

Technical Seminar on Reference Frames in Practice and 78th FIG Congress Working Week 2016

Christchurch, New Zealand; At Ridges Hotel 1st – 2nd May and 3 – 6 May at Horncastle Arena and Addington Raceway

A Delegate's Report:

1.0 Introduction

A two day Technical Seminar on Reference Frame was held immediately before the 78th FIG Working Week and was attended by representatives from various countries that all contributed to a very successful workshop.

The FIG Working Week 2016 opened on Monday and continued throughout the week with a lot of presentations from various delegates and organisations. All the presentations are very informative of what is happening around the world today regarding land professionals. There were plenary sessions of choice and we attended all those relevant to our immediate need – a Datum Change for Fiji.

2.0 Theme

The theme for the seminar “**Reference Frame, Datum Unification and Kinematics**” and it is a theme that is fitting since the host city, Christchurch, is still in the process of re-building from the earthquake of 2011. As a land surveyor I am so proud that surveyors were the first on the scene immediately after the earthquake doing measurements to determine the shifts vertically and horizontally. The technology adopted in this recovery from disaster process did really amaze us delegates from developing countries and a valuable lesson learned. Listening to different case study presented, we noticed that have unifying datum is important in determining/measure tectonic movement.

3.0 Presentations

Since the opening of the Seminar in the morning of Sunday 1st the rest of the two days was spent on presentations and discussion from presenter from different countries.

The two days was spent on presentations from prominent expert in Geodesy sharing their experiences on 3D reference frame/datum, vertical datum, kinematic frames and deformation modelling, case study from Japan, USA, New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Nepal, Philippines, Pakistan and Poland. From the presentations, we noticed the important of adopting the 3D datum, which would support the modernized horizontal and vertical reference frame by providing accurate latitudes, longitudes and ellipsoidal heights. Establishing unifying datum, will allow countries to address natural disaster effectively.

4.0 Accommodation and Food

The accommodation is Break Free on Cashel Street and it was very convenient; it is quiet and is also away from the city centre that may cause distract and thus the frequent absence from the discussions. Even though the rooms are small it is ideal for a single person accommodation. The rooms are made every day and they are very clean with comfortable beds to sleep on. The food was perfect – we were delicious lunch every day and was so appropriate.

Conclusion

In concluding my report I express my sincere gratitude to the sponsors and Li Zhang for all the hard work in sponsoring our travels. I believe words cannot express how thankful I am to you all; it was a worthy trip and experiencing all these.

We are so ever thankful that the small island states are not forgotten by the developed nations. There are a lot of work to be undertaken but we believe as a developing nation we should continue to work with whatever resources we have and to seek guidance and assistance wherever there is a need. And the FIG Working Week was very informative and it is so great to know there are a variety of agencies that the developing countries can turn to.

Thank you all very much and please accept this as an acknowledgement of my gratitude for all the efforts done in our honour.

Asakaia Tabuabisataki

Senior Surveyor

Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources

Fiji



Sponsored Participant



Group Photo (All Participants)



Group Photo (All Participants)



Presenting – Fiji’s Case Study – Asakaia Tabuabisataki