

**Report to the 26th General Assembly
FIG Working Week in Paris, 13-17 April 2002**

President's Report

The German Council took over the administration of the Federation officially 1 January 2003. In practice the handover already took place in conjunction with the handover ceremony, which was held in Frankfurt at the opening ceremony of Intergeo 2002. The handover played a major role at the opening ceremony including traditional American cultural programme including a US Navy Band and cheerleaders from Frankfurt Galaxy to celebrate the US Council's three year term of office.

The work of the British and US Councils in modernising the administrative structure of the Federation allows our Council to bring the activities of FIG to a new level. I would also congratulate the US Council and ACSM for the most successful FIG Congress ever which we had in Washington DC and which despite the international threat turned into the largest one in history.

We are also thankful to our predecessors for bringing FIG to a stable financial situation. Our goal is to strengthen this position during our term of office and to allow FIG to develop new services in the future. I would also like to thank our German host and FIG member association DVW for the great support it has submitted to us in the beginning of our term of office.

It is my pleasure to inform the General Assembly that the German Council has now been completed by the appointment of a new Vice President. Ms. Bettina Petzold from Wuppertal is not only a highly respected professional, but also the first female Vice President in the history of FIG. This is an indication of our commitment to include gender issues in the agenda of FIG. At the same time I am happy to inform you that the German team has been complemented with a new Congress Director for FIG 2006. We are convinced that under the leadership of Mr. Thomas Gollwitzer the next FIG Congress will become a great success.

In the beginning of the year on behalf of the Council I sent a letter to all Presidents of the member associations as an indication of our policy for more discussing and transparent atmosphere in FIG. The main contents of this message were to promote mutual communication and to build a common FIG spirit.

At the first meeting in January in Munich the new Council decided on clarification of the responsibilities of the Council members. The new responsibilities are in accordance with the statutes of FIG but at the same time are tailor made to fit into the interest and professional competence of the Council members.

To support the most important part of the professional work in FIG – the Commissions, which are the heart, soul and spirit of the Federation – the Council has nominated a Vice President to each Commission designated to act as a direct link between the Council and the Commission. The main goal here is to build closer co-operation between the Council and Commission work

plans and to assist the Commission chairs especially during the first two years when they have no Chairs Elect. During the next years the heart of the joint Commission activities – ACCO – will be chaired by Dr. Andreas Drees who at the same time is the Deputy to the FIG President.

I am also happy to inform the General Assembly that the German Council has confirmed a new contract with the Director, FIG office and has further been able to strengthen the office with a new assisting person.

Strengthening the FIG office is an investment for the future. The policy of our Council is to develop a permanent concept in which FIG is able to generate funds for its activities by organising events and producing services. In the long term this should result in FIG being less dependant on membership fees. Even though our goal is to broaden the income bases in short term we need to increase the fees – but in a very moderate way. In the next few years there will be pressure on the FIG budget when the support given to the office in the developing phase will go down. It is obvious that we need more income and some investments to reach this goal will be needed. Therefore it is more than crucial that we have managed to accumulate a fund reserve.

I am personally very impressed how our French member associations OGE and AFT and the local organising committee managed to organise this Working Week and the 125th Anniversary celebrations in Paris in such a short time. With intensive work from both the French organisers and the FIG office we can now enjoy these great celebrations and full professional programme in the same city where the Federation was established in 1878.

As mentioned to our Council it is very important that the FIG office must play a crucial role in organizing FIG congresses, working weeks and other FIG events in the future. The next step in this process will be the 2nd Regional Conference, which will take place in Marrakech, Morocco December 2-5, 2003. This will be the first time FIG itself will take care of a big part of the practical arrangements. This is not to underestimate the competence and enthusiasm of the local member associations and their role and input to the programme, but to generate money to FIG and to guarantee the same professional level to all FIG events in the future. Also in the future the role of the local surveyors and the local flavour in the programme is essential to all our events. From now on step-by-step the role of FIG will increase in organizing the working weeks so that latest in 2008 the main responsibility will be taken by FIG.

In addition to new activities the German Council will put its efforts into demonstrating the advantages of FIG membership. Already now FIG has grown to a full international federation being represented in 115 countries. Our policy includes both expanding the membership in regions where we are not yet strong, but also in universities and institutions by increasing the benefits of academic membership. Already now we have been able to show results both in networking, giving support especially to universities in developing countries and have also demonstrated that FIG is not only professional but also a remarkable and attractive partner to scientific institutions.

I am very impressed how the FIG Foundation has got air under its wings. I would especially thank Jack Dangermond the Honorary Chair of the Foundation for his donation and personal contribution to the Foundation. I am also happy to inform that the challenge to other

surveyors to match his donation was already obtained during the Washington congress. This has allowed the Foundation to give out the first grants in 2002 in total to 13 applicants.

The working week in Paris and other FIG activities during the recent years have introduced a variety of cultures within FIG and also brought other languages than English to FIG events. The consideration of the German Council is that there is no need for further discussions. We just have to implement our policy.

One of the most interesting initiatives in the new FIG work plan is the FIG World Report on Best Practices. We have had an ad hoc group drafting making the conceptual approach to give guidelines for this work. The Commissions will study this issue for the first time in Paris. We expect that this project will combine old and new FIG information to a format that will benefit both surveyors and the public in general.

I would also like to ask you to discuss and consider the role of FIG in the future and discuss these issues with us. These topics include the role of FIG in organizing events, how to assist member associations and individual surveyors in both the developed and developing countries. I expect that we will get some points to this discussion at the second session of the General Assembly on Thursday when we will hear more about the regional experiences.

Finally I would like to remind you that next year in Athens we have to make important decisions considering the future of the FIG. These include the election of two Vice Presidents who will be the first ones to be members not only in the German Council but also in the first fully elected Council in 2007. Therefore I would like to encourage you to start to identify the most qualified candidates for these positions.

Finally I would like to thank once again my predecessor Robert Foster and his team. Based on the work you have done it is easy for us to go onwards. And to all of you I wish a most memorable Working Week and the 125th Anniversary of FIG looking both back and forward.

Prof. Holger Magel
President