

Report to the 33rd General Assembly
FIG Congress in Sydney, Australia 2010

**Bids to host FIG Congress 2014 – Evaluation Report
Summary of the evaluation**

Istanbul, Turkey

Region: Europe (and Asia and Middle East). Previous congresses: 2010 Australia and the Pacific (Australia), 2006 Europe (Germany), 2002 North America (USA); 1998 Europe (United Kingdom); 1994 Australia and the Pacific (Australia); 1990 Europe (Finland); 1986 North America (Canada). Working Weeks: 2009 Middle East (Israel); 2008, Europe (Stockholm); 2007 Asia (Hong Kong SAR, China); 2005 Africa/Middle East (Egypt); 2004 Europe (Greece); 2003 Europe (France); 2001 Asia (Republic of Korea) and 2000 Europe (Czech Republic).

Country: Turkey has never hosted an FIG Congress or Working Week. Turkey has hosted Commission 7 annual meetings in 1973 and 1989; Commission 3 annual meeting and international symposium in 2002; and in addition international symposium on deformation measurement in 1994 and on GIS/GPS in 1997. It has hosted together with FIG a joint seminar at the UN-HABITAT II Congress in 1996. The national conferences of CSCE attract about 1,000 participants. In the bid it is expected that 1,500 delegates will attend FIG 2014.

Member association: The bid is made by Turkish Chamber of Survey and Cadastre Engineers (CSCE) that was founded in 1954 and has been a member of FIG since 1969. CSCE is a qualifying body and partly learned society for exchange of technical information for professional engineers working in the fields of surveying and mapping. The CSCE headquarters are located in Ankara connecting 10 branches and 150 provincial representations in Turkey. CSCE has about 3,000 members. CSCE covers all FIG Commissions and has appointed a delegate to each Commission. CSCE has announced their willingness to host FIG 2014 in Turkey in 2006.

Supportive organisations: The bid is supported by HE Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey; the Province of Istanbul; Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality; Istanbul Technical University (ITU); and General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre. This support includes hosting welcome and other receptions (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, ITU, and CSCE). Congress Director is the Rector (President) of ITU. Further negotiations are under way to waive the venue hire of the congress centre. ITU has offered substantial support for the arrangements and for supporting authors from developing countries.

City: Istanbul is the largest city in Turkey and with almost 13 million inhabitants one of the mega cities in the world. It is the former capital of three successive empires Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman and thus the city is a fascinating mixture of the past and present, old and new, modern and traditional. It is rapidly increasing and the development in housing and infrastructure offers lot of projects for surveying professionals. Istanbul has lot to offer both

on professional and social perspectives. Istanbul has hosted lot of international major congresses (UN, NATO etc.) and is the European cultural capital in 2010.

Venue: The proposed congress venue is the Istanbul Convention & Exhibition Center (ICEC). This is a modern, state-of-the-art facility located in the heart of Istanbul, in close proximity to shops, cafes, restaurants, and museums. It is linked to the proposed congress hotel and other hotels in different categories are within walking distance. The conference centre layout is not perfect for FIG Congress but fulfils all requirements. The organisers are further considering a brand new conference centre next to ICEC as second or additional option for the congress venue. Both options will be well functioning for the FIG congress. The conference centre is easy accessed from the main shopping area (Taksim Square).

Access: Istanbul is served by more than 50 airlines from all parts of the world. Travel time to Istanbul from all major cities of Europe is between 2-3 hours. The national carrier of Turkey, Turkish Airlines (THY) has branches almost in all of the European countries also member of Star Alliance. Citizens of some countries are required to obtain visa before arrival and some may obtain it at the airport upon arrival (visa issue is not considered as a problem).

Safety: Turkey can be considered considerably safe in international standards – (natural disasters and terrorism) and safe on street safety. There are no concerns on safety issues related to organising the FIG Congress in Istanbul.

Time of the conference: Proposed dates for the congress are 4-9 May 2014 (administrative meetings 2-3 May) which are the dates preferred by FIG.

Technical programme: CSCE has been one of the most active associations in FIG conferences and submitted papers to most commissions. CSCE has appointed a delegate to all Commissions. There will be no problems in organising local contributions to the technical programme. Options for partners and national conference need to be considered.

Technical tours: In Istanbul technical tours can be easily organised for all FIG commissions (large cadastre project; GIS; huge bridge and tunnel construction projects; mega city issues; disaster risk management; urban development etc.).

Social programme: Istanbul offers unique historical sights from Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman empires and thus first class social tour and sightseeing opportunities. Interesting venue options for dinners and cultural evening as well as cultural programme. First class pre- and post-conference opportunities (cultural/historical sights; nature and resorts).

Attendance: Expected 1,500 participants in the bid. The number could be higher depending on how local participation will be supported (meetings, fees etc.).

Hotels: Price for the proposed congress hotel is 170-180 EUR per night (2010 congress rate). Option for different prices levels within walking distance to the conference centre. Cheap accommodation at University Guest House and Dormitory options will be available.

Finances: Draft budget is made according to FIG requirements and will give a surplus that the FIG Council has settled as target level. A more detailed budget will be drafted based on

the venue and more detailed information. No concerns about the finances. Draft budget is based on 475 EUR (early) and 550 EUR (late) registration fee.

Attractiveness: Istanbul is internationally attractive congress venue and has improved conference and other infrastructure rapidly. According to ICCA statistics Istanbul was no. 15 destination among most popular conference cities in 2008.

Possible pros and cons:

Issues supporting Istanbul:

- A strong member association whose representatives have been active in FIG for a longer time. CSCE is one of the biggest FIG member associations and has never hosted an FIG congress or Working Week. CSCE has shown interest to host the congress already in 2006.
- Istanbul and Turkey is an attractive destination for international conferences, and has easy access from most European and many other destinations.
- Technical infrastructure is in place (congress centres, hotels etc.)
- Attractive social and technical tour programme
- Full coverage of all FIG Commissions
- Congress Director is Rector of Istanbul Technical University that guarantees good local support to the local organising team.
- Financially well-prepared and income to FIG is guaranteed.

Issues not favouring Istanbul:

- There have been several FIG events in the past years in Mediterranean region.
- Proposed congress centre is centrally located and adequate but not perfect for FIG Congress (minor problems with breakout rooms and incorporating the exhibition to the congress. There is however option to use the new congress centre next door to ICEC.
- Not the cheapest destination – average international price level. The financial result will most likely not reach the highest expectations. This can be compensated with good sponsorship, possible waiver of venue hire and good attendance to the exhibition.