

**NOMINATION OF IAN PHILIP WILLIAMSON FOR ELECTION
AS AN HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE FIG**

The Institution of Surveyors, Australia wishes to nominate Professor Ian Philip Williamson to be considered for election as an Honorary Member of the FIG.

Professor Williamson is well known to the members of the FIG through his tireless work in the area of Land Administration Management and Reform, particularly during his time as the Vice Chair (1991 - 1993) and Chair (1994 - 1998) of FIG Commission 7.

The brief attached resume of Ian's achievements illustrates that he is certainly not someone who waits for opportunities to present themselves, but rather goes out and creates opportunities for others.

The Institution feels that Professor Williamson's role in actively promoting the role and involvement of surveyors in the processes by which land is administered and managed around the world has brought a great deal of credit upon the international surveying community as a whole and certainly upon the FIG. His work for the international surveying community also extends well beyond the area covered by FIG Commission 7, with an active involvement in international surveying education. The Department of Geomatics at the University of Melbourne of which Ian is the Head of Department has embarked upon exchange student programs with other international educational institutions including the Aalborg University in Denmark.

While Ian had finished his term as Chairman of FIG Commission 7 in 1998 he has maintained his usual hectic pace in developing and hosting forums where issues of world importance have been addressed and real steps towards providing solutions have been formed. In October 1999 he was the co-organiser (with Prof Don Grant of Australia) of the *UN-FIG Bathurst Workshop* held in Bathurst Australia and the follow up *UN-FIG Conference on Land Administration for Sustainable Development* which was held in Melbourne Australia. The fact that it was supported by five UN Agencies, the World Bank, the Victorian and New South Wales State Governments, the Australian Federal Government, professional associations such as our Institution and the private industry amply demonstrates the high standing Ian has in the international community, and it is to his credit that he always puts forward surveying as the profession, and surveyors as the professionals who can provide the solutions.

The Institution notes that the FIG have recognised the manner in which Ian has been able to foster links with International Agencies such as the United Nations and the World Bank, and have appointed him as the FIG's UN Liaison Director. The Institution is certain that Ian will continue to promote the international surveying profession, as represented by the FIG to those and other international agencies.

The Institution feels that the commitment Ian has made to the international surveying community, the enthusiasm by which he approaches all of his tasks and that he has brought a great deal of credit upon the FIG and its member associations should be recognised by election as an Honorary Member of the FIG. As such, we would request that this nomination be considered by the General Assembly of the FIG at its next meeting.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Faithfully
The Institution of Surveyors, Australia

John Crickmore
Chief Executive Officer

9 March 2000

Ian Philip WILLIAMSON

PhD (NSW), DrHC (Olsztyn), FTSE, FISAust, FIEAust, HonFMSIAust, LS, CP Eng
Professor of Surveying and Land Information
The University of Melbourne

Career Outline

Place and Date of Birth: Sydney, Australia, 29th September, 1947
Nationality: Australian
Email: i.williamson@eng.unimelb.edu.au

Professor Williamson holds the Foundation Chair of Surveying and Land Information in the Department of Geomatics at the University of Melbourne; he has been Head of Department (1986-93 and 1998-present), Pro-Vice Chancellor (1991-94) and President of the Academic Board (1993-94). He has held many appointments in the University of Melbourne and currently chairs the Cultural Diversity Forum. He has been an external examiner to universities in Hong Kong, the West Indies and Zimbabwe.

He holds bachelors, masters and doctorate degrees in Surveying and is a Licensed Professional Land Surveyor and a Chartered Professional Engineer. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, a Fellow of the Institution of Surveyors, Australia, a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, and an Honorary Fellow of the Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia. He was Vice-Chairperson (1991-4) and Chairperson (1994-98) of Commission 7 (Cadastre and Land Management) of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) representing over 70 countries, and is currently Director UN Liaison for the FIG (1998-2001).

His teaching and research interests are concerned with the evaluation, reform and design of cadastral systems, land and geographic information systems, spatial data infrastructures and land administration systems, in both developed and developing countries. He is particularly interested in the relationship between these systems and sustainable development.

He has collaborated with state and federal governments in Australia and overseas, United Nations agencies, the European Union and the World Bank on the establishment of cadastral, land and geographic information systems, and on land administration, land management and land tenure as they relate to environmental management and economic development. He spent six months as a researcher with the World Bank in Washington DC while holding a Senior Fullbright Fellowship. In the above capacities he has worked across all continents. In 1991/92 he led the review of the ASEAN-Australian Economic Cooperation Program for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

He is currently the Chairperson of the Geospatial Information Reference Group which provides spatial information policy advice to the Victorian Government (1998-present).

In 1999 he was the co-organiser of the joint United Nations – International Federation of Surveyors Workshop and International Conference on Land Tenure and Cadastral Infrastructures for Sustainable Development which resulted in the *UN-FIG Bathurst Declaration on Land Administration for Sustainable Development*. This initiative was supported by five UN agencies, the

World Bank, the Victorian and NSW governments, the Australian Federal Government and private industry.

He current research team comprises five full-time doctoral students, three full-time masters students and one post-doctoral Research Fellow. His research team is supported by the Australian Research Council, the Victorian and NSW governments, and the Federal Government, as well as several overseas countries and organisations.

Professor Williamson has published widely having authored or co-authored over 200 journal articles, reports or conference proceedings. A selected list of papers can be viewed at:
http://www.sli.unimelb.edu.au/research/publications/IPW_publ.html

Recent highlights of his career include:

- received the “Eminent Individual of the Year Award” from the Australasian Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (AURISA) in 1996;
- awarded the 1996 Horwood Critique Prize for “the outstanding paper” published in the proceedings of the Urban & Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) Annual Conference, Salt Lake City, USA (with T.O. Chan).
- awarded the Medal of the Institution of Surveyors, Australia in 1997;
- acknowledgment from the President of the World Bank as part of the Thailand Land Titling Project Team which won the World Bank Group’s 1997 Award for Excellence in 1997;
- awarded the honorary degree of Doctor Honoris Causa, Olsztyn University of Agriculture and Technology, Poland in 1998; and
- elected a Fellow of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, Australia in 1998.

During the early part of 2000 he will give presentations on cadastral, land administration and land management trends at international conferences in Kuala Lumpur (at a UN conference), Hamburg, Prague and Delft. In the second half of the year he will undertake study leave as a Senior Research Fellow at The World Bank in Washington DC and as a Visiting Professor at the Technical University of Delft, The Netherlands.

He has served on the Council of the University of Melbourne (1991-94), Executive Committee, Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (1990-92), Council of Queens College (1992-93), the Board of the Melbourne Business School (1993-4), and the Council of Camberwell Anglican Girls Grammar School (1995-99). From 1993-4 he chaired the Selection Processes Committee, for Victorian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (responsible for selection of all students into universities in Victoria).

He has been married for 29 years. His wife Munlika, who is Thai by birth, is also a Professional Engineer. They have two children aged 18 and 21.