

Closing Address and Summary of the Conference

By FIG Vice-President Univ. Prof. Holger Magel, Germany

Honourable Minister Joseph Nyagah,
Estimated Chairman Humphrey Njuguna, Distinguished Delegates and Guests,
Dear Colleagues and Friends of FIG,

It is a pleasure and a welcome duty for me to present to you some short words and thoughts of thanks and summarizing of this outstanding and excellently organized african conference on hot and globally dealt issues.

There are 7 items, I would like to sum up:

1. You surely will agree with me that we all have experienced and listened to excellent speakers with future- and customer-oriented themes. It was a brilliant mixture of serious scientific and understandable practical level. The conference resolutions and recommandations are very inspiring.
I am sure: each of us became enriched, and each of us learnt a lot. Many thanks to all speakers, chairs, rapporteurs and the editorial group.
2. We have heard and discussed an impressive wide range of current and future possible surveyors activities committed to a sustainable living in urban and rural areas including the basic topics education, training and capacity building. It was immensely to register that surveyors are going more and more to getting involved in main socio-cultural and socio-political fields like civil society and participatory approaches.
To strengthen this role both in the technical and socio-political field we have heard that we need visions and champions which drive our profession. I am glad that we have experienced such visions and champions at this conference.
3. It also became very clear – we need more interactions both between our own various professional, i e. Academic and practical fields and with other disciplines. For example spatial information data cannot be an end in itself, but it must be interacted with and implemented in a wide range of practical fields as it was shown very clearly for example in sustainable cities programme, other best practice examples and so on. Then will arise an added value.
4. May be that I am wrong, but it was my feeling: this conference could have been a strong input in building up or strengthening an african surveyors identity and self-confidence on the track to self-help and initiatives — and it was a further contribution to building our international community of surveyors jointly committed to building a better and more equitable world and therefore to implement central issues and campaigns of the international UN-community like good governance, sustainability, inclusive cities, secure tenure etc.
5. It was therefore a sign of hope and it was a deep satisfaction for FIG that so many partners and friends have co-hosted or actively participated this conference. In my home country it is said: alone you may be weak, but together we become strong.

Strong due to the wonderful and effective partnership with the UN-Agencies, strong due to the cooperation with our international sister organisations and engaged sponsors. We are going to continue and strengthen these partnerships. It is a relationship of mutual benefit. Many thanks for your coming and your contributions.

6. It was outstanding what happened to this conference: the head of the state honoured the idea and issues of this conference, he honoured the Institution of Surveyors of Kenya and he honoured all of us and our profession. And the Minister for, let me say for Surveying and Spatial information including Lands and Settlement honoured us three times! Many thanks, honourable Minister Nyagah for your clear esteem of our doing! Only if there is a regular dialogue between politics and surveying matters in the interest of all are running well.

Finally I would like to mention some hopes and words of thanks in matters of FIG:

As a member association of FIG the ISK implemented our idea of more regionalisation in a brilliant manner. Many thanks to Humphrey and his hard and successfully working team. On behalf of FIG board and our President Bob Foster I applaud to you. I now have learnt that Kenya not only has invincible wonder race-runners on all long distances in tracks and fields, but also wonderful people, surveyors and organisers! I hope that this conference will inspire all Africans to getting more involved and engaged in the FIG and its commissions.

It was an outstanding matter as well that 6 of 10 FIG-commissions attended and shaped this conference — this fact is a clear sign for what we are strongly aiming in the future: more joint activities will produce more effects, more interdisciplinary and sustainable incentives. Many thanks to all commissions, above all to the “spiritus rector” Jes Ryttersgard, who obviously fell in love with Africa!! Now there are more, who did the same! My cordial thanks to Markku Villikka, our Office Director, who did a lot of work in the background as well.

Finally, I wish to say good by with the clear hope that many many african colleagues will enrich, influence and attend our FIG-Congress next year in Washington/DC.