



**Message from Winnie SHIU  
Congress Director  
FIG Working Week 2007  
Hong Kong**

During the Working Week, I had met with many delegates who came forward to offer lots of kind words, hugs and kisses. Even after the conference, I received a lot of thank you messages expressing overwhelming appreciation of the smooth running and well provisioned event. I am most gratified with such flattering words and support of my work as Congress Director. However, besides from knowing me as Congress Director, and even reckoning me as a professional conference organizer, some of you may not be aware of my original profession. Here below are some clues for you to make a guess.

I studied my land surveying degree in the United Kingdom at the University of East London where Professor Peter Dale was teaching and at the same time he was my project supervisor. After graduation I worked with JA Story and Partners for 2 years on engineering survey for highways project and taking oblique aerial photographs. Under the supervision by Tom Welsh I passed the APC (formerly TPC) of RICS and was awarded with the ARICS. I then joined Mason Land Surveys and was mainly engaged in GIS work on property services agency and oil company. 2 years later, upon learning there were vacancies for Land Surveyor in the Government of Hong Kong, I applied for the job and was interviewed in UK and was successful.

The scope of work for Land Surveyor in the Hong Kong Government is very extensive covering many types of engineering surveys, mapping, cadastral survey, geodetic survey and GIS. Initially, I was posted to the Housing Department responsible for surveying for public housing projects. Later I was posted back to the Lands Department, the parent department for professional land surveyors, and had been engaged in various tasks, including, cadastral survey, GIS, technical information, sales and promotion of digital map data. Lately, I have been put in charge of a District Survey Office responsible for all mapping and cadastral surveying of all the islands to the south-east of Hong Kong. There are about 18 big and small islands with a total land area of 180km<sup>2</sup>. which is about 15% of the total land area of Hong Kong. This district is characterized by the many newest and major infrastructures and developments, such as, the Chek Lap Kok International Airport, the Tsing Ma Bridge, the Disneyland Resort, the mega residential projects and the booming tourist attractions.

Now can you guess what my original profession is? I am a Fellow Member of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors and had served as Hon Secretary and Hon Editor for the HKIS Journal. Whilst with the belief that the Working Week being held in Hong Kong would be an honour to the HKIS and the local surveying profession I have volunteered to take up the role as Congress Director but I am aware of this would be a challenge to me for the fact that both FIG and its members have very high expectations of this Working Week. Now that the Working Week is over, I wish to make a brief summary report on it.

### Report of the FIG Working Week 2007

After four years since HKIS being awarded to host the FIG Working Week 2007 in Hong Kong, a year of intensive preparation work and a week long programme fully packed with meetings, technical sessions, technical visits, receptions and dinners and social programmes, the FIG Working Week 2007 finally came to a close on the 17 May with a farewell party. The successful conclusion of the event to some would be a sigh of relieve but for many including members of the Organising Committee would be a great rejoice and reward. The event was well attended with 518 delegates from 58 countries/regions, including 106 from Hong Kong and 39 from the mainland.

### Opening Ceremony

The main highlight of the Working Week was the official opening by The Honorable Donald Tsang, GBM, The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and he was accompanied by the HKIS and FIG Presidents to dot the eyes of the lions to mark the opening of the Working Week. Mr LU Xinshe, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Land and Resources and Director General of State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping of the People's Republic of China, gave a congratulatory message and Mr. Hak CHAN, Chairman of the Organising Committee gave a welcome message at the opening ceremony.



There was a high profile presence of Chinese leaders from the Mainland in surveying, mapping and lands, including Dr XIAO Ping, Deputy Director General of Surveying and Mapping of Shaanxi Province, who also delivered a plenary address, Mr LI Jialin and Mr GUO Renzhong, Deputy Directors of Land Bureau of ShenZhen and Mr Zhang Xinmin, Deputy Director of Land Bureau, Guangdong Province.

### Plenary and Technical Sessions

Other prominent persons who were invited to deliver plenary addresses included, from Hong Kong, Dr CY LEUNG, Mr Tony TSE and Mr Albert LEUNG, and from overseas, Mr Keith BELL of the World Bank, Prof Theo KOTTER of Bonn University, Prof Holger MAGEL and Prof Stig ENEMARK of FIG.



There were over 300 quality technical papers selected for presentation in the 64 technical sessions with eight sessions running in parallel. In addition, there were a number of commissions meeting and thematic talks being conducted.

### General Assembly

The GA was well attended by representatives from over 60 member associations.



Building the capacity, integration of commission activities, and co-operation with the

United Nations and other international organizations were the key focuses of the FIG new council year. The overall theme for the coming year was: “Building the Capacity”. As an international organization, the FIG aimed to enhance the global standing of the surveying profession, help eradicate poverty, promote democratization, and facilitate economic, social and environmental sustainability. It would interact with other international bodies such as the United Nations agencies and the World Bank and respond to the Millennium Development Goals endorsed by the United Nations. For developing countries, capacity would be needed to meet the challenges of fighting poverty and developing a basis for a sustainable future. Capacity would also be needed for developed countries to meet the challenges in institutional and organizational development in the areas of surveying and land administration.

In the second session of the General Assembly, the Vice President of FIG reported on the ACCO activities. The delegates also reported on the arrangement of the 6<sup>th</sup> FIG Regional Conference 2007 in San Jose, Costa Rica; Working Week 2008 in Stockholm, Sweden; Working week 2009 in Israel; and FIG Congress 2010 in Australia.

### **Welcome Reception**

The Welcome Reception was the first social function and with more than 450 delegates attending. The Chairman of the Organising Committee, Mr. Hak CHAN, gave an welcome address and President of FIG, Prof. Stig EMEMARK wished me a happy Mother’s Day. That was a joyous occasion for delegates to renew fellowship and make new friends and many would not want to depart even when the venue had to be vacated for preparation for the next day function.



### **Exhibition and Exhibition Opening Reception**

The exhibition with all the booths fully occupied showcased the latest products and services from 15 international and local firms or organizations and was a most favoured attraction to many delegates. A VIP tour was arranged for Mr. LU Xinshe to tour around the exhibition booths and chat with the exhibitors.

An exhibition opening reception was held in the evening of 14 May. More than 400 visitors attended the event. Mr. Hak Chan, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, and Prof. Stig Enemark, FIG President, expressed their gratitude for the support of the exhibitors and visitors at the reception.



### Technical Tours

4 technical tours to some fine examples of surveying achievement were arranged, including, to the Land Information Centre and Geodetic Survey Section of the Lands Department, Hydrographic Office of the Marine Department and HK-Shenzhen Western Corridor of the Highways Department. Three of the four technical tours were over subscribed.



### Post Conference Technical Tour

The post conference technical visit to the Macau Cartography and Cadastre Bureau was very informative and enjoyable particularly to those delegates from overseas. Besides having an insight into the work of the Bureau delegates were led to have a panoramic view of Macau in a short but solid tour of this fabulous neighbour of ours. The Bureau as usual extended the warmest hospitality to our delegates. The Organising Committee made a courtesy visit to the Bureau later to thank them for the

generous support in arranging the technical visit.



### Chinese Evening and FIG Foundation Dinner

This evening function was held in a scenic spot at the south side of the Hong Kong Island and attended by 366 delegates. The programme for the evening was fully packed with fascinating attractions: to begin with, the Police Pipers playing a welcoming tune to the delegates upon arrival then followed by the marvelous performance by the world renowned Hong Kong Police Band and Pipes; an informative display of Housing Department's work; speeches by Mr Bay Wong, Assistant Director of Housing Department, Ms. Cissy Tsang, General Manager of the Link Management Ltd, and Mr. John Hohol, FIG Foundation Hong Kong President; tour of the public housing estate, Chinese temple, Maritime Museum, and Murray House; Chinese handicraft performances, and finally a buffet dinner in the restaurants with plenty of delicious international cuisine while enjoying the panoramic sea view. To avoid the trouble of finding the preferred seats in the restaurants, seating plan was prepared in advance for all the participants.



## Gala Dinner

The Gala Dinner was held in the spacious and superbly decorated Grand Ballroom at the conference venue. Mr Michael Suen, the former Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands of the HK SAR Government, was the guest of honour. He gave an address during the dinner and also had a lengthy conversation with Prof Enemark sitting next to him. The meal was an authentic Chinese cuisine with 8 courses prepared by celebrated chef of the Hotel. This being the last day of the intensive technical sessions, all delegates took the opportunity to relax and enjoy themselves and to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Delegates meandered between the tables with glasses in hand and expressed goodwill to all fellow surveyors and friends.



## Daily Newsletter

With the assistance from Stephen Booth, Gordon Andreassend and TN Wong, the daily newsletter was published each day at 3:00pm for delegates to recap the highlights of each day and to watch out for coming events.

## Presidents' Meeting

The Presidents' meeting permitted more in-depth discussions on the FIG's vision, work plan and various implementation issues from the perspectives of member countries. With regard to promoting and enhancing FIG's roles, Mr. Francis Leung, Vice President, on behalf of HKIS echoed the remarks that surveyors' roles in planning, building governance, costing, project management and related commercial aspects should be more vigorously pursued, so as to correct the public perception of equating FIG and the surveying profession with land and geometric activities only. As to promoting the benefit of being an FIG member, Mr. Leung proposed that the fee structure be reviewed

in order to effectively reflect the different levels of participation by surveyors from different disciplines within a same member association.

A lot of kind words were received from many delegates on HKIS' successful hosting of the FIGWW2007. The efforts of the Organization Committee, led by Mr. Chan Hak and myself, were duly acknowledged in the Presidents' meeting. Mr. T N Wong was also congratulated for his foresight in bidding for and winning the hosting rights. To host a significant international event as the FIG Working Week has been an exciting experience for the HKIS. Through the public attention that it has generated, the event has helped to project a very positive image of the Institute and the surveying profession, both locally and internationally.

### **Closing Ceremony and Farewell Party**

In the Closing Ceremony letters of appreciation were presented by Prof Enemark to those involved in organising the Working Week. Brief reports on the event were then given by the Chairman and the FIG President. The FIG Flag was then handed over to the Congress Director, Svante Asterno, the organizer of the next working week in Stockholm. On conclusion of the Ceremony, delegates were invited to join the party to bid farewell to each other and incidentally to celebrate the birthday of Hak Chan.



### **Special Thanks**

The Working Week is now over and I am honestly very pleased that all the delegates have enjoyed their stay over here to see for themselves this famous Asia's World City.

The Working Week had received strong support from the local including the government, the education sector. Such as, the Lands Department was the co-organiser and provided all the reprographic, photographic and stage setting services; and the Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University provided the computing equipment.

Patronage for the event was overwhelming, such as the Diamond, Gold and Silver categories of sponsorship were all taken up, all the exhibition booths were sold out as well as many pages of advertisement were put in the programme book. Their generous sponsorship made quite a substantial contribution to the event.

Behind the scene a lot activities were going on at the venue and outdoor functions which required exact co-ordination, adequate provisioning, and most importantly, any prompt last minute change of plan and all these required enormous staff resources. For example, the IT Support Team had to equip all the meeting rooms and technical session rooms with audio visual and computing equipment and to reconfigure the settings quickly in between the room repartitioning; the Reprographic Team had to prepare well before the conference more that 30 backdrops and display boards and to set these up before each session beginning work as early as 7 a.m. at the venue; the Floor Manager had to deploy more than twenty Conference Assistants to assist in the various activities and to attend to any ad-hoc matters arising, and the energetic Conference Assistants who not only played the role of assisting in the progression of various activities but also as ambassadors for the Hong Kong surveying profession.

Once again, I would like to express my appreciation to all those who had participated in the Working Week and gave their positive support. I am particularly thrilled and thankful for the encouragement and compliments to me as Congress Director from many of the delegates though by now you may have realized I am a Land Surveyor by profession.