

FIG Working Week 2005 and 8th International Conference on the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI-8)

Semiramis Inter-
Continental Cairo, Egypt
16–21 April 2005

Second Announcement and
Call for Papers

From Pharaohs to Geoinformatics

Organised by:



The Egyptian Committee
of Surveying and
Mapping (ECSM)



Egyptian Survey
Authority (ESA)



International
Federation
of Surveyors (FIG)



Global Spatial
Data Infrastructure
(GSDI)



*"I breath the air coming from your mouth
And thinking everyday about your beauty
And I wish to hear your sweet voice
Which looks like the north wind
The love will return the youth to me
Give me your hands, which hold my soul
And I will hold and live with it
Call my name once more and forever
Your call will ever stay without response"*

– A prayer found on golden plate under mummies and the name of the writer was removed



ECSM is a non-governmental organisation whose members are academics from universities and professionals from private sector companies and seniors from governmental bodies. These members have the highest experience in the field of geographic information, geodesy, astronomy, and surveying and information technology. This committee is taking care of the researches relating to surveying, mapping, geographic information system, land information system regarding problems facing society, geographic information, publishing technical information, arranging scientific conferences and publishing the new researches, new applications and methodologies in the mentioned fields to all Egyptian engineers.

Invitations



Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I would like to welcome you to the FIG Working Week and the 8th International Conference of GSDI in Cairo from 16 to 21 April 2005. The Organizing Committee consists of the Egyptian Committee for Surveying and Mapping (ECSM), and the Egyptian Survey Authority (ESA), who together with the FIG office and GSDI office are in charge of the arrangements of the conference. ECSM is a non-governmental organization whose members are academics from universities and professionals from private sector companies and senior civil servants from governmental bodies. These members have the highest experience in the field of geographic information, geodesy, astronomy, surveying, information technology...etc.

The theme of the conference "From Pharaohs to Geoinformatics" reflects thousands of years of working in the field of geoinformatics which comes from three fields (geography, information and mathematics); in addition geodesy and astronomy and other related sciences were introduced in Egypt a thousand years ago.

The conference will be held at the Hotel Semiramis InterContinental in the centre of Cairo. The program of the conference contains in addition to the high profile professional part, a large entertaining part including social events, social visits, gala dinner and opening ceremony, which will be full of the Egyptian folklore filled with the ancient and modern history fragrances.

As the organizing committee we are happy to welcome you to Egypt before, during and after the conference. We wish you all the joy, and entertainment besides the scientific part of the conference.

Dr. Eng. Ahmed Fouad El-Sheikh
President of ECSM

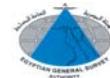


Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Egyptian Survey Authority (ESA); it is a pleasure for me to invite you to FIG Working Week 2005 and GSDI-8 under the theme "From Pharaohs to Geoinformatics" to be held in Cairo April 16–21, 2005, where the pharaohs invented the first land measurement and surveying system. The Egyptian Survey Authority is the sole organization, which takes care of geographic information including digital maps in Egypt as well as building geographic information systems. It is located in central Cairo surrounded by shops and hotels from different categories, the Cairo University, which is the oldest in Egypt, and the Orman Garden, which is the most interesting botanical garden. It is also close to the Zoo with a collection of rare birds and animals, the Pyramids in Giza, which are more than 4000 years old. You will ask yourself, how people were able to build such a miracle tomb from the engineering, surveying and astronomical point of view. Among this entire feature you will find the life artery, the river Nile. If you look at Cairo at night you will know what the word magic means and you will know why we are very proud of our country.

By inviting you to the FIG and GSDI conference in Cairo we assure you that you will enjoy the Egyptian flavor in history, science, and joy.

Eng. M. Hisham Nasr
Chairman of Egyptian Survey Authority (ESA)
Vice Chair of the Organizing Committee



ESA was established in 1898 to take care of the surveying and mapping in Egypt, but nowadays it works in many different fields relating to the survey. It consists of main sectors (cadastre, topography, geodesy, and printing) ESA is the sole organization, which takes care of surveying, geodesy, and topographic mapping production, cadastre, determination of the administrative boundaries, printing maps & publications, geodetic controls, and Atlases. ESA is also building geographic information systems for the governmental organization, authorities and ministries..

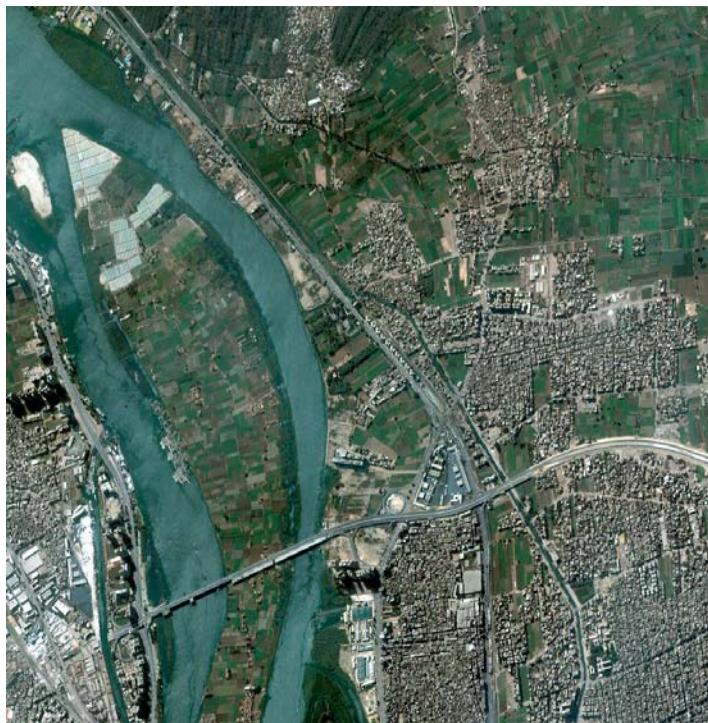




FIG is the only international organisation representing all surveying disciplines (cadastre and land management, spatial information management, positioning and measurement, hydrography, engineering survey, spatial planning, evaluation and real estate management and construction economics and management). It has member associations and other members in more than 110 countries representing more than 230,000 surveying professionals.



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As President of the International Federation of Surveyors, FIG, I would like to welcome all surveyors, geodesists and GIS experts from all over the world to attend the first joint FIG / GSDI Conference in Cairo, April 16–21, 2005. The conference will include the FIG Working Week 2005 and the 8th GSDI International Conference within an integrated and well-balanced professional programme. It will be the first time when FIG is organising its annual working week together with another international organisation. We in the FIG Council feel that Egypt is the right venue to test this new initiative and that GSDI is the right partner to start with.

As the home of surveying and land readjustment Cairo and Egypt will offer the historical perspective to surveying and data collection and at the same time it will provide interesting sites for technical tours and social programme – and also for pre- and post conference tours. Modern Egypt is under big development and making



its way towards information and knowledge society – or I would like to say towards geoinformation society. Thus the conference will offer platform for interesting dialogues about the role of new technologies in surveying and geodesy, while at the same time it also links surveying and geoinformation together. The theme of the conference "From Pharaohs to Geoinformatics" covers the interests of all hosting organisations – not only those of FIG and GSDI – but also those of the local organising committee and the Egyptian Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ECSM) and the Egyptian Survey Authority (ESA) as well as the local GIS experts.

We expect that the conference will be the biggest FIG working week ever and that the technical programme with almost 40 technical sessions together with the largest ever technical exhibition and a very attractive social programme will gather the biggest audience that we have had to any FIG event outside the four-yearly congress. For FIG this conference will be the last one before the FIG World Congress in Munich in 2006. Thus there will be a lot of meetings to prepare the future work plans.

I would like to inspire especially all GIS experts to this conference joining our global family of surveyors. It is my conviction as FIG President that surveyors and GIS people should come and speak together more often.

I am confident that thereby the conference in Cairo will efficiently help not only to bridge but even to remove the often lamented mental gap between surveying and GIS!

I look forward to meeting you all in Cairo in April 2005.

*Univ. Prof. Dr.-Ing. Holger Magel
FIG President*





GSDI supports ready global access to geographic information. This is achieved through the coordinated actions of nations and organisations that promote awareness and implementation of complimentary policies, common standards and effective mechanisms for the development and availability of interoperable digital geographic data and technologies to support decision making at all scales for multiple purposes. Over 50 nations have participated in previous GSDI conferences.



Dear Friends,

The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association is pleased to invite the global spatial data community to the Joint GSDI/FIG Conference in Cairo, Egypt during April 16–21, 2005. This will be the 8th of the international GSDI Conferences and the programme will be integrated and knit with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Working Week 2005.

GSDI-8 will be different from GSDI-7 and previous GSDIs in many ways – first, we are joining with FIG – thus providing a broader canvas of technical sessions and networking opportunities to the SDI community. Surveying has been at the core of spatial data availability and thus we feel that the opportunity to network between surveyors and SDI professionals is the right thing to happen. While “From Pharaohs to Geoinformatics” has been selected as the overall theme of the joint conference, GSDI-8 would focus on SDI in an Information Society – thus bringing to fore issues and perspectives of how SDI would play a role in an Information and Knowledge Society. For society to be informed and knowledgeable, spatial information is an important “content”. These spatial information sets are vital to make sound decisions at the local, regional, state and central level, implementation of action plans; natural resources management; infrastructure development; disaster management support; and business development. With the availability of satellite- and aerial-based remote sensing data and modern surveying

methods, the organisation of spatial databases around a Geographical Information Systems (GIS), combined with the Global Positioning System (GPS), has become very easy. Thus, the process of semantic spatial data infrastructures have now became a reality. We believe that in an information Society, SDI will be an important element.

The GSDI-8 Conference sessions will offer tremendous opportunities to government, industry

and academia to discuss and plan their future SDI activities. GSDI would also bring focus on investing into the future – in terms of education, training and capacity building. Industry sessions would bring industry perspectives to SDI and information Society. There would be special sessions of GSDI devoted to SDI topics and technical issues. A pre-Conference Tutorial is also being planned that will provide a good exposition to Standards, SDI Technologies and Applications. A large exhibition is also planned and this will provide SDI industries to show-case their products, services and solutions and provide opportunity to link with the surveying industry.

At Cairo, GSDI will also conduct its other administrative and technical business to make the GSDI Association more strong and professional. We will use the opportunity to network with Egyptian professionals. At the same time, we look forward to a fruitful and long-lasting partnership with FIG and hope that we could network in the coming years also.

Cairo is a fascinating place and is the place where the perspective of land, surveying and precision geometry has led to some of the best marvels of history. Trailing history to see the pyramids and the history of pharaohs will be as interesting as the technical sessions. The Egyptian Survey Authority and the Egyptian Committee for Surveying and Mapping (ECSM), the local agencies for the joint Conference, are gearing up for making the joint Conference a success. ESA hope to bring focus on SDI as it is embarking on the use of modern tools and techniques and is also considering an SDI. Cairo, therefore, will offer the best backdrop for the GSDI-8.

On behalf of the GSDI Association, and as its President, I urge one and all to plan to be in Cairo during April, 2005 and make best use of this joint opportunity that would be available.

Looking forward to Cairo and GSDI-8.

Dr. Mukund Rao
President, Global Spatial Data Infrastructure
Association (GSDI)





Organising Committee

The local organizing committee is led by a steering committee appointed by the Minister of the Water Resources & Irrigation Ministry. The steering committee is in charge of the arrangements in Egypt and assisted by six sub-committees: Finance and Fund Raising; Technical Tours and Accommodation; Publications and Documentation; Exhibition; Technical Services, Venue and Media; and Scientific Committee. The permanent offices of FIG and GSDI are supporting the organizing committee in all aspects.

Steering Committee

- Dr. Eng. Ahmed Fouad El-Sheikh, Chairman of the LOC and President of the ECSV
- Eng. M. Hisham Nasr, Chairman of ESA and Vice Chair of the LOC
- Dr. Abdelhadi Abdelaal
- Dr. Ahmed Shaker
- Dr. Dalal Alnaggar
- Dr. M. Mostafa Radwan
- Dr. Mahmoud Elnoqrashy
- Dr. Mohsen Badawy
- Dr. Shawky Elghazaly
- Eng. Hosam Nagy
- Eng. M. Mosaad Ibraheim
- Eng. Mahmoud Youssif
- Eng. Reda Abdelrhman

- Dr. Alan R. Stevens, GSDI
- Markku Villikka, FIG.

Sub Committees

Finance and Fund Raising

- Eng. M. Hisham Nasr
- Dr. Dalal Alnaggar

Registration

- Conference Secretariat

Technical Tours and Accommodation

- Dr. Mohsen Badawy
- Eng. M. Reda Abdelrhman

Publications and Documentation

- Dr. Mahmoud Elnoqrashy
- Eng. Mohamed Youssif

Exhibition

- Dr. Ahmed Shaker
- Eng. Ismaeil El-Shahhat

Technical Services, Venue & Media

- Dr. Dalal Alnaggar
- Eng. Hosam Nagy

Scientific Committee

- Dr. Abdelhadi Abdelaal
- Dr. Ahmed Ismaeil Khalifa
- Dr. Ahmed Shaker
- Dr. M. Mostafa Radwan
- Dr. Shawky Elghazaly
- Dr. Youssif Abdel-Aziz



Conference Office and Registration

More information and registrations to either FIG Office or Egyptian Survey Authority:

International Federation of Surveyors
Lindevangs Allé 4
DK-2000 Frederiksberg, Denmark
tel. +45 3886 1081, fax +45 3886 0252
email: fig@fig.net, web site: www.fig.net/cairo



Egyptian Survey Authority
– Conference General Secretariat:
Eng. M. Mosaad Ibrahim
– Conference Co-ordinator:
Eng. Sohir M. Hussein
1abdel-Salam Aref
P.O. Box 62, Orman
Cairo, Egypt
tel. +20 2 761 5132, fax +20 2 748 4880
e-mail: esa1@idsc1.gov.eg



Preliminary Programme

See page 10.

Technical Tours

During the technical tours it will be possible to visit the Egyptian Surveying Authority, the Remote Sensing Authority and the Information Technology Institute (ITI) as well as see the urban/rural planning and development in Cairo. A visit to the "Smart Village", Egypt's Technology Park is also planned including visit to Cultural and Natural Heritage Documentation Centre (www.cultnat.org).



Call for Papers

"From Pharaohs to Geoinformatics" has been selected as the overall theme of the first joint





	Fri April 15	Sat April 16	Sun April 17	Mon April 18	Tue April 19	Wed April 20	Thu April 21
08:30-17:30		Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration
09:00-10:30	FIG Council Meeting GSDI Executive Committee	Pre-Conference Workshops (2) FIG ACCO Meeting GSDI Board Meeting	Pre-Conference Workshops (2) (Corporate Members) FIG General Assembly (09:00-13:00) GSDI Committee Meetings (3) (09:00-13:00) ISCGM Annual Meeting (09:00-13:00)	Plenary Session	Plenary Session	Plenary Session	Parallel Sessions (2 + 1 for ISCGM) FIG President's Meeting (08:30-10:30)
11:00-12:30	FIG Council Meeting (-13:00) GSDI Executive Committee (-13:00)	Pre-Conference Workshops (2) FIG ACCO Meeting (-13:00) GSDI Board Meeting (-13:00)	Pre-Conference Workshops (2) (Corporate Members) FIG General Assembly (09:00-13:00) GSDI Committee Meetings (3) (09:00-13:00) ISCGM Annual Meeting (09:00-13:00)	Parallel Sessions (4) Exhibition (10:30-)	Parallel Sessions (4) Exhibition Technical Tours	Parallel Sessions (4) Exhibition Technical Tours	Parallel Sessions (2 + 1 for ISCGM) FIG General Assembly (11:00-14:00)
14:00-15:30	FIG Council Meeting GSDI Executive Committee	Pre-Conference Workshops (2) FIG ACCO Meeting GSDI Board Meeting	Pre-Conference Workshops (2) (Corporate Members) FIG Commission Annual Meetings (10) (14:00-16:30) GSDI Council Meeting (14:00-16:30)	Parallel Sessions (4) Exhibition	Parallel Sessions (4) Exhibition Technical Tours	Parallel Sessions (4) Exhibition Technical Tours	Closing Ceremony (14:30-16:30)
16:00-17:30	FIG Council Meeting (-17:00) GSDI Executive Committee (-17:00)	Pre-Conference Workshops (2) FIG ACCO Meeting (-17:00) GSDI Board Meeting (-17:00)	Pre-Conference Workshops (2) (Corporate Members) FIG Commission Annual Meetings (14:00-16:30) GSDI Council Meeting (14:00-16:30) Opening Ceremony (17:00-19:00)	Parallel Sessions (4) Exhibition	Parallel Sessions (4) Exhibition Technical Tours	Parallel Sessions (4) Exhibition Technical Tours	GSDI Board Meeting (17:00-20:00)
19:00-	FIG Council Dinner GSDI Executive Committee Dinner	FIG ACCO Dinner	Welcome Reception	Egyptian Evening / FIG Foundation Dinner	Social Event	Gala Dinner	

conference of FIG and GSDI. This event brings together the FIG Working Week 2005 and GSDI-8 in Cairo, which is the home of surveying.

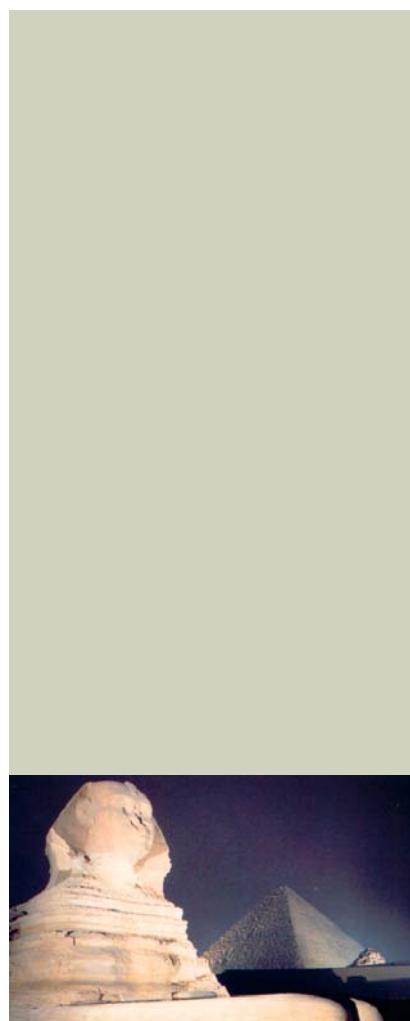
The technical programme of the conference includes plenary sessions with high-profile international speakers addressing topics of interest both for SDI experts and surveyors. The technical conference includes almost 40 technical sessions with different concepts offering space for almost 300 papers. In addition two days have been reserved for pre-conference tutorials and workshops.

Two sub-themes have been selected in addition to the general theme. FIG is calling for presentations on surveying from pharaohs to the 21st century and GSDI-8 for paper presentations that reflect the general conference theme of the role of spatial data and spatial data infrastructures in an information society.

We invite submissions from those in government, industry, NGOs, and academia involved in the planning, development, management, application, evaluation and conceptual advancement of local, regional, national and trans-national spatial data infrastructures and surveying – covering all ten commissions of FIG.

In the interests of fostering lively debate, we encourage presentations that::

- suggest and discuss possible future technological scenarios;
- explain new technologies, programs and research initiatives;
- describe and critically assess current spatial data infrastructure initiatives, cadastral models and land administration models;
- describe existing alternative approaches or models for planning, financing and implementing initiatives in different countries or regions of the world and assess the effects of policy and technical choices in addressing cultural, social, and economic issues;
- critically examine purported best practices in terms of their policy, technological, institutional and financial approaches and their ultimate effects on economic advancement and improving quality of life;
- highlight successes and challenges to be found in case studies, data harmonization efforts, and standards efforts and cadastre and land administration;
- identify implications of various approaches for local, state, provincial, national, trans-national,



and global stakeholders with a particular focus on the needs of people in developing nations.

In the following specific topics are listed as session themes. Each author must link their proposed paper to one of these themes.

1 Physical Infrastructure – Tools, Procedures etc.

- 1.1 Surveying from the Pharaohs – History of Surveying
- 1.2 Surveying and GIS in Archaeology
- 1.3 Affordable Housing and Upgrading of Informal Settlements
- 1.4 Utility Infrastructures (Including Telecommunication and Energy)
- 1.5 Traffic Network and Management Systems
- 1.6 Mobile Mapping Systems for Highway Inventory Applications
- 1.7 Geographical Names and Address Systems
- 1.8 Global Navigation Satellite System Reference Stations and Infrastructure
- 1.9 Engineering Surveys for Construction Works and Structural Engineering
- 1.10 Financing Information Technology and SDI in Developing Nations
- 1.11 Cost Effective Technology and Techniques for Developing Countries
- 1.12 Real Estate Management
- 1.13 Hydrography: Hydrography and Charting; Hydrography in Support of Marine Construction and Dredging; and Vertical Reference Surface for Hydrography

2 Virtual Infrastructure – Tools, Procedures, etc.

- 2.1 Spatial Information Management
- 2.2 Harmonization of SDIs – Obstacles and Solutions
- 2.3 Define and Produce Fundamental Geographic Data
- 2.4 Benefit of SDI's Interrelations with Land Administration
- 2.5 Land Administration, Cadastre and Land Registries
- 2.6 Marine, Urban and Rural Cadastres
- 2.7 Government and Land (Policy, Tax, Valuation, Regulations and Compulsory Acquisition)
- 2.8 Efficient and Effective Authorities (e-Government / Access to Information)
- 2.9 Standards in Operation and Interoperability
- 2.10 Professional Standards: Education, Licensing and Access to Markets
- 2.11 Web Application Development
- 2.12 National Progress Reports on SDI Developments
- 2.13 Trends and Case Studies in Design and Implementation of Portals and Clearinghouses
- 2.14 Trends and Case Studies in Metadata Development
- 2.15 Case Studies in SDI Components (Geodetic Datum, Data Transformations, Cadastre, Planning etc.)

3 Welfare, Life Security, Social and Legal Frame

- 3.1 Privacy and Security in the Use of SDI (Personal/National)
- 3.2 Land Rights to Reduce Poverty and Informal Settlement
- 3.3 Risk and Disaster Management (Environmental and Economical)
- 3.4 Integrated Water Management
- 3.5 Land Use and Land Resource Management
- 3.6 Access to Information: Legal, Economic and Social Aspects and Policies
- 3.7 SDI in Poverty Eradication

4 Investing into the Future

- 4.1 Capacity Building, Education and Training – Trends and Case Studies
- 4.2 Human Resource Assets in Merging Economies
- 4.3 Urban and Rural Planning
- 4.4 Improving Technologies (Surveying, Navigation, Photogrammetry etc.)
- 4.5 Improving Business Approaches and Administration
- 4.6 Making SDI Useable and Affordable at the Grassroots Level
- 4.7 Multi-dimensional Information Systems (3D Cadastre)
- 4.8 Design and Development of GIM/GIS
- 4.9 New Mapping Techniques for Sustainable Development

In addition to papers being selected for standard conference presentation sessions, some papers will be selected for highlighting in "focused paper discussion sessions." In these sessions, presenters will be expected to have read the papers of the other panellists and much of the time will be spent in active discussions with the other panellists and the audience. A knowledgeable individual will be chosen to moderate the session and recommendations arising from the paper discussion session will be considered for inclusion in the final list of conference resolutions.

The number of abstracts will be limited to up to two per author.

All abstracts should be submitted by email to the FIG Office fig@fig.net.

Deadline for abstracts is **20 November 2004**. The authors will be informed about the acceptance of their paper by **20 December 2004**. Deadline for full papers is **31 January 2005**.

Abstracts should be 250–500 words in length describing the objectives, results, conclusions and significance of your work. Abstracts shall be submitted in English as a Microsoft Word document.

Please include at the end of your abstract all your contact details, including name, address, phone and fax numbers and email. Receipt of your abstract will be acknowledged electronically.

The final paper shall not exceed 15 pages and should include a one-page summary in English and voluntarily in one other language (e.g. French, Spanish or your mother language).

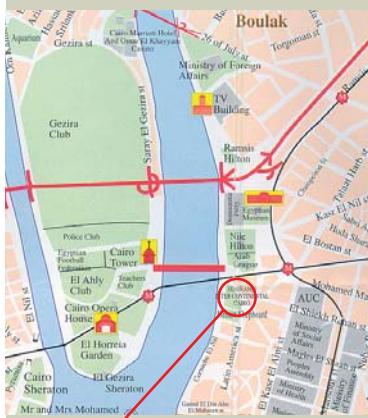
Languages

The conference will be in English with interpretation to Arabic. Full papers shall be provided in English with English and Arabic (voluntary) summary. In addition the summary can be included in one other language.

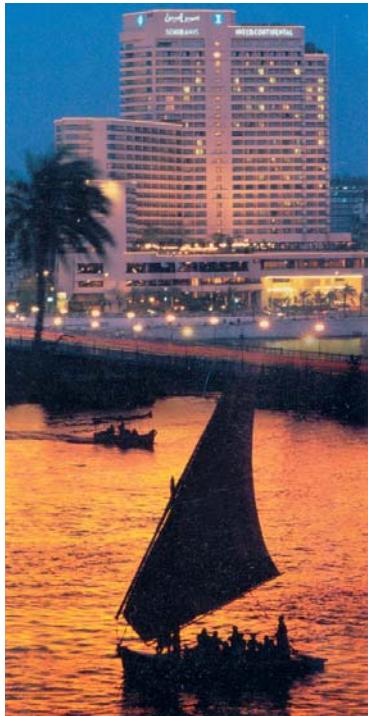
Exhibition

A commercial and non-commercial exhibition will be organized. For booths and other sponsor opportunities please contact Mr. Markku Vililikka, email: fig@fig.net.





The conference venue
Hotel Semiramis Inter-
Continental Cairo.



Conference Venue and Accommodation

The conference will be held at the Hotel Semiramis InterContinental, which is Cairo's premier hotel situated on the Nile. The Semiramis is in walking distance from the major shopping, commercial and business centers, the Egyptian Museum and the Cairo Opera House. The conference offers excellent meeting facilities to the conference and at the same time accommodation for reasonable prices. Other hotels in 3–4 star categories will be offered within walking distance or short drive.

Fees and Important Dates

Full registration includes admission to all technical sessions and exhibition, a copy of the full proceedings on CD-ROM and abstract book, coffee breaks and lunches and welcome reception. For other social events participants shall register and pay separately.

Accompanying person registration includes opening ceremony, welcome reception and visit to the Egyptian Museum.

The recommended form of registration will be on-line on the web site (www.fig.net/cairo). Alternatively the form can be sent to the FIG Office (email fig@fig.net or fax +45 3886 0252), or the Egyptian Surveying Authority (email esa1@idsc.net.eg or fax +20 2 748 4880).

Deadline for abstracts: 20 November 2004

Deadline for full papers: 31 January 2005

Delegate registration fee, full conference

– before 31 January 2005	420 €
– 1–28 February 2005	470 €
– after 1 March 2005	520 €

Delegate registration fee, one day

– before 31 January 2005	200 €
– after 1 February 2005	250 €

Delegate registration fee, local participants

Accompanying person registration fee 100 €

Student registration fee 50 €

Pre- and Post Conference Tours

Following pre- and post conference tours have been planned (see more on the web site):

• Aswan and Luxor

- Time: 4 days / 3 nights
- Venue: 5-star Nile cruise
- Fee: USD 240 per person for 3 nights (group rate)

Note: The rate does not include flights (Cairo/Luxor–Aswan/Cairo, USD 281).

• Hurghada

- Time: 4 days / 3 nights
- Venue: 5-star hotel
- Fee: USD 170 per person for 3 nights (group rate)

Note: The rate does not include flights (Cairo–Hurghada–Cairo, USD 246).

• Sharm El Sheikh

- Time: 4 days / 3 nights
- Venue: 5-star hotel
- Fee: USD 205 per person for 3 nights (group rate)

Note: The rate does not include flights (Cairo–Sharm El Sheikh–Cairo, USD 246).

Social Programme

In addition to pre- and post conference tours (see above), the social programme includes welcome reception, an Egyptian Night / FIG Foundation Dinner, and Gala Dinner.

• Welcome reception

The welcome reception will be held on Sunday evening, 17 April, at the Semiramis Hotel starting at 19:00. This reception is included in the registration fee.

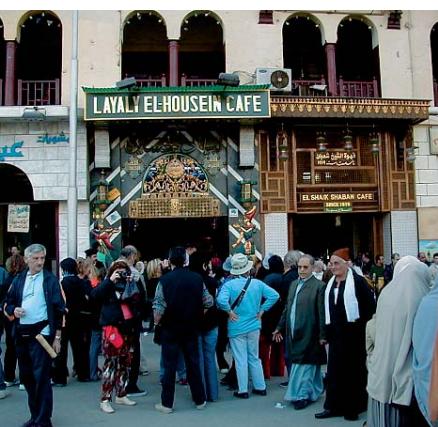
• Egyptian Night and FIG Foundation Dinner

A joint Egyptian Night and the FIG Foundation Dinner will be arranged on Monday evening on the 18th April 2005 starting at 19:00. The evening will include traditional Egyptian dinner with entertainment (traditional Egyptian music and dance). Part of the fee will go to the FIG Foundation to support young surveyors and geomatics in their research projects. Fee EUR 60.

• Gala Dinner

The highlight of the social events will be the Gala





Dinner on Wednesday evening. Fine dining and entertainment will be offered. Fee EUR 60.

Sightseeing Tours

A selection of local tours will be organised for delegates, as well as spouses.

• Full-day sightseeing in Cairo

- Date: Saturday and Thursday
- Time: Leaving from Semiramis InterContinental at 8:30, return by 17:30 (on Sunday 16:30)
- Fee: EUR 30 including the entrance fees, lunch (soft drinks) and service charges, minimum 10 participants
- Programme: You will visit the Egyptian Museum, Citadel, Mosques, Bazaars, and a lunch at a famous restaurant.

• Half-day sightseeing to the Pyramids and the Sphinx

- Date: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Time: Leaving from Semiramis InterContinental at 10:30, return by 14:30 (on Thursday 8:30 and 12:30)
- Fee: EUR 15 including the entrance fees and service charges, minimum 10 participants
- Programme: You will visit the Pyramids and the Sphinx.

• Half-day sightseeing to Cairo (Citadel and Khan El-Khalily)

- Date: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Time: Leaving from Semiramis InterContinental at 14:00, return by 18:00
- Fee: EUR 15 including the entrance fees and service charges, minimum 10 participants
- Programme: You will visit the Citadel and Khan El-Khalily.

Other Attractions

• Egyptian Museum

A guided tour to the Egyptian Museum is included in the accompanying persons programme (for others, EUR 15).

• Miscellaneous

A visit to the old town of Cairo and the souks is one of the highlights of the visit to Cairo, and the Nile is worth a cruise both in the daylight or in the evening.

Technical Tours

Following technical tours will be offered:

During the half-day technical tours on Tuesday it will be possible to visit the Egyptian Survey Authority, IDSC (Egyptian GIS Authority) and the Hydraulic Institute.

A full day visit to the "Smart Village", Egypt's Technology Park and urban development is also planned including visit to Cultural and Natural Heritage Documentation Centre (www.cultnat.org).

- Date: Wednesday
- Time: Leaving from Semiramis InterContinental at 10:30, return by 17:30
- Fee: EUR 40 including the entrance fees, lunch (soft drinks) and service charges.

Practical Information

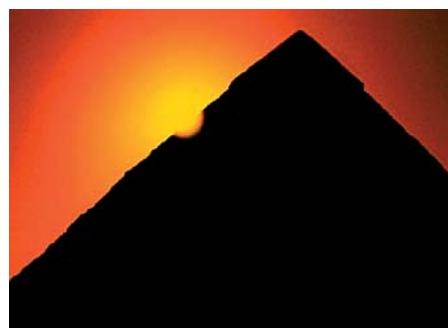
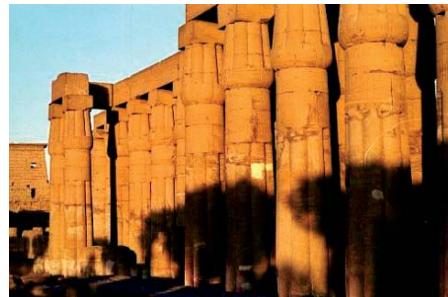
Visa Requirements • Non-Egyptian visitors arriving in Egypt are required to be in possession of a valid passport. Entry visas may be obtained from Egyptian Diplomatic and Consular Missions Abroad or from the Entry Visa Department at the Travel Documents, Immigration and Nationality Administration (TDINA). It is, however, possible for most tourists and visitors to obtain an entry visa at any of the Major Ports of Entry. Please check with the nearest Egyptian Consulate for specific details and regulations relevant to your nationality. More information: <http://www.mfa.gov.eg/frames.asp?id=05>.

Health Requirements • Check with your own country's health guidelines for travelers to Egypt. For general health information we advise to look at WHO, UN's World Health Organization's travel and health information for Egypt.

Time • GMT +2 hours. Summertime (GMT +1 hour) observed from late April until end of September.

Money • Egyptian Pounds (EGP) is the local currency in Egypt. Exchange rate 1 USD = 6.17 EGP and 1 EUR = 7.62 EGP (August 2004). Major currencies can be changed nearly everywhere. Banks are in all cities as in most top end hotels. Automats for credit cards are found in most banks and mentioned hotels.

Travel Seasons • Top season in Egypt is the "winter season" which starts in October and lasts until end of April.



Climate • Egypt has lower temperatures during the winter season. Average temperature in Cairo in April is 28 degrees Celsius in daytime and 14 degrees in the night.

Food and Drink • Egypt is a meeting point between Africa, Europe and Asia and this is reflected in the different dishes. The last few hundred years influenced by Turkish cuisine due to the Turkish presence in Egypt. Still there is something Egyptian going through the diversity of the local cuisine, much with roots back to Ancient Egypt. Egyptian food can be "hot" – but not like many other cuisines where everything is hot. There is normally a lot to dip into, and all parts got their special taste. In general Egyptian food is a pleasant surprise for most visitors. All types of drinks are available.

Dress Code • In part of the big cities you will find Egyptians in the latest fashion from Europe or North America, while other places you will find dress customs most will define as "biblical".

In modern city areas, hotels and more "tourist" places – go as you please. If you go to different areas in same city or the countryside, the tradition will be more conservative. It is appreciated if you think about this while visiting these areas. For men, don't go without t-shirt in such areas, and for women – have a dress with around knee length and an upper part that cover your shoulders.

Apart from going inside a mosque, there is no place a woman is expected to wear headscarf. To go inside a mosque, both sexes will have to remove their footwear. Note that in churches it's also appreciated if women wear head scarf – and for men and women, no shorts in Churches and Mosques.