Closing Address
FIG Working Week 2009

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(Assisted by Drafting Committee)

Facing the Global Challenges
Surveyors Role in Accelerated Development…
and in a World in Crisis
Two Major Challenges of our time:
• Global Financial Crisis
  Everything the Communists told us about communism was a complete and utter lie. Unfortunately, everything the Communists told us about Capitalism turned out to be true.” – John Nellis, World Bank
• Climate Change
  The defining challenge of our time – Ban Ki-moon, UN-Secretary General

But - this also creates opportunities

“You never want a serious crisis
to go to waste”
Israel’s Challenges

- High population density
- Rapid urbanization
- Severe shortage in land
- Serious scarcity in water
- Global problems:
  - Global warming
  - Energy crisis
  - Rising cost of basic commodities
- Specific problem - Security

Israel’s Response

- A country that has achieved much in its short history...truly flying high

Israel holds a high standard in surveying and cadastral systems - in service of society
Some Key Facts

• 550 participants from 65 Nations and extensive Technical Exhibition;
• 3 Plenary Sessions underpinning Technical Sessions across all Commissions, Networks and Task Forces and complemented by interesting Technical Tours and Exciting Social Events
• Continued successful implementation of Peer Review Papers;
• Continued engagement with Young Surveyors;
• Continued progress of the FIG Foundation
• Corporate Member’s Meeting;
• Director Generals’ Forum;

Some key observations

• The only constant is change - but the pace varies from “Accelerating Development” to 5 mm a year
• Change management is the key tool
• Surveyors are change agents
• Not only for managing within change - but managing the change itself
• At a time of global financial crisis, FIG is in fact more stable financially than ever before!
Engaging with Africa

- FIG is becoming a truly global organization, our work to engage with Africa is bearing fruit:
  - First Commission Chair from an African developing country (Kenya);
  - ISK very instrumental in preparing the Kenya national land policy
  - Two Working Weeks (Morocco, 2011 and Nigeria, 2013);

The FIG Approach

Both flying high and keeping the feet on the ground
Professional Development via Commission based sessions:

1. Professional Practice
2. Professional Education
3. Spatial Information Management
4. Hydrography
5. Positioning and Measurement
6. Engineering Surveys
7. Cadastre and Land Management
8. Spatial Planning and Development
9. Valuation and the Management of Real Estate
10. Construction Economics and Management
Director Generals’ Forum

• Provides justification for their attendance at FIG Events;
• Also provides an opportunity for DGs to network and to interact with the profession;
• Here in Eilat 20 National Mapping Agencies were represented.

This concept was very well received by the DGs and will be further developed towards the FIG Congress Sydney 2010

Hot Topic 1: Geo-Info Management

• Place Matters – Everything Happens Somewhere;
• Creating place based, theme based and web based communities;

Towards Spatially Enabled Society
Hot Topic 1: Geo-Info Management

Geography has gone Mobile

GIS Professionals Will Implement WebGIS

Reaching New Communities of Users . . .
. . . Dramatically Leveraging Our Collective Knowledge
Hot Topic 1: Geo-Info Management

GIS creates a strong foundation…

… for Sustainable Action

Hot Topic 2: Emergency Management

Earthquakes are not dangerous

Buildings are dangerous
While many people are aware of the terrible impact of disasters throughout the world, few realize that this is a problem that we can do something about. (Kofi A. Annan UN Secretary-General)

“You cannot change the Hazard but you can manage the Risk”
Hot Topic 2: Emergency Management

FIG’s Response

Hot Topic 3: Measurement Management

From Local to Global Positioning Infrastructures

Towards the only truly global infrastructure.
Hot Topic 3: Measurement Management

In the past

Time

Presence

Pushing the button is not enough.
We must Master the entire Measurement Process

Responding to a World in Crisis

The current FIG work Plan focusing on achieving the MDGs, also includes facing the big challenges of the new millennium:

- Climate change
- Food shortage
- Energy scarcity
- Urban growth
- Environmental degradation
- Natural disasters
- Global financial crisis

All these challenges relate to governance and management of land
The surveyors – the land professionals - play a key role
“A high professional level and a lot of fun”

And we did have a lot of fun - FIG is sexy after all
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Thanks to our Israeli Hosts for an Excellent Conference

and

Thanks for your attention!