

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



## Conference Summary

Holger MAGEL

President of



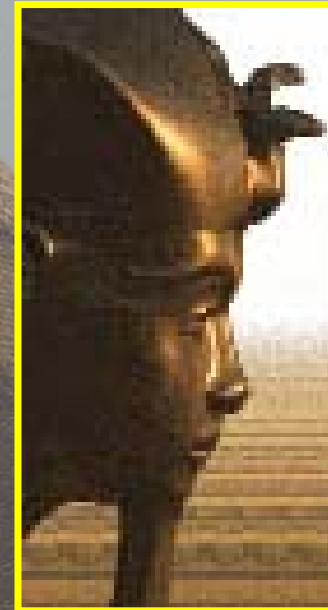
\*) Thanks to my advisers in the drafting group: Rob Mahoney, Reinfried Mansberger, Gerhard Muggenhuber and Matt Higgins

# FIG WW 2005 and GSDI-8 Conference

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## From Pharaohs to Geoinformatics





# The region represents the challenges of our world

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It's important that FIG comes to see these issues at first hand

- Urban deprivation
- Informal settlements
- Mega Cities
- Population characteristics biased towards the young
- Increasing poverty
- Scarce food resources
- Environmental problems, scarcities of natural resources

# The potential to face challenges..

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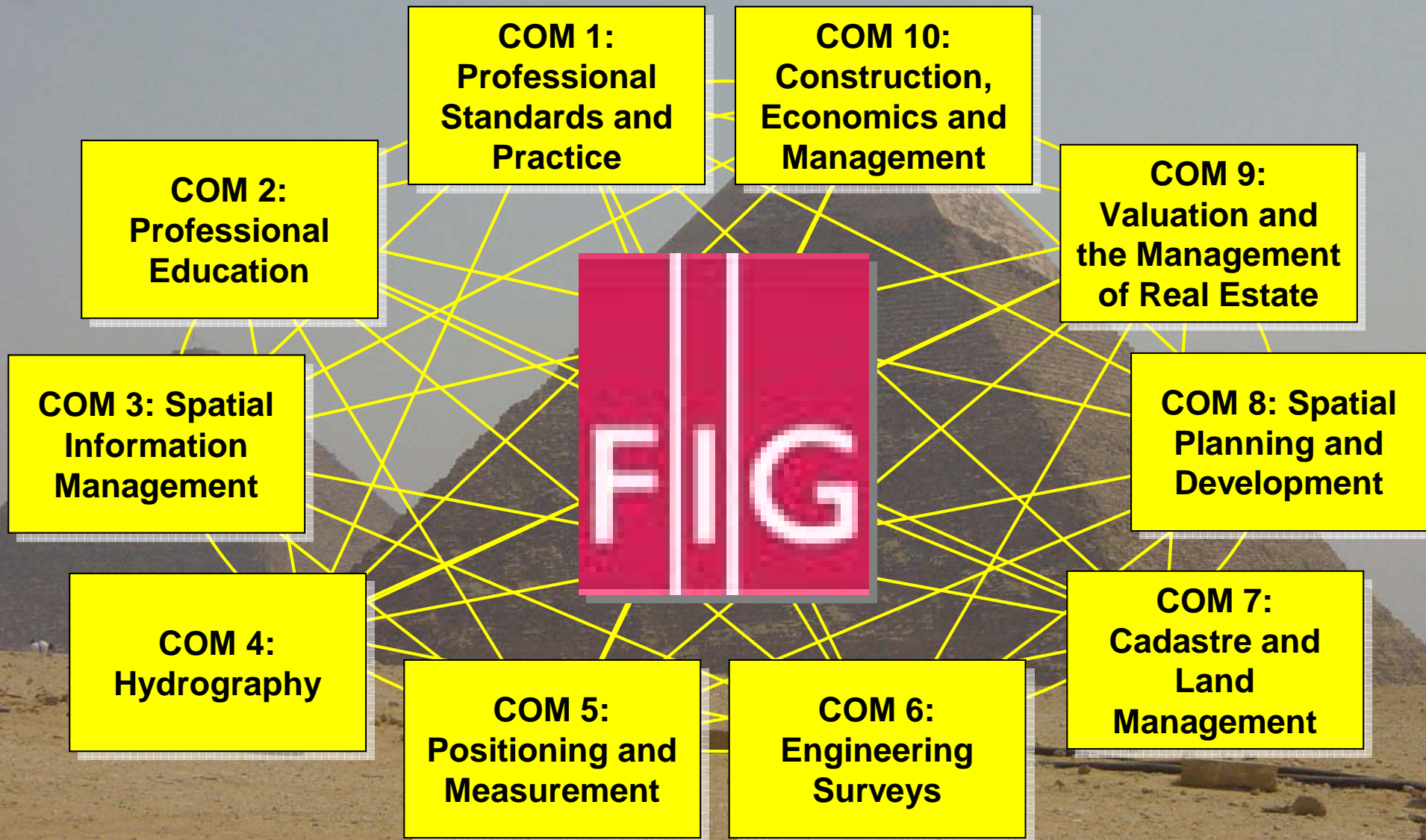


- A vibrant society
- Open minded leaders and decision makers across society
- Our profession is well represented (AUS part of the Arab League)
- Strong links with UN, World Bank, and other International Partners
- A strong educational system underpinning capacity

The question for our Egyptian Colleagues is:  
How well they are prepared for the future they face?



# The FIG - Family



# Collaboration . . .

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To fulfil our joint mission to serve society  
and 'our one world'  
we need collaboration between  
**Geodesists, Surveyors  
and the Spatial Information Society**  
That was the intention and the idea of this  
joint conference!



# Barcelona Forum (WUF II)

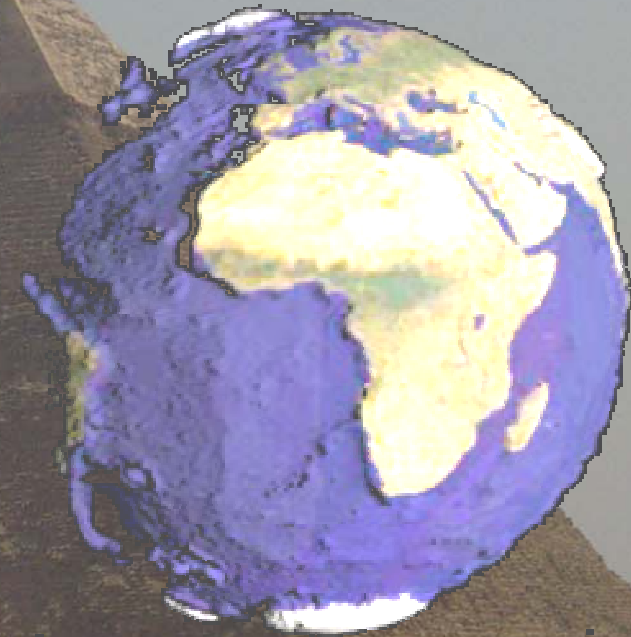
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To serve **Our one world**, which means:

In a globalised world

- . . . problems cannot be exported.
- . . . there is no outside.
- . . . everything is local.



# FIG WW 2005 & GSDI-8 An Extraordinary Event

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## Our Thanks to:

- o Egyptian hosts (LOC)
- o Sister Organisations and GSDI
- o Speakers, chairpersons and rapporteurs
- o Participants and delegates
- o Exhibitors and sponsors
- o FIG Office and FIG Commissions
- o FIG Council members



# Statistics of the Conference



- More than 900 participants coming from about 80 countries
- 5 plenary sessions
- 51 technical sessions and workshops
- More than 400 papers and posters
- Several meetings (FIG: Council, ACCO, Commissions, Workgroups, Regional Groups; GSDI; ISCGM; JBGSIS)
- AUS as a representative and professional voice of the region
- IAG, ISPRS, ICA, IMDA, ISCGM and ISM
- XIV FIG-Congress 2010 in Sydney

# FIG Vision and Mission



We just heard that the Egyptian dreams have become true!

**FIG** has and must have **Visions** and **Missions** too:

- Humanitarian role
- Social responsibility
- Peace keeper by anticipation
- 'Guardian' of Property Rights
- Supporting democracy, equity and civil society
- Combating corruption
- Sustainability
- Good governance



# From the Pharaohs to Where? Future is coming faster than expected



DEVELOPMENT

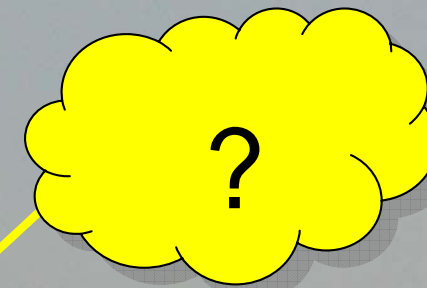
The past is a foreign country, they do things differently there  
*(L.P.Hartley)*



3000 b.C.

TIME

2005



You cannot fight against the future.  
Time is on our side.  
*(M.E.Gladstone)*

**We have to be better and faster prepared**

# The Washington Challenge

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Dr. Anna Kajumulo TIBAIJUKA

(UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat):

“The world needs ideas to solve today’s problems,  
not simply solutions for the long-term future”

*FIG Congress Washington, 2002*

Never the less we have to do both – we need a **long term future strategy** based on visions and increasing responsibilities and to **solve today’s problems**



# FIG has to balance . . .



From sustainability Rio Triangle (economic, ecological and social) to a second triangle:

**Institutional  
Arrangements**

**Fulfilment of  
Millennium  
Development  
Goals**

**Technical Solutions  
and Developments**

**Political Interaction  
as a NGO**

# Challenges to FIG as a 'Glocalist'



Harland Onsrud in his GSDI resolutions talked also about local to global!

FIG is working on fulfilling the UN Millennium Development Goals working on three levels

- **Globally**

- Reducing inequalities of Civil Society
- Partnering with our Sister Organisations
- Supporting decision makers

- **Regionally**

- Improving Economic Development in Africa (NEPAD)
- Addressing the Digital Divide in Africa (CODI)
- Better Managing Natural Resources in Africa (TIGER)

- **Locally**

- Meeting the challenges of a country like Egypt as addressed by Minister Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid and Dr. Ismail Serageldin (“scientific apartheid”)



# Meeting these Challenges . . .



## We need to ask ourselves some questions:

- How to sustain our momentum ? It depends on our own engagements, efforts and capabilities!
- How to work more collaboratively (internally / externally) ?
- How to share knowledge more effectively ?
- How to harness our diverse intellectual power ?
- How to be more inclusive regarding age, gender, culture, language, resources ?
- How to be more responsive ?
- How to achieve all this without losing our identity?

# Strategic/Political Level (1)

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## Messages to take home:

- Poverty reduction and alleviation is a fundamental goal (developing and developed countries are in one boat!)
- Removal of food insecurity
- Respond to threats from natural disasters (Surveyors as 'peace keepers by anticipation')
- Land and water habitats go across borders
- Always striving for good governance



# Strategic/Political Level (2)



## Messages to take home:

- Create a 'win win situation' by respecting our diverse disciplines
- We need a balance between private and public sectors
- Cross cutting collaborations are required politically, institutionally and professionally
- Bridging some gaps (e.g. between surveying and GIS)
- We must ensure that we are engaged with the Information Society including the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Tunis, November 2005

# Technical Level (1)

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## Messages to take home:

- We are Data Rich and Information Poor
- There is a War of Formats
- GIS is emerging as a new language
- GIS is about integrating knowledge
- Solutions require information from a multiplicity of sources: integration of GNSS, IfSAR, imaging, etc.



# Technical Level (2)

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## Messages to take home:

- Geodetic reference frameworks are essential and becoming more accurate
- Earth observations are making dramatic advances

**CONCLUSION:** From intentions and ideas to an accepted and proved reality: More than ever there is a need for closer cooperation of geodesists, surveyors and SDI partners

Therefore it has made great sense to start with this joint conference

# Institutional Level

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## Messages to take home:

- Intensify the collaboration with sister organisations - (Joint Board of Spatial Information Societies)
- FIG is already seen as a valuable partner of the UN but has been invited to become a more central player
- Legal frameworks must be adopted to support e-services and new technologies
- Emergence of new institutional economics



# FIG Working Week “Outcomes”



- The importance for our profession of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) (summit in Sharm el-Sheik and ‘Africa Action Plan’)
- We should do even more!



# FIG Working Week “Outcomes”



- The joint board on Geospatial Information Societies has created a working structure including firstly two ad-hoc committees addressing commonality of approach to:
  - Disaster Management
  - Capacity building in Africa
- FIG continues to pursue holistic visions through joint activities with IAG, and other partners
  - AFREF (African Reference Frame Project) under NEPAD
- A seminar on ‘Education in Africa’, next year in Accra – FIG-Regional Conference





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## Good Bye and See You in

Havana, Cuba, 26-29 September, 2005

*FIG 4th Regional Conference*

Accra, Ghana, 8-11 March, 2006

*FIG 5th Regional Conference*

Munich, Germany, 8-13 October, 2006

*XXIII FIG Congress*

Santiago de Chile, Chile, 6-10 November, 2006

*GSDI – 9*