

GEOMATICA 2007
Havana, Cuba, 12-17 February 2007

Welcome Address

By FIG President, Professor Stig Enemark, Denmark.

Honourable guests, distinguished guests, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great honour for me to address such a distinguished audience on behalf on FIG, The International federation of Surveyors, and its more than 100 member associations throughout the world representing around 300,000 surveyors or land professionals world wide.

The whole set up around this conference is very impressive with a range of conferences, symposia and workshop included in the overall conference entitled INFORMATICA 2007 that include an overwhelming number of papers from about 60 countries. The organisers should be congratulated for putting together such an interesting program at such a huge and world wide scale. And especially Dr. Tatiana Delgado such be congratulated for organising such an interesting conference focusing on Geomatics – entitled GEOMATICA 2007 – we are all looking forward to some very exciting days.

I have to admit that this is my first visit to Havana and Cuba. But it will certainly not be the last. Cuba has so much to offer both professionally and at the more leisure side. I am looking forward to explore some more of your hospitality in terms of making professional relation for future cooperation, and to have the opportunity to explore more about your culture and country.

The agenda of this conference is mainly technical. But behind that it is of course political. Lack of proper information and insecure property rights hinder good governance and the emergence of engaged civil society. It is as simple as that. Without good and up to data information and without effective access to land and property, economies are unable to progress and the goal of sustainable development cannot be realised. However, the creation of modern information systems and the implementation of sound land administration systems is not as simple as that.

We are all aware that Cuba and also other countries in the Caribbean region are facing problems in relation to social and economic development. This issue does not only relate to technology development and information management. For instance, there is a need to address the **policy issues** associated with building sound land administration and land information infrastructures. This also relates to the need for establishing **sound institutions** that can effectively address the constantly evolving requirements of the community. And there is the need for designing and

implementing the relevant **land administration functions** in the areas of land tenure, land value, land use and land development; and also the infrastructure for the data sets presenting information on the natural and built environment.

These issues are also in the heart of the global agenda in terms of the Eight Millennium Development Goals. And we as the professionals in these areas of land administration, land information and information and communication technologies have a responsibility to respond to this global agenda. I will address this in more details in my presentation later this morning.

FIG and the international surveying community therefore strongly support this event and I wish you all the best for the outcome to be a great success.

Thank you very much.