates and 14 correspondents. More information: <http://www.fig.net>.

GhIS is established in 1969 and represents all surveyors in Ghana. Its work is divided in three divisions: general practice, quantity surveying and land surveying. GhIS has 955 members at the end of 2004 (128 Fellows, 533 Professional Associates and 294 Surveying Technicians). GhIS is the member association of FIG in Ghana. More information: www.ghanasurveyors.org

The Ministry of Land, Forestry and Mines (MLFM) of Ghana is responsible for the Land Administration Project (LAP). A project dedicated mainly to the improvement in the Land Administration of the country. The main agencies involved are: Survey Department, Land Commission, Land Title Registration, Land Valuation Board and Town and Country Planning.

The 5th FIG Regional Conference will, in particular, provide a unique opportunity to discuss the problems and achievements of land administration in Africa and the ways that modern technologies can assist in solving these problems. It will also give the opportunity to learn about the special conditions in West Africa and experiences on the several land administration projects in the region.

The programme is carefully prepared to provide high-profile technical sessions and in addition a superb social programme which include city tours and social functions, technical tour including ecotourism (canopy walk). The opening and closing ceremonies, the Ghanaian Evening/Foundation Dinner and the gala dinner will be full of impressions from the Ghanaian cultural heritage.

The Organizing Committee therefore has the singular pleasure to welcome you to Ghana and wishes you a pleasant stay before, during and after the Conference.

Enjoy the Ghanaian hospitality. We look forward to meeting you in Accra. Akwaaba!

Dr. B. E. Kwesi Prah

President of the Ghana Institution of Surveyors, GhIS
Chairman of the Organizing Committee

Prof. Holger Magel

President
International Federation of Surveyors, FIG

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Chairperson: **Dr. B. E. Kwesi Prah**
- Vice Chair: **K. H Osei Asante**
- Conference Coordinator: **Stephen Djaba**
- **G Atieku**
- **Yvonne Sowah**

- **Dorothy Adotei Nyanu**
- **Markku Villikka**, FIG Office

The organising committee will be assisted by sub-committees (programme committee, finance committee and hospitality committee).

HONORARY COMMITTEE

- **Prof. Holger Magel**, President of FIG, Chair of the Honorary Committee
- **Dr. B. E. Kwesi Prah**, President of GhIS, Vice Chair of the Honorary Committee

- **Prof. Dominic Fohbi**, Minister of Ministry of Land, Forestry and Mines
- **Dr. Chukwodozie Ezigbalike**, UN ECA
- **Dr. Odame Larbi**

THEME AND TOPICS

The theme of the conference is “*Promoting Land Administration and Good Governance*” which includes the following **policy issues**:

- Modern technology and land administration
- Professional qualifications and standards
- Quantity surveying
- Urban-rural interrelationship in land administration
- Positioning and measurements
- Surveying and geoinformatics education
- Mine surveying

All ten FIG technical commissions will attend the conference and abstracts are therefore requested on the following **specific topics**:

- Professional standards and qualifications
- Standards in all surveying disciplines
- Information technology management and professional practice
- Surveying education in Africa
- Virtual academy – e-learning technologies and experiences
- Capacity building and mutual recognition
- e-government and e-citizen
- SIM infrastructure
- State of the art of SIM
- Knowledge transfer in SIM
- Administration marine spaces – coastal zone management, marine cadastre and management of the marine environment
- Hydrography and charting
- Reference frame in practice and AFREF
- Integrated positioning, navigation and mapping systems
- GNSS developments and modernization

- Cost effective surveying technology and techniques for developing countries
- Current development in remote sensing technologies
- Engineering surveys for construction works and structural engineering
- Offshore construction surveys
- Mine surveying
- Use of novel equipment and techniques for engineering surveys e.g. GPS, laser scanners and pseudolites
- Land management and administration and cadastre in Ghana and West Africa (customary rights, decentralization, land records and digital cadastre)
- Land administration in post conflict areas
- Appropriate technology for land administration in Africa
- Unconventional approaches to land administration
- Institutional developments in land administration
- Innovative forms of land reform
- Informal settlements
- Disaster and risk management
- Property markets on informal settlements
- Land administration and valuations
- Land taxation
- Affordable housing
- Construction economics and management
- Quantity surveying
- Building surveying and cost engineering
- Project and construction management

Each conference day will be opened by a plenary session with contributions from prominent keynote speakers followed by 3 parallel technical sessions.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

	Tuesday 8 March	Wednesday 9 March	Thursday 10 March	Friday 11 March	Saturday 12 March
08.30–09.00		Registration	Registration	Registration	Technical tour
09.00–10.00	FIG ACCO meeting	Opening ceremony	Plenary session Exhibition	Plenary session Exhibition	Full-day technical tour to Cape Coast
10.30–12.00	FIG ACCO meeting	Plenary session Exhibition	Technical sessions and workshops (3 parallel sessions) Exhibition	Technical sessions and workshops (3 parallel sessions) Exhibition	
13.30–15.00	Registration FIG ACCO meeting	Technical sessions and workshops (3 parallel sessions)	Technical sessions and workshops (3 parallel sessions) Exhibition	Closing ceremony incl. conference statement and recommendations	
15.30–17.00	Registration FIG ACCO meeting	Technical sessions and workshops (3 parallel sessions) Exhibition	Technical sessions and workshops (3 parallel sessions) Exhibition	GhIS Annual General Meeting Technical tour to LAP	
17.00–18.00				GhIS Annual General Meeting Technical tour to LAP	Arrival to hotel 18:00
19.00–		Welcome Reception	Ghanaian evening	Gala dinner and GhIS Awards Evening 20:00–	

In addition several FIG Commissions will have their administrative meetings during the conference.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference will be held in English and French.

Abstracts are called on any of the conference themes and topics. Abstracts not exceeding 2 pages including short CV and contact information should be submitted to the International Federation of Surveyors, address: FIG Office, Lindevangs Alle 4, DK-2000 Frederiksberg, Denmark, email: fig@fig.net, tel. +45 3886 1081 and fax +45 3886 0252. Abstracts are requested to be submitted in electronic format, if possible in MS-Word. The deadline for abstracts is **10 November 2005**. The authors will be informed by **10 December 2005** of acceptance of their paper. The deadline for full papers (not exceeding 15 pages) is **10 January 2006**. Detailed guidelines on submitting the papers are available on FIG web site (www.fig.net/accra). The programme including the names of speak-

ers and titles of their papers will be available on the FIG web site **10 January 2006**. All papers will be published and proceedings (CD-ROM) will be distributed during the conference. All papers will be posted on the FIG web site (www.fig.net). When submitting the paper the author(s) give(s) FIG the right to publish the paper permanently on the FIG web site and to include it in the FIG Surveying Reference Library. Papers shall be submitted in English or in French with a one-page summary in English and in one other language (optional). The number of abstracts will be limited to max. two per author.

Further information is available from the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), email: fig@fig.net or from the Ghana Institution of Surveyors, email: Stephen@ghana.com or surveyor@africaonline.com.gh.

VENUE

The Conference will be held at the La Palm Royal Beach Hotel, in La, Accra, P.O. Box OS 3000, Accra, Ghana, tel. +233 21 771 700, fax +233 21 771 717, email: enquiries@la-palm.com, web site: www.la-palm.com. La Palm Royal Beach is a five star hotel with a confer-

ence center located on the beach in La area in Accra about 10–15 minutes from the international airport and 20 minutes from the city centre. The hotel has its own beach and a nice size pool area.

REGISTRATION, FEES AND IMPORTANT DATES

Registration fees are as follows:

Registration fees	Before 15 December 2005	After 15 December 2005
<i>Conference delegates</i>		
– Delegates, international	€ 300	€ 350
– Daily participants	€ 150	€ 200
– Students, international	€ 100	€ 100
– Delegates from West Africa	€ 100	€ 150
– Delegates from Ghana	€ 100	€ 100
<i>Accompanying persons</i>	€ 100	€ 100
<i>Technical tour to Cape Coast</i>	€ 50	€ 50
<i>Social programme</i>		
– Welcome reception, Ghanaian evening and Gala dinner	included in fee	included in fee

The full registration fees include conference attendance, proceedings (CD-ROM), lunches and 2 coffee breaks from Wednesday to Friday), Welcome Reception, Ghanaian Evening and Gala Dinner/GhIS Awards Night (10 € donation to the FIG Foundation will be included for the Ghanaian Evening) and technical tour to LAP on Friday. Additional social programme and the technical tour on Saturday will be charged separately.

Registration fee for the accompanying persons includes participation to the opening ceremony, coffee/tea after the opening session, Welcome Reception, Ghanaian Evening and Gala Dinner/GhIS Awards Night (10 € donation to the FIG Foundation will be included for the Ghanaian Evening) and opportunity to register for social events and tours.

Speakers from developing countries are requested to contact the conference organisers for support to participate.

Registration is possible on line on the conference web site (www.fig.net/accra) or by sending the registration form to FIG office. Local participants shall register to GhIS and participants from the sub-region either to FIG or GHIS.

In the case of cancellations after registration the following policy on refunds will be used:

- By 15 December 2005 – full refund minus administration fee of € 50
- From 16 December to 10 February 2006 – 50 % of all payments
- After 10 February 2006 – no refund.

Payments shall be made by credit card at the time of registration or by a bank transfer to the FIG bank account.

ACCOMMODATION

Accra offers good accommodation to very reasonable prices in the five-star category as well as in 3–4-star categories. The conference venue is La-Palm Royal Beach Hotel, which is a five-star hotel in the La-Palm area in Accra. The room rates for La-Palm Royal Hotel are USD 100 for single

occupancy and USD 120 for double occupancy (including full English breakfast, 12.5 % VAT and 2.5 % NHL). Other hotels in price categories 50–100 USD will be offered. For hotel booking information please visit the conference web site.

EXHIBITION

An exhibition of surveying and technology is planned. This will include up to date displays from manufacturers with their current range of instruments and software. Any company or organisation requiring further information

about the possibility of having a display should contact the FIG at FIG@FIG.net.

TECHNICAL TOURS

One day technical tour will be organised to Cape Coast on Saturday, 12 March 2006. The detailed programme will be published on the conference web site.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The social programme includes:

- Welcome reception
- Ghanaian evening
- Gala dinner

To see details, please visit the conference web site.

SIGHTSEEING AND POST-CONFERENCE TOURS

The organising committee has selected a reliable travel agency as the conference tour agency. This agency will also offer options for pre- and post-conference tours.

These options include Cape Coast and Kumasi. For further information visit the conference web site or contact the FIG office.

BENEFICIARIES

The conference is expected to attract professionals, academics, scientists, researchers, policy makers and administrators from all surveying disciplines and related professionals.

ABOUT GHANA AND ACCRA

Ghana is a peaceful country located on the West Coast of Africa. It is bounded on the north by Burkina Faso, on the east by Togo, on the west by Cote d'Ivoire and on the south by the Atlantic Ocean. Ghana's capital is Accra, with a population of 2 million people.

Formerly a British colony known as Gold Coast, Ghana was the first nation in Sub-Saharan Africa to achieve independence in 1957. The country is named after the ancient empire of Ghana, from which the ancestors of the inhabitants of the present country are thought to have migrated. Ghana has a total land area of 92,100 square miles (238,537 km²).

Ghana is a blessed land endowed with natural mineral resources such as gold, diamond, timber, cocoa etc. Its population is approximately 18.8 million. Ghana is a low-land country, except for range of hills on the eastern border. The sandy coastline is backed by a coastal plain that is crossed by several rivers and streams, generally navigable only by canoe. In the west the rain is broken

by heavily forested hills and many stream and rivers. To the north lies an undulating savanna that is drained by the Volta river which flows to the Guinea Bay through a narrow pass in the hills. Lake Volta, in the east is one of the largest artificial lakes in the world. Ghana's highest point, in the easter hills, is about 2,900 feet (884 meters) above sea level.

The climate of Ghana is tropical, but temperatures vary with season and elevation. In Accra area, rainy season is between April and June. Except in the north, two rainy seasons occur, from April to June and from September to November. In the north the rainy season begins in March and lasts until September. Annual rainfall ranges from about 40 inches in the north to about 80 inches. The harmattan, a dry north wind, blows from December to March lowering the humidity and creating hot days and cool nights in the north. The average annual temperature is about 86F (30° C).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

How to come to Ghana. The Kotoka International airport is the principal air entry point to Ghana. It is a modern airport that places its technological facilities at the disposal of the countries in the West Africa sub-region. This explains why Ghana is referred to as the Gateway to Africa. The Airport is situated 12km from Accra city center. Hotel shuttle buses and taxis are readily available. All major airlines fly into Ghana many times in a week.

Immigration and customs regulations. All foreign participants wishing to visit Ghana are required to complete a Application for accreditation form at the nearest Ghana diplomatic mission. The application should be accompanied by three passport-size photographs. It is imperative, however, for all visitors entering Ghana to possess valid passports or legal travel documents. Tourists can bring in personal items duty free, but for detail of trade goods and specialist equipment please contact customs Excise and Preventive service or nearest Ghanaian mission.

Airport Tax. A departure tax of about 20 USD is payable by all departing passengers on international flights, and 5 USD on all domestic flights. Rate changes without notice.

Health. Visitors must provide proof of vaccination against yellow fever and malaria. The officer is not too strict, but it is suggested that you receive at least the homeopathic vaccination if not the injection.

Currency & Credit Cards. Ghanaian currency is dominated in cedis and pesewas. Major international credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Diner's Club) are widely accepted. Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) are found throughout the city. Exchange rate in March 2005: 1 US\$ = 8.90 GHC and 1 EUR = 11.50 GHC.

Time. Standard time zone: GMT+0.

Electricity. 220 volts/50cycles. Standard outlets are plugs with three rounded/square pins.

What to see in Accra. Accra is the gateway to Ghana and the vibrant capital city. It is one of the most exciting and distinctive cities in West Africa. It is the most densely populated, containing Ghana's major commercial centres.

The City of Accra has been Ghana's capital since 1877, and contains fine public buildings reflecting its transition from a 19th century suburb of Victoriasborg to the modern metropolis it is today. Spreading along the Atlantic coast, the city is well endowed with luxury as well as great value hotels, excellent restaurants and nightclubs. A range of absorbing museums and fine public monuments, modern business and commercial areas, as well as busy markets and tree-lined residential suburbs, is ready to be explored.

Among the highlights of Accra are the National Museum, with its splendid display of exhibits that reflect the heritage of Ghana from prehistoric times to modern times, the National Theatre with its distinctive modern architecture, the Centre for National Culture, Independence Square, the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum, the fishing port at James Town and Makola Market.

The University of Ghana at Legon is just 14 km north of Accra, and its distinctive buildings are set amongst elegant tree-lined gardens that are popular with students and visitors alike.

Tema is a new town some 30 km from Accra, with Ghana's foremost commercial port and large fishing fleet. Its modern industrial zone is one of our major commercial hubs. Tema lies directly on the Greenwich Meridian and the last city on the meridian to the center of the world (Equator).

The beaches of the Atlantic coast are popular with visitors and Ghanaians alike. Labadi Pleasure Beach and Kokrobite Beach, just 25 km west of Accra, are particularly popular at weekends.

Further along the coast from Accra-Tema is Ada and the

estuary of the great River Volta. Here the fine beaches of the estuary and the Atlantic coast provide popular resort areas. Watersports and river trips make this a great place to relax, while the waters off the coast teem with game fish.

Climate & Dress. Accra has a dry and sunny climate all year round. In March temperature is normally warm even in evening.

Office Hours. Government office hours are open from 8 am to 4:30 pm from Monday to Friday but break between 12 noon to 1:30 pm for lunch. Business offices are usually open from 7 am to 5 pm. Banks are usually open from 8:30 to 4 pm from Monday to Friday.

Tipping. Major restaurants and hotels add service tax and government tax in bills. Where not included, a tip of 10% is satisfactory. Tipping taxi drivers is not mandatory, but 'mounding up' your fare to the nearest 1,000.00 cedis is good general practice.

Transportation. Buses, mini-buses, and taxis are available to take you short and long distances on roads – they are mostly good

Driving. Ghana drives on the right and requires a valid international driving license.

Traditional Courtesies. Visitors to remote villages should pay particular attention to respect their order by first addressing an elder regarding your intentions and bringing a small gift of blessings to show gratitude for the welcome you will no doubt receive.

CONTACTS

International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)

Lindevangs Alle 4

DK-2000 Frederiksberg

DENMARK

Tel. +45 3886 1081

Fax +45 3886 0252

Email: fig@fig.net

Contact person: Markku Villikka, Director, FIG Office

Ghana Institution of Surveyors (GhIS)

Palma House

P. O. Box 191

Accra

GHANA

Tel +233 21220191

Fax +233 21 250712

Email stephen@ghana.com or surveyor@africaonline.com.gh

Contact person: Stephen Djaba

OFFICIAL CONFERENCE WEB SITE

Please visit www.fig.net/accra for up-to-date information on the conference.