

**Report to the 34th General Assembly
FIG Working Week 2011 in Marrakech, Morocco**

President's Report

Colleagues and Friends,

This Council is some four plus months into its four-year term of office. The Council and I are definitely off the starting block.

The primary energies of Council and the FIG Office this past four months has been to prepare for this all important Working Week where at today's General Assembly, Council seeks the General Assembly approval, among others, for –

- The Council Work Plan;
- The Work Plan for the ten Commissions;
- The Work Plan for the two Networks; as well as;
- The Terms of Reference for two new Task Forces;
- The Budget for 2011 as well as the rolling four year Budget for 2011 – 2014; and
- The proposal to freeze membership fees at the approved 2012 level for 2013 and 2014.

In this first four months, Council has been engaging the membership by accepting and participating in member association's events and meetings as well as engaging and participating in FIG's partners events, the outcome of which I shall report under Agenda Item 14 and 15 later this morning.

22 January, Tirana, Albania (VP Potsiou)

20th anniversary of the Albania Association of Geodesy

11-12 March, Thessaloniki, Greece (VP Potsiou)

General Assembly of the European Group of Surveyors (EGoS)

**4-20 April, New York, USA; Rome, Italy; Nairobi, Kenya; Washington DC, USA
(President)**

The Third Preparatory Meeting of the Proposed United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial

Information Management (UN-GGIM)

FIG 2011 Working Week – Site Inspection and Working Visit/Visit to FAO and FIG 2012 Working Week

(together with VP Potsiou and Markku Villikka)

23rd Governing Council of UN-HABITAT and IAB of GLTN “Sustainable Urban Development: Equitable

Access to Land, Housing, Basic Services and Infrastructure”

World Bank Land Tenure Meeting

12 April, Pristine, Kosovo (VP Potsiou)

Workshop on Land Administration and Management – Prishtine 2011

27-29 April 2011, Novosibirsk, Russian Federation (VP Staiger)

Geo-Siberia 2011

2-6 May, Vienna, Austria (Gert Steinkellner, President OVG from Austria represented FIG)

26th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

10-12 May, Rome, Italy (VP Alnaggar)

FAO Technical workshop on “Gender-Equitable Governance of Land Tenure”.

Colleagues and Friends,

I am taking this opportunity to address all of you present here today

Engaging Global Challenges

Within the Federation, we still recognized that humanity currently faces a series of challenges – adequate food and shelter, climate change, disaster risk reduction, rapid urbanization as well as environmental degradation and increasing poverty chasm. The belief remains that surveyors has a CONNECTION to the various initiatives and efforts to address these challenges and must CONTRIBUTE towards these efforts. It is a contribution that will add to the sum total of all efforts and energies to address and to overcome these challenges.

Colleagues and Friends

Within our own professional world, there are OFTEN

The divide between

- Professionals and Policy Makers
- Professionals and People at the grassroots

There is the debate on

- Appropriate levels of accuracy
- Appropriate levels of technical sophistication
- Adoption of the newest and latest technologies
- Credibility and traceability of data and hence reliability of information provided

There is the distance (or disconnect) between

- Practitioners and the younger generation of surveyors including surveying students (mindful that the younger will one day succeed the elder)
- Academicians and the practitioners, the academic programs and the industry practices
- Profession’s estimation of its role and the actual reality

It was remarked to me recently that Surveyors are so similar that they are more akin to each other, whatever nationality they may be, wherever they may come from, however they

practice their sciences, when they come together, they are more akin to each other than they are to their fellow country men.

This unity is not lost in the formulation of the Council Work plan for 2011 – 2014. This strength within our profession and our Federation allows Council to initiate a work plan with the intent to further enhance the Profession's relevance within society, environment and economy that requires the Profession to engage the challenges of the times. I have outlined some of these challenges and in addition the divide, the debate and the disconnect within our Profession. In FIG, there is also the demand for predictability and sustainability, within our administrative and financial capacity, within our competence and continued ability to produce and deliver desired outcomes.

It is for this reason that the Council and I have decided that we need to -

- engage the membership to further strengthen the standing and prestige of the profession and the Federation;
- continue engaging global challenges, contributing meaningfully from within our competency and capabilities;; and
- enhance the significance of surveying, promote the profession's relevance and extend the usefulness of surveying for the benefit of society, environment and economy.

These will be underpinned by careful management together with fiscal prudence and restraints to ensure the sustainability of the Federation's delivery and membership services. These will be addressed through the Federation's activities at all levels: the Council; the ten Commissions; the two Networks; the Four Task Forces – as well as through FIG's Permanent Institutions and the FIG Foundation.

We will begin, this year in Marrakech, by "bridging the gap" and next year in Rome, by "knowing our operative territory and environment". Council and ACCO in our meetings these past two days agree that a shift is needed and together with the Networks, Task Forces, Permanent Institutions and the FIG Foundation, we intend to bring together FIG's collective abilities towards a shared outcome.

Colleagues and Friends,

It is my estimation that within FIG, we have the competencies and the capabilities, we have proven our ability to muster efforts and energies and I am MORE THAN OPTIMISTIC for FIG despite the divide, the debate and the disconnect that I have mentioned earlier. It is my firm belief that we have a key role towards addressing the various challenges humanity faces, we have a distinct contribution and we are at a time of opportunity.

Herein lies my greatest challenge as this should not be the conviction of a single person, rather the COLLECTIVE effort of all of us, the sum total of all our collective efforts and energies can MAKE THE DIFFERENCE. Throughout this week, I look forward to getting to know and to meet as many of you as I can, to listen and understand so that FIG and our members can TOGETHER meet the varying aspirations and expectations.

As the Profession continues the race to the top, efforts must continue to seek opportunities to extend the usefulness of surveying into addressing adequate food and shelter, secure tenure

rights, governance of land and natural resources, climate change and environmental sustainability, national and economic progress and prosperity, mindful that with opportunities comes responsibility.

I am optimistic, as together, we can be 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.

Thank you.

President CheeHai TEO

FIG 34th General Assembly, 2011 Working Week, Marrakech, Morocco

18th May, 2011