

Report to the 32nd General Assembly in Eilat, Israel, 3-8 May 2009

President's Report

Introduction

This President's report is my third report to the General Assembly so we have passed mid term in the current Work Plan. This report covers the period from the General Assembly in Stockholm in June 2008 to the General Assembly in Eilat in May 2009.

The Working Week in Stockholm can be considered in many aspects a big success. The meeting was attended by 950 people from over 90 countries, which was the record for a FIG Working Week. I congratulate the Swedish surveyors for their efforts in organising this well functioned conference. The Working Week also strengthened our close co-operation with UN-HABITAT through the joint seminar on *Improving Slum Conditions through Innovative Financing*. As a result of this seminar a joint publication (FIG publication #44) was prepared and launched at the 4th World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China in November.

At the General Assembly in Stockholm several FIG publications were launched showing the wide spread of activities of the Federation and its commissions. The General Assembly also endorsed the revised statutes that completed the transition period to new governance structure. The Council is proposing minor changes to the internal rules to clarify the election procedures at the meeting in Eilat. The governance change has then been followed by reorganising the FIG Office and creating a quality management system for the Federation's administration. The office is now in good hands of our new General Manager John Neel since January 2009. I have a strong expectation that the FIG governance and administration structures are now in place.

Among the several important issues that were decided in Stockholm included election of two Vice-Presidents – Iain Greenway from United Kingdom and Teo CheeHai from Malaysia. I would like to record the my sincere thanks to Ken Allred and Paul van der Molen for their long time contributions to the Federation, that I am sure will also continue in the future. The co-operation with the partly new Council team has started in a very creative and positive manner that is very promising for the next two years.

The first Council meeting with the new Vice-Presidents was held early February 2009 in Copenhagen where the focus was very much on evaluation the finance situation and developing the FIG policy on finance issues. The discussion was partly a reponse to the discussion raised at the General Assembly in Stockholm and partly due to the global financial crisis. The Council has seriously considered the issues about the membership subscription level for the biggest member associations and also the need for improved transparency in reporting on the finance issues to the members. The Council believes that these concerns are now well addressed by the proposals presented under the financial issue at the General Assembly meeting in Eilat.

Related to the discussion on finance issues the Council is aware that there is constant need to improve the reporting on our activities and for justification of value for money for our members in the Federation. General administration costs are necessary for any organisation in order to allow for well functioning daily businesses. In a global organisation like FIG a key focus is on providing the continuous information flow through the home page, monthly e-Newsletters, and publications - e.g. 6 publications, Annual Review and FIG Profile only during 2008. The Office, and especially the FIG Director, also has a key role in supporting the President, Council members, and Commission officers in executing their duties and promoting the global standing of FIG as the leading international organisation within surveying and land management. I will present a more comprehensive oral report on this issue at the General Assembly meeting in Eilat.

Members

As mentioned in my report last year FIG has been lucky to get new member associations every year for a longer time. When writing this we have one more member association from Niger that will be brought to the General Assembly for adoption and there are some other new members in the preparation process. However, we have almost reached the level where the number of member associations cannot be expected to increase much more. I assume that the proposed new membership fee structure that favours small, new associations will improve the situation e.g. in Africa and other regions where we still have some gaps due to lack of professional associations. The Council is also looking for other ways to fill in gaps in the FIG world map including India and Central Asia.

The Council is preparing a marketing campaign to get new members through secondary membership and especially through affiliate membership. As an indication of this policy we organised the first special forum for national mapping and cadastral agencies in Stockholm. This will be followed up with meetings in Eilat and by a big forum at the FIG Congress in Sydney 2010, where I am convinced the system will be in place.

The Council has intensified co-operation with the Corporate Members and we are considering how to improve the benefits for corporate members by developing more tailor-made and longer-term co-operation agreements between FIG and our corporate members. During the last months we have managed to get some new corporate members despite the economic crisis.

The Council is also considering how to improve the benefits for the Academic Members and to ensure their continuing membership of FIG.

At this point I want to thank also the Danish Association of Chartered Surveyors, DdL for their continuous support to FIG by hosting FIG in Copenhagen. This support will continue also after FIG will start to pay rent for the office space from 2010.

Visits

During the past year, since June 2008, I have been happy to visit member associations and representatives in Italy in conjunction to the FAO/FIG/CNG International Seminar, France during the OGE and CLGE Conference in Strasbourg, Ireland (Society of Chartered Surveyors Annual Conference), China (World Urban Forum), Greece, and United Kingdom.

In February 2009 I visited the World Map Forum in Hyderabad. In conjunction to this trip I also visited New Delhi to discuss the membership of India in FIG. On the way back I also visited Nepal trying to pursue Nepal to rejoin FIG. Before the Working Week in Eilat I am planning to visit Kenya in conjunction to the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT, and Russia in conjunction to Geo-Siberia 2009, where we plan to have a special meeting for the Central Asian countries.

It has not been possible to attend all events where I or Council representatives have been invited. So in these cases I have sent a greeting or a welcome address in writing or a video greeting. These events include celebrations of member associations in Jamaica, Hong Kong and Poland.

From the Council members Paul van der Molen visited the Surveyors Institution of Tanzania in August. Pedro Cavero as the FIG ambassador attended on behalf of me the International Conference in Costa Rica to discuss options for establishing a regional surveying organisation for Latin America. Vice President Matt Higgins attended the 3rd meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems in Pasadena, CA, USA as part of FIG commitment on GNSS international co-operation.

In preparations for future FIG events I have visited Australia in August 2008 to sign the joint venture agreement with the Institution of Surveyors, Australia and again in November together with Vice President Matt Higgins and the FIG Director to prepare the FIG Congress 2010. I have also visited Hanoi, Vietnam in July in preparations for the 7th FIG Regional Conference to be held in Hanoi in October 2009 and together with Vice President Dalal S. Alnaggar Morocco in December 2008 to launch the FIG Working Week 2011 together with ONIGT. These visits offered excellent opportunities to meet with both surveyors and politicians in the host countries and to raise public awareness of the surveying profession.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the hosts of all these visits.

Commissions

The Commissions are working very effectively both by facilitating technical programmes for the FIG conferences, by organising their own events and through their working groups, many of these providing valuable contributions to the FIG publication series. In many ways the commission work represent the very heart of FIG through the possibility for national delegates to participate and interact in developing the various disciplines of surveying and land management.

I have been able to attend personally the Commission 7 Annual Meeting and Seminar in Verona in September 2008 and the Commission 2 Seminar in Vienna in February 2009. I

want to recognise also the first seminar that Commission 9 organised jointly with CIREA and HKSI in Beijing in October 2008, the Commission 3 workshop in Mainz in February 2009, About new ways of participation, I contributed by videoconferencing Commission 2 workshop in Enschede just before the Working Week in Stockholm. This is something that we need to consider in the future to extend the FIG contributions especially in national events.

Co-operation with the United Nations and international organisations

Co-operation with the United Nations is one of the main topics on the Council Work Plan. Especially surveyors' contribution to implementation of the Millennium Development Goals is a key issue. This work is directly under the President who is supported by the newly appointed Liaison Ambassador for the United Nations, Paul van der Molen.

Following the joint FIG/UN-HABITAT seminar in Stockholm I was invited to attend the 4th World Urban Forum in Nanjing to present the outcome from the seminar as a keynote speaker in *Dialogue 2 - Promoting Social Equity and Inclusiveness*, which was one of the six core dialogues at the WUF, where also the report from the Stockholm seminar was launched. The FIG contributions to the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) were highly appreciated both in Nanjing and in other GLTN events. The FIG work on the social domain model has developed during the year in many fronts and we can expect results from this during 2009.

The second major UN partner over many years has been the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In 2008 the joint activities included the joint FIG/FAO/CNG Seminar in Verona in September on State and Public Land Management. I attended also the Expert Group Meeting on Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Natural Resources at the FAO Headquarters in Rome in November 2008.

The third key partner is the World Bank with whom we are organising a major joint conference on Land Governance in Support of the Millennium Development Goals to be held in Washington in March 2009. The outcome of this conference will include a joint FIG/WB declaration that should show how FIG and WB work in parallel to achieve the MDGs and thereby enhance the standing of global surveying profession.

The co-operation with sister organisations has been organised through the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies where I attended the meeting held in conjunction to the XXI ISPRS Congress in Beijing in July 2008.

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 hosts of the FIG Working Weeks in Stockholm and in Eilat. I am convinced that we will have a great conference in Israel in May.

Stig Enemark
FIG President

1 March 2009