

IGSM 2025 REPORT

From May 4 to 10, the 37th International Geodetic Student Meeting (IGSM 2025 Rabat) was held in Rabat, Morocco, bringing together more than 100 students of Geomatics Engineering, mostly from Europe.

This edition, the 37th, was the first to be held outside Europe, this time in the Moroccan capital. The organizing team was composed of Nouhaila Sebiti, as Secretary General, and Mohammed Khouitti, as Treasurer, in addition to about 10 other young people in charge of the different matters of the event.

This edition, with more than 400 registrations in the first 10 minutes of the opening of the registration period, was limited to 100 attendees (excluding the local team) from 22 different countries -European- and was mainly held at the Institut agronomique et vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV Hassan II), the university where the Bachelor's degree in Geomatics Engineering is taught.

The structure of the event is similar for each edition, as shown in the picture, including scientific, technical, cultural, leisure and fellowship activities.

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Website: <https://igsm2025rabat.com/>

Day 1 (Sunday, May 4th)

On the first day only, the Welcome Dinner was held, leaving the attendees all day to arrive and settle in at the hotel. The accommodation this year, included in the participation fee, was the Oscar Hotel, where the FIG Foundation representative had a complimentary single room during his stay.

The Welcome Dinner consisted of a traditional meal with chicken curry with potatoes as the main course, plus fruit for dessert.



Day 2 (Monday, May 5th)

On this second day, in the morning, the opening ceremony of the IGSM is held where a space is reserved for sponsors. The ceremony started with the speech of the Secretary General of the IGSM, the Director of IAV Hassan II and the Director of the School of Geomatics. Then, different presentations about the organization of the present IGSM and the activities to be developed during the week were followed by a typical Moroccan artistic performance. After a coffee break, the FIG Foundation as sponsor through Angel Collado made a presentation entitled “FIG Foundation and FIG Ecosystem” where he explained what the FIG Foundation and its work with young people is, especially in its sponsorship, what is the FIG, what are the youth meetings and Working Weeks, etc.. He also encouraged the attendees to actively participate in FIG and to sign up for the scholarships offered by the FIG Foundation, among other things. Of all the sponsors, the FIG Foundation was the only one to speak at the opening ceremony. Ángel Collado took the opportunity to talk with academic and professional members of our profession who were present at the ceremony.



After lunch, in the afternoon, a cultural visit to the city of Rabat took place.



In the evening, the international dinner was held, where each participant brings food and drinks typical of his country and offers them to the rest creating a moment of transfer of cultures and gastronomy.



Day 3 (Tuesday, May 6th)

This third day, in the morning, is reserved for the technical presentations and scientific posters that the students have presented to the IGSM being awarded, by an academic jury - professors of IAV Hassan II - and the whole of the attendees, the best in both cases.



In the afternoon, sports activities such as soccer, basketball and volleyball were held.



In the evening there was a group dinner, where Angel Collado said goodbye to all the attendees in order to attend another engagement in the Netherlands during the following days.



Day 4 (Wednesday, May 6th)

This fourth day is reserved for a full day excursion to another city or tourist attraction. On this occasion, the attendees visited the city of Chefchaouen (Chaouen) known as “the blue city”.



Day 5 (Thursday, May 7th)

This fifth day is reserved for Workshops given by university professors on all branches of Geomatics (surveying, geodesy, mapping, photogrammetry, remote sensing, cadastre, GIS, etc). The FIG Foundation, as a sponsor, could also give a workshop if it wished to do so. Also, students listen to lectures from professional experts in different sectors.



Also, the students reserved the afternoon to attend different museums in the city as a cultural activity.

Day 6 (Friday, May 8th)

This last day (day 7 is for check-out only), is reserved for the General Assembly. Here, all attendees have a voice and a vote. They discuss how the IGSM week has gone, positive and negative aspects, as well as economic issues. The General Assembly ends with the election of the IGSM venue two years ahead, i.e. last year Zagreb (Croatia) was chosen for the IGSM in 2026 and this year Wroclaw (Poland) was chosen for the IGSM in 2027.



To conclude the IGSM, this last night is the Gala Dinner where the students wear their most elegant attire and music plays in the background.



FINAL REMARKS

Angel Collado, represented the FIG Foundation approaching the importance of youth in the future of our profession. He showed the vision and mission of the FIG Foundation, the different grants that it periodically announces and reserves for young people under 35 years of age. Angel Collado also emphasized the relevance of the FIG Ecosystem and encouraged them to participate more actively.

As a final point and with the intention of uniting or strengthening ties between the IGSM and FIG YSN, Angel Collado proposed that by 2028 at the FIG Working Week in Paris, or at the FIG Congress 2030, if Seville (Spain) is the winner, both youth meetings should be held jointly to take advantage of synergies and strengthen a network of young people in Europe.

Angel Collado

FIG YSN Educational Affairs Representative

Spanish FIG Delegate