

2013 FIG General Assembly President's Report

1. Preamble

As a United Nations and the World Bank Group recognized non-governmental organization, we are seeking to collaborate and to ensure that the disciplines of surveying and all who practise them are relevant and meeting the needs of both the community and the market we are present. This worldwide professional community measures, maps, estimates, costs, values, assesses, models, plans and manages the natural and built environment for the effective planning and efficient administration of the land, the seas and any structures thereon.

FIG draws its membership from professional practitioners working in both the public and private sectors, the scientific, research and academic community, as well as from the spatial technologies innovators and providers. Together, we seek to extend the use and usefulness of surveying for the betterment of humanity. FIG is fortunate and thankful as the Federation essentially functions out of the goodwill, resources and contribution of our corps of volunteers and members from around the world.

Within FIG, our current work plan is driven by a vision of a profession, armed with knowledge and best practices, extending the usefulness of surveying for the benefit of society, environment and economy, increasingly positioned in significance and relevance, next door to everywhere.

2. Introduction

This report covers, generally, the period between the 2012 General Assembly in Rome, Italy until the upcoming 2013 General Assembly in Abuja, Nigeria and should be read together with papers and reports prepared and included in the 2013 General Assembly Agenda.

On a solemn note, our condolences to the family of Honorary President William A Radlinski (USA) who passed away on 15th February 2013 and Honorary President Charlie Weir (Canada) who passed away on 24th September 2012; Honorary Member Seppo Härmälä (Finland) who passed away 3rd January 2013 and Commission 4 Vice Chair, Professor Dr. Volker Böder (Germany) who passed away on 31st August 2012.

Congratulations to FIG Vice President (2007 – 2010) Matthew B. Higgins (SSSI, Australia) on his appointment as FIG Honorary Member by the General Assembly in Rome, Italy.

Appreciations and gratitude to Vice Presidents Dalal Alnaggar (Egypt) (2007 – 2012) and Iain Greenway (RICS, United Kingdom) (2009 – 2012) for their service, efforts and contributions to FIG and its membership.

3. 2012 Working Week

The working week in Rome, Italy Morocco from 6th to 10nd May 2012 had the general theme "Knowing to Manage" and included the XXXV General Assembly, a three-day technical program and an exhibition. The event was co-organized with the local member association, *Consiglio Nazionale Geometri e Geometri Laureati, CNGeGL, Italy*. The technical program had in excess of 100 sessions with close to 500 presentations. FAO was the main partner and

collaborative activities included a joint full day workshop as well as a visit to and seminar at FAO Headquarters. FIG also collaborated with GLTN (UN-Habitat) including sessions with grass root organizations and other Partners within GLTN's professional cluster. There was also a session on Professional Women in Surveying. The Working Week in Rome was another well-attended and supported event with just over 1,500 participants from 96 countries, making it the biggest Working Week in FIG history.

The 2012 General Assembly saw the election of Bruno Razza (CNGeGL, Italy) and PengFei Cheng (CSGPC, PR China) as Vice Presidents for the term 2013 – 2016. In addition, the following were elected or confirmed as chair-elects –

- FIG Commission 1 Brian J. Coutts (NZIS, New Zealand) (elected)
- FIG Commission 2 Ms. Liza Groenendijk (GIN, The Netherlands)
- FIG Commission 3 Enrico Rispoli (CNGeGL, Italy)
- FIG Commission 4 Ms. Angela Kesiena Etuonovbe (NIS, Nigeria)
- FIG Commission 5 Volker Schwieger (DVW, Germany)
- FIG Commission 6 Ivo Milev (USLMB, Bulgaria)
- FIG Commission 7 Ms Gerda Schennach (OVG, Austria) (elected)
- FIG Commission 8 Kwame Tenadu (GhIS, Ghana) (elected)
- FIG Commission 9 Liao Jinping (Patrick) (CIREA, PR China)

The General Assembly decided, in the selection of venues for future FIG Working Weeks, that for 2015, be held in Sofia, Bulgaria co-organized with the Chamber of Graduated Surveyors Bulgaria and for 2016 to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand co-organized with the New Zealand Institution of Surveyors.

The Working Week will also be remembered for its deliberations and decision on an appropriate voting structure for FIG. The 2012 General Assembly in Rome unanimously adopted the recommendations from the Working Group on Voting Rights (that was convened by the 2011 General Assembly in Marrakech) that:

- the voting system be changed;
- the right to vote remains with member associations;
- a sliding scale of voting, relative to association's membership numbers, be adopted; and
- Council prepare and table a proposal (after consultation with the members) to amend Article 6.6 of the FIG Statutes no later than at the 1st session and to be implemented at the 2nd session of the 2014 General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

4. Council has taken cognizance this decision and the work of the Working Group on Voting Rights with its discussion papers and reference materials that was prepared as well as the discussions, both in Marrakech and Rome. Council has prepared a one-page consultation paper that set out the essentials of Council's recommendation for the revision to FIG's voting structure. **1st Young Surveyors Conference**

The inaugural Young Surveyors Conference with the theme "Knowing to Create the Future" was held prior to the Working Week in Rome (4th & 5th May, 2012) and gathered about 120 young surveyors from 40 countries. One item to note is the prominence and use of social media during the Conference, where the Network was able to reach out to many within the Network scattered at differing locations. It was observed that these online chats, tweets and online fora added to the vibrancy of the discussions at the Conference.

5. **8th FIG Regional Conference**

The 8th FIG Regional Conference with the theme "Surveying towards Sustainable Development" was hosted by Asociación de Agrimensores del Uruguay (AAU) in Montevideo from 26th – 29th November 2012. More than 250 participants from 33 countries, mainly from

Latin America participated in the conference that was co-sponsored by UN-HABITAT/GLTN, OAS and the World Bank. This regional conference continues FIG's engagement with the region, where the primary focus of both the plenary and parallel technical sessions being that of the Latin American region. It was observed that participants, both from within the region and the world over, engaged in varied discussions, capitalizing on the diversity within FIG. FIG Foundation played an active and supportive role, sponsored five young surveyors, giving them the opportunity to participate in the Regional Conference.

6. Membership

At each General Assembly, new members are admitted or confirmed while others that have failed to fulfil the obligations of membership in accordance with our Statutes and Bye-laws were removed. After the 2012 Working Week, our membership stands at:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Member Associations | 105 | from 88 countries |
| Corporate Members | 25 | |
| Affiliate Members | 41 | |
| Academic Members | 92 | |
| Correspondents | 14 | |
| with a presence in 120 countries | | |

During this period, Council reviewed and accepted a number of applications and will recommend these to the 2013 General Assembly accordingly. Equally, Council has to act and will propose member associations, that are in arrears for three or more years for expulsion together with corporate, affiliate and academic members that were in arrears, after much effort to retain their membership. Council too has received notice of termination from Member Associations (one arising from its merger with another FIG member association), Corporate and Academic Members. In 2011, Council reviewed and noted that a majority of prior appointed correspondents were inactive, and some no longer contactable, and council has since decided to cease those appointments at the end of December 2012. Council will continue to review the remaining four correspondents' appointment.

A summary of the membership situation for the reporting period is as follows -

| | New Application | Termination | Proposed Expulsion |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Member Associations | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Corporate Members | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Affiliate Members | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Academic Members | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Correspondents | | 10 | |

Council recognized that, overall, our membership numbers are declining due to terminations and expulsions. At the same time, members continue to face challenges in sustaining its membership and there is a need to improve our efforts to articulate and communicate the value and benefits of membership.

7. Responsibilities of Council Members: 2013 & 2014

President CheeHai TEO (2011 – 2014)

Manage, together with Council, the business of the Federation in accordance with the Statutes and Internal Rules and as directed by the General Assembly to ensure that the Federation remains the premier international non-governmental organization that represents the interests of surveyors and users of surveying services globally. Lead the

Council in ensuring effective management of the Federation and engagement with the general membership.

Responsible for the agenda and related motions to each General Assembly and implement all decisions of the General Assembly. Provide strategic leadership of the Federation; take appropriate initiatives to ensure that the Federation achieves its principal objectives as laid down in the statutes and the adopted work plan. Promote the Federation and the significance of the profession; communicate and clarify to the membership the vision and direction of the Federation; co-ordinate and enhance the Federation's partnership with UN related agencies, the World Bank and other external international or multi-lateral agencies as well as sister and allied organization; oversee the overall management of the Federation and matters related thereto; recommend the formation of task forces to undertake specific tasks, monitor and guide their work thereof and undertake any other tasks and duties as decided by the General Assembly and the Council.

Vice President Chryssy POTSIU (2011 – 2014)

Chair FIG Task Force on Property and Housing; manage and co-ordinate FIG's initiatives in the area of property and housing, co-ordinate related agenda for action and promote appropriate activities, outputs and delivery; responsible for FIG's response the UN-Habitat's global housing strategy and initiatives; responsible for FIG's initiatives on Academic Members and co-ordinate related agenda for action, outputs and delivery; co-ordinate the annual Forum for Academic Members; supporting development in the areas of professionalism and ethics and provide Council with regular status report indicating highlights and challenges on matters related thereto. Responsible, when required, for reporting to the General Assembly including presentations and implementing related decisions; and participate in projects and tasks as decided by Council.

Together with the President, promote the Federation and the significance of the profession; communicate and clarify to the membership the vision and direction of the Federation, contribute in enhancing the Federation's partnership with UN related agencies, the World Bank and other external international or multi-lateral agencies as well as sister and allied organizations.

Council's representative to the FIG Foundation.

Vice President Rudolf STAIGER (2011 – 2014)

Chair FIG's Advisory Committee of Commission Officers (ACCO); manage and co-ordinate FIG's ten Commissions, technical strategy and initiatives including providing oversight to FIG's initiatives on standards, peer-review process, knowledge sharing initiatives and Affiliate Members, co-ordinate related agenda for action, outputs and delivery; supporting development in the areas of professionalism and ethics and provide Council with regular status report indicating highlights and challenges on matters related thereto. Responsible, when required, for reporting to the General Assembly including presentations and implementing related decisions; and participate in projects and tasks as decided by Council.

Together with the President, promote the Federation and the significance of the profession; communicate and clarify to the membership the vision and direction of the Federation, contribute in enhancing the Federation's partnership with UN related agencies, the World Bank and other external international or multi-lateral agencies as well as sister and allied organizations.

Council's representative on the FIG's Task Force on Surveyor and Climate Change.

Vice President Bruno Razza (2013 – 2016)

Manage and co-ordinate FIG's financial and administrative strategy and initiatives including providing oversight for general membership issues, the FIG Office, the FIG Administrative Manual and matters related thereto. Together with the FIG Office, provide Council with quarterly financial and administrative report indicating finance and administrative highlights, challenges and constraints. Support the development in the areas of professionalism and ethics and participate in projects and tasks as decided by Council.

Together with the President, promote the Federation and the significance of the profession; communicate and clarify to the membership the vision and direction of the Federation, contribute in enhancing the Federation's partnership with UN related agencies, the World Bank and other external international or multi-lateral agencies as well as sister and allied organizations.

Council's representative on the FIG's Africa Task Force.

Vice President Pengfei Cheng (2013 – 2016)

Manage and co-ordinate FIG's initiatives and development in the areas of professionalism and ethics; support cooperation with regional structures, co-ordinate related agenda for action, outputs and delivery; and provide Council with regular status report indicating highlights and challenges on matters related thereto. Responsible, when required, for reporting to the General Assembly including presentations and implementing related decisions; and participate in projects and tasks as decided by Council.

Together with the President, promote the Federation and the significance of the profession; communicate and clarify to the membership the vision and direction of the Federation, contribute in enhancing the Federation's partnership with UN related agencies, the World Bank and other external international or multi-lateral agencies as well as sister and allied organizations.

8. Commissions and Networks

VP Rudolf Staiger, the Chair of ACCO together with the ten Commission Chairs as well as the two Networks will make their respective reports to the General Assembly. The conviction remains that Commissions are the "powerhouses" of the Federation, delivering knowledge and disseminating best practices through its activities. These activities, where appropriate, are complemented and supported by the Standards and Young Surveyors Networks. At the 2013 General Assembly, some Commissions will seek endorsement to amend their adopted work plans, to further reflect the realities they are working to within their Commissions. ACCO continue to work with the Office to facilitate the technical program at FIG events.

FIG Members are urged to nominate and support enthusiastic national delegates and correspondents to the Commissions and Networks, to participate in the work and activities of the Commissions and Networks, as these are vital in the efforts to bring benefits to the local membership. Council will continue to co-ordinate Commission level activities as much as it is feasible including its workshops and symposia, aiming to serve the Federation's geographically diverse membership. National member associations are encouraged to step up, work with and host commission and network level activities in their respective countries or region.

Council will recommend for endorsement by the General Assembly the Chair-elect for the Young Surveyors Network for the period 2015 – 2018. Council is of the opinion that the

Young Surveyors Network is ready to have Chair elected, just like Commission Chairs for subsequent terms.

9. Task Forces

The Chairs of FIG Task Forces will make their respective reports to the General Assembly. For the remaining Council term, there will only be three Task Forces as the *Task Force on Spatially Enabled Society* had successfully concluded its task with FIG Publication No. 58: *Spatially Enabled Society*, a joint publication of FIG-Task Force on Spatially Enabled Society in cooperation with GSDI Association and with the support of Working Group 3 of the PCGIAP. Council acknowledges its gratitude to Dr. Daniel Steudler (Geosuisse, Switzerland) for his able leadership as well as members of the Task Force on Spatially Enabled Society for their contributions and efforts.

10. Engagements and Visits

Council travels and visits were managed and focused on engaging the membership and delivering the Council's Work Plan. For the period covered by this report, Vice Presidents and Presidents, apart from engaging their respective home memberships and regional affiliations, engaged members in Kenya, Hungary, Bulgaria, New Zealand, Argentina, Uruguay, Nigeria, Hong Kong SAR, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Russia, Croatia, Italy, United States and PR China. Vice Presidents and the President also had the opportunity to engage members (including FIG Corporate, Affiliate and Academic members) at various international and regional events including those organised by regional and linguistics groupings within FIG such as CLGE, ASEANFLAG and FGF. There were a number of occasions where Commission or Network Officers represented FIG and participated events in Russia, Spain and Cameroun.

11. Collaboration with the World Bank

The Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty each year brings together representatives from governments, civil society, academia, the private sector and the development community to discuss issues of concern to land practitioners and policymakers worldwide. The conference aims to foster dialogue and sharing of good practices by showcasing the diversity of reforms, approaches and experiences that are being implemented in the land sector around the world. The theme of 2013 edition is "Moving towards transparent land governance: Evidence-based next steps" and FIG is collaborating with the Bank, actively contributing towards the Conference program and ensuing discussions. The Conference will include an Expert Group Meeting jointly convened by both the Bank and FIG the day after the close of the Conference and will bring together, by invitation, professionals from government and private sector, academia and research institutes, services and technologies providers and civil society to consider trends and issues to be spatially fit-for-purpose.

Within FIG, we recognize that our Profession must consider the wider good, the needs within society, environment and economy and not just that of our measurement and its related methodology and accuracy or that of technological sophistication. At the 2013 Conference, FIG's corps of volunteer intent to advocate the Profession's key role within the Land Sector (Land and the seas and her natural resources are often referred to as the source of all production and consequently the generation of capital, wealth and wellbeing) and contribute to the discussion on that which is applicable, appropriate and affordable, that's fit-for-purpose.

The 2013 Conference has six thematic areas:

- Securing land rights and improving land use at the grassroots;
- Adjusting laws and institutions to address urban expansion and governance;
- Innovative approaches towards spatially enabling land administration and management;
- Supporting a continuum of rights in a decentralized environment;
- Mobilizing the private sector to improve land governance; and
- Sharing benefits from exploitation of land-based resources.

The Bank supported the 8th FIG Regional Conference and provided one of the plenary speakers, contributing towards the vibrancy and success of the Conference.

12. Collaboration with the United Nations

12.1 United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management

The United Nations convened the second High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in February this year. The Forum was held pursuant to the mandate from the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to convene global forums to promote comprehensive dialogue on global geospatial information management with all relevant governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The Forum provides member states and stakeholders the unique opportunity to share and learn from each other to support local, regional and global sustainable development initiatives.

The United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) aims at playing a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and to promote its use to address key global challenges.

The Doha Declaration on Advancing Global Geospatial Information Management issued at the close of Second High Level Forum had the participants, among others, resolved to:

- Commit to working together as an international community, under the coordination of the United Nations, to work with all stakeholders to improve a sustained operational global geodetic reference frame and infrastructure, to support the increasing demand for positioning and monitoring applications with associated societal and economic benefits;
- Affirm the importance of having a stable, credible and reliable national geospatial information infrastructure in each country built on internationally recognized standards that will integrate, manage and deliver geospatial information for timely, evidenced-based and authoritative decision making and policy formulation on location-based development issues, including disasters and humanitarian needs;
- Affirm the importance of an agreed set of authoritative core global geospatial reference datasets that are needed to support global sustainable development activities and to work jointly towards the preparation, improvement and maintenance of these core reference datasets.

Our Profession must note that within the Declaration, there is the emphasis on societal and economic benefits, disasters and humanitarian needs, hence the challenge to advance and extend the services and usefulness of our Profession for the wellbeing of humanity.

12.2 United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

UNCE-GGIM was established to be the official United Nations consultative mechanism on place, locality and geography. UNCE-GGIM plays a leading role in setting the agenda for the

development of global geospatial information, while promoting its use to meet key global challenges. The second session of the Committee of Experts was held in August 2012 in New York and deliberated on an analysis and report on future trends in geospatial information management carried out by the Committee. Member states discussed the desire for options in their respective evolution to create national geospatial information authorities and requested mechanisms for governments to engage each other in learning and sharing. The impact on member states with limited access to technology was also discussed especially in an era of rapid technological changes. It was opined that there is a need to reduce this technological divide. The importance of geodesy and global geodetic reference system was emphasized leading to a special session at the Second High Level Forum and inclusion into the Doha Declaration.

12.3 United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT)

The 24th Session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat will be held from 15-19 April 2013 at the UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, under the theme of *Sustainable Urban Development: The Role of Cities In Creating Improved Economic Opportunities For All, With Special Reference To Youth and Gender*. The President will represent FIG at this year's Governing Council.

FIG also participated at the UN-Habitat Sixth World Urban Forum in September 2012 hosted by the city of Naples, Italy. The President was joined by a number of colleagues and the Young Surveyors Network actively participated in the Forum, particularly the Youth Assembly as well as the Roundtable on Youth, confirming that the younger and youth have relationships to land. The Forum with the theme "Urban Futures" was held in the context where some fifty per cent of the world's population currently live in urban areas and often in inequitable condition. This urban population is projected to increase to sixty per cent of all humanity in 2030 with a growing urban young, estimated to increase to sixty per cent of all urban dwellers by then. The focuses of the Sixth World Urban Forum were on urban planning, equity and prosperity, productive cities and urban mobility, energy and environment.

12.4 Global Land Tool Network

The FIG President sits on the International Advisory Board (IAB) as the representative of GLTN Partners within the professional cluster and must continue to work on improving the feedback mechanisms and to strengthen working relationships and collaboration between and among partners within the professional cluster and across other clusters towards addressing emerging global challenges in the land sector.

GLTN has developed a global partnership on land issues, is a network of international organizations including FIG and individuals (collectively, partners) promoting secure land and property rights for all through the promotion of the continuum of land rights and development of pro-poor and gender appropriate land tools. GLTN continues to take a more holistic approach to land issues by improving global coordination on land.

FIG collaborates with and contribute to GLTN's objectives, primarily through collaborative and joint activities, in the past year, focusing on youth responsiveness to land, participatory and inclusive land readjustment, social tenure domain model, cost and financing of land administration services, valuation of unregistered land and engagement with grass root organisations.

FIG supported GLTN's objectives at GLTN's Roundtable with the theme "Celebrating the Recognition of a Range of Land Rights: Taking Stock and Moving Forward" at the Sixth World

Urban Forum. Through the FIG Foundation¹, FIG supported GLTN's STDM pilot project in the Ugandan southwestern town of Mbale where STDM was used to capture and register the relationship to land of informal settlers. GLTN supported the 8th FIG Regional Conference with two plenary speakers and a series of joint sessions.

UN-Habitat/GLTN will be the main institutional partner for our 2013 Working Week and will be supporting a number of joint events.

12.5 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

FAO was the main institutional partner at our 2012 Working Week and on 11th May 2012, the United Nations Committee on World Food Security endorsed the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security*. The VG (Voluntary Guidelines) outlined the principles and practices that governments can refer to when making laws and administering land, fisheries and forest rights. It is a historic breakthrough that countries have agreed to these first-ever-global tenure guidelines, particularly in the administration of tenure and specifically in areas such as the recording of tenure rights, valuation, taxation, spatial planning as well as issues and responses that is required in the recognition and protection of access and rights.

In October 2012 Technical Meeting on "Supporting the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines" at FAO's headquarters in Rome, FIG was part of the opening segment, to address on the responses of professionals. We observed an urgency and an immediate challenge in the building of an up-to-date, credible, comprehensive and authoritative inventory of land (and the seas) that include information on tenure, custodianship and ownership. We express our view that this could be key to the success of the voluntary guidelines and asked that we seize the opportunities provided by a newer generation of web and mobile technologies and services such as online maps and location based solutions to build this crucial information base.

FIG currently has an agreement to collaborate in an activity to support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines in the Pacific region with a focus on small island developing states.

12.6 United Nations Office for Outer Space Affair (UNOOSA)

The Seventh Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) was held in Beijing, PR China in November 2012. FIG is an Associate Member of the ICG and is represented by the Chair of FIG Commission 5, Mikael Lilje. The ICG has been formed as a result of recommendations of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS), as ratified by the General Assembly of the UN. The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) is an Associate Member of the ICG. The seventh meeting was attended by Matt Higgins (Past FIG Vice President) and Mikael Lilje, who is also FIG's representative to UNOOSA.

UNOOSA also supported the IAG/ICG/FIG Technical Seminar on Reference Frame in Practice by sponsoring four delegates to the event held before our 2012 Working Week in Rome.

12.7 United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

Prior to the second session of UNCE-GGIM in New York in August 2012, FIG President observed the closing meeting of the Tenth United Nations Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) as well as the closing meeting of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) that was held at the UN

¹ The FIG Foundation made a token financial and technical contribution to the pilot project. (The technical contribution was in the form of handheld GNSS/mapping technology and access to technical support contributed by FIG Platinum Corporate Member, Trimble Navigation to the Foundation)

Headquarters between 31st July and 10th August 2012. UNGEGN's outgoing chair, Ms. Helen Kerfoot (Canada) was recognized for her twenty years of service and contributions as Vice Chair and Chair of UNGEGN with a commendation from the United Nations Secretary General that was read out to all delegates at the closing meeting of the 27th Session of UNGEGN. The Session elected Bill Watt (Australia) as Chair with Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands) and Naima Friha (Tunisia) as Vice Chairs.

12.8 United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific

The President attended the 19th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCC-AP) convened at the United Nations Complex in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2012. The theme of the Conference is "UNGGIM Vision for Asia and the Pacific".

FIG submitted and presented its report with a focus on Spatial Enablement towards Managing All Information Spatially. The President also participated in a panel discussing the "UNGGIM Vision of Managing All Information Spatially for Asia and the Pacific Region", contributed and participated in the Consultation Session on Global Geodetic Reference Frame and the meeting of the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP). PCGIAP, at its meeting agree to rename to United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP).

In the reporting session and the panel discussion, it was emphasized that the Profession has the competence and capacity to develop and implement the next generation of solutions that are fit-for-purpose, more affordable, are citizen centric and can be improved incrementally when appropriate. This would include spatially referencing other information including socio-economic and environmental information to derive wider societal, environmental and economic benefits that could be more effectively used in all levels of policy formulation and decision-making.

FIG will be collaborating with UN-GGIM-AP in furthering the "Sydney Agenda for Action" that has a primary focus on the small island developing states in the Pacific as these states are part of the 56 member jurisdictions of UN-GGIM-AP.

13. Cooperation with Sister Organizations

13.1 Joint Board for the Geospatial Information Societies (JB-GIS)

The Joint Board for the Geospatial Information Societies (JB-GIS) at its annual meeting in Melbourne in August 2012 reaffirmed Prof William Cartwright from International Cartographic Association as the Chair for a further period of one year. The Joint Board continue to improve its profile and standing, particularly within the United Nations initiatives on Global Geospatial Information Management.

The Joint Board was tasked to scope and deliver the Exchange Forum with Geospatial Industry at the recent Second High Level Forum of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management together with the United Nations Cartographic Section. With the theme "Future Proofing the Provision of Geoinformation: Emerging Technologies", the Exchange Forum focused on methodologies and technologies used to determine place, facilitate information capture, ensure accessibility and usefulness of place-based information. This was a pre-Forum exchange that facilitated the continued involvement of the geospatial industry at the most senior levels, discussing and demonstrating the trends and directions the industry is heading. The Exchange Forum concluded that future proofing the provision of place-based information that is critical to national, regional and international efforts and collaboration to address challenges faced by communities and nations such as food security, climate change, rapid urbanization and sustainable economic development, to name some, require an international mandate on a global reference frame, strategies to demonstrate

societal and economic returns and benefits, intensify multi-disciplinary cooperation and promoting visualization and publishing of spatially enabled information to non-specialist users via mobile devices.

13.2 International Association of Geodesy (IAG)

FIG Commission 5 collaborated with IAG and the International Committee on GNSS (ICG) to realise a Technical Seminar before the 2012 Working Week in Rome on Reference Frame in Practice. 42 delegates, four of whom were sponsored by UNOOSA, attended the two-day event. The President of IAG, Prof. Chris Rizos, provided the overview of the transition from traditional to modern geodesy where he described the evolution of roles, impact of services and the importance of reference frame definition.

13.3 International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)

The President attended the opening segment of the XXII Congress of ISPRS hosted by SSSI, Australia in Melbourne in late August 2012. The President also made a presentation at the ISPRS/JBGIS special session on Spatially Enabling Society. FIG Commission 2, represented by the Chair of FIG YSN, also organized joint sessions with ISPRS at the Congress.

FIG is also contributing to ISPRS led project on the *Value of Geo-Information for Disaster and Risk Management* (VaLID). FIG is represented by Chair of FIG Commission 3 and the intention is to produce a publication to give evidence of the economic, humanitarian and organizational benefits which can be realized by applying geo-information to disaster and risk management based on analyses of socio-economic benefit.

14. Finance and Administration

VP Bruno Razza is now the Vice President responsible for Finance and Administration will table his report separately to the General Assembly. It must be stressed that Council continue to recognize that we are in a period of economic and financial uncertainties. These economic and financial uncertainties affect the Federation's membership directly. Over the past year, FIG's financial management and administration continued to be underpinned by fiscal prudence and restraint while providing the necessary financial and administrative stability and sustainability to the Federation.

FIG Office

Council have carefully considered and shaped an administration that will continue to build on the foundations that was laid, to carry and advance the Federation and its objective in the coming years and term. The FIG Administration is now wholly located within the FIG Office in Copenhagen and with the FIG Director departing later this year, the reshaped Administration now comprises:

- Ms Louise Friis-Hansen, FIG Manager;
- Ms Hanne Elster, FIG Office and Events Coordinator;
- Ms Claudia Stormoen, FIG Office and Events Coordinator;
- Ms Julie Hyun Sook Lee, FIG Development Coordinator; and
- Ms Maria Bargholz, FIG Bookkeeper.

Council is grateful to the Korean Cadastral Survey Corporation (KCSC), a key member of the Korean Confederation of Surveyors, FIG member association from the Republic of Korea for

providing and financially supporting one of its staff to undertake the role of FIG Development Coordinator.

Council records its appreciation and thanks to Iain Greenway, the Vice President responsible for finance and administration (2009 – 2012) for his engagements, efforts, services and leadership towards a sustainable administration that will continue to advance the aims and aspirations of the Federation.

15. Concluding Remarks

The Council records its appreciation and thanks to all Member Associations as well as all Corporate, Affiliate and Academic Members; National Delegates and Correspondents; Chairs of Commissions, their Vice Chairs and their delegates and correspondents; Chairs of Task Forces and their members; Chairs of Networks and their members; and last but not least the FIG Administration including the FIG Director, together with the many who has in one way or another contributed to another eventful and successful FIG year.

CheeHai TEO
4th March 2013