

President's Report

Introduction

This President's report is my first report to the General Assembly covering the period from the General Assembly in Munich to this General Assembly here in Hong Kong. It is at the same time also a historical one as it is for the first time coming from a President of a Council, whose members are directly elected by the General Assembly. They all represent different nations and even four continents. It is an honour to serve you as a President during this historical period, that may influence our work much more than we could expect when the decision was made in Korea in 2001.

We have selected "*Building the Capacity*" as the overall theme of the Council. Already during these first few months of our term of office this has proved to be a hit for focussing on the main issues that we will face during the next years.

The Council and I have been very busy since the elections in Munich in preparing this Working Week and especially the policies as presented in the new Council Work Plan 2007-2010. Time has been very short to get everything in place. In the future we will have to ensure that the FIG congress and elections is held during the first half of the year and thereby allowing the Council and commissions more time to prepare themselves for their term of office.

As mentioned in my election speech in Munich I suggest that we should both "*to fly high and keep the feet on the ground*". We should never forget the gum booth surveyors and their needs but at the same time we should raise the FIG role as global player especially in helping the poor and contributing to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

I would once again thank the past President Holger Magel and his team for the excellent work they have done during the last four years. It is easy to build on the work that the previous Councils and Bureaux have made in building FIG to the institution that it is today. I recognise that I am standing on their shoulders – and the view from there is very good.

Formally our Council took over the responsibility of FIG at the well-organised and stylish handover ceremony in Münster which provided excellent – even historical – surroundings for the handover. My thanks go also to DVW for hosting the Council and the handover ceremony and organising the successful Congress in Munich. But now it is time to look forward.

Members

We were lucky to get our 100th member association in Munich. But to be honest I think that we are about to reach the level where the number of member associations cannot really increase. We will certainly get some new member associations and fill in holes in the FIG world map e.g. in India, Central Asia and some parts of Latin America. However at the same time we have to struggle to keep some of the current members. Some members will not be

able to pay their membership fees unless the member associations that are better off will help. There is also another trend that some national associations are merging with national organisations that are closely linked to surveying. And at the same time we are still facing problems with some associations saying that FIG is only for land surveyors. We will have to find ways to deal with these challenges.

We should also look to get new members through secondary membership, such as affiliate, academic, and corporate membership. But we need to consider carefully what we can offer to these potential members. Here in Hong Kong we organise a special forum for corporate members and academic members encouraged by the success of the presidents' meetings. We want to know better what we can provide for them. We will also introduce the forum for affiliate members such as national mapping and cadastral agencies, where the first meetings will be organised in Stockholm in 2008 and in Sydney 2010.

One part of my work – and I would say a very pleasant one – has been the possibility of visiting member associations. Nothing can compete with personal meetings. During the first months of my term of office I have already met with member associations from Ireland (both associations), Cuba, Kenya and our colleagues in Sweden, Finland and of course own home association in Denmark.

Council and ACCO

I am very happy to work with the new Council that will bring new ideas to the work of FIG. I noticed this already at our first meeting in Copenhagen in March. Even though most of the time was used to prepare the council work plan and the meeting here in Hong Kong, it also gave the indication of enthusiasm and devotion. We have a great team.

The Council decided based on the proposal of the Task Force on the FIG future governance structure to make some changes in the statutes and internal rules already at this General Assembly. We decided to prepare a more thorough revision of the statutes for approval next year in Stockholm. We will then also consider harmonising the terms of office of the Council and commissions so that preparation of both policies and work plans can work in parallel.

We may also need to consider the rules of organising FIG working weeks and congresses to guarantee a regional distribution and also an economic outcome to FIG. In the future, we should enter into direct partnership with the hosting association and thereby also share the surplus. Unfortunately, this has not always been the case at previous conferences.

In February I had an excellent meeting with the Commission chairs in Bratislava. I want to give the commissions more power and space in running ACCO. We have a very good team of commission chairs and I am fully convinced that the Commissions will be the heart, soul and spirit of FIG also in the future. To allow this they also need support from the member associations. By this I mean both political and financial support.

The FIG Office is now functioning well. We have finalised the split of responsibilities so that the role of the Director is now more strategic while the Office is in charge for daily administration. At the end of 2006 the FIG Office moved to new and more central address in Copenhagen. Our host association DdL decided to move to these modern facilities and enter

into an agreement of administrative support from the Danish engineering association IDA. From FIG point of view nothing has changed in our conditions except that we now have even better facilities. I would like to express my thanks to DdL for their continuous support to FIG.

Co-operation with the United Nations and international organisations

After the elections in Munich I visited the World Bank in November with the aim to strengthen co-operation between FIG and the Bank. As a result from this visit we have now signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bank that will be endorsed here in Hong Kong. The main project resulting from the MoU is a high-level joint conference around the Millennium Development Goals to be held in Washington D.C. in November 2008. The World Bank has further committed to support all major FIG events. We have established a UN Liaison Committee to deal with this.

The two other main partners in the United Nations are FAO and UN-Habitat. I have had discussions with FAO and will meet their representatives in September. With UN-Habitat we have had several meetings. I visited UN-Habitat in January 2007 to development FIG's commitment to the UN-Habitat agenda on the Global Land Tool Network. This was then confirmed during my recent visit to the 21st Governing Council Meeting of the UN-Habitat (16-20 April 2007). Main outcome of this visit was FIG several contributions to the Global Land Tool Network including development of the so-called pro-poor social domain model. I will present this in more details at my presentation in the plenary session tomorrow. We have also established a Task Force on The FIG commitment to the UN-Habitat agenda on pro poor land management.

Co-operation with Sister Organisations

The co-operation with sister organisations is organised through the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies that I am also chairing until the next meeting in Moscow in August 2007. In this position and as the FIG President I attended the World Map Conference in Hyderabad in India. In addition to a keynote presentation I also had several meetings with the Indian surveyors and I expect that India will soon join FIG at least as an affiliate member.

Final remarks

To conclude my report I would like to express my thanks to member associations, other members, commission chairs, officers and delegates and to my Council members. My special thanks belong also to the HKIS and the Organising Committee of the FIG Working Week 2007 that I am sure will be a great success.

Thank you very much

Stig Enemark
FIG President

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