

GeoConference Quebec 2007
Quebec, Canada, 2-5 October 2007

Welcome Address

By FIG President, Professor Stig Enemark, Denmark.

Minister of Natural Resources, Rector of Laval University, President of the Francophone Federation of Surveyors; honourable 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 more than 1000 participants from more than 40 countries. The organisers should be congratulated for putting together such an interesting and obviously very attractive event – we are all looking forward to some very exciting days.

This is in fact not my visit to Quebec. I was here in 1995 to the so called Biannual North American Geomatics Teachers Conference held at the Laval University. I still recall this beautiful city and its hospitality. And I am happy to see that some of my colleagues from the conference in 1995 are also in the organising committee for this conference. I am looking forward to explore some more of your hospitality and also developing further professional relations.

The agenda of this conference is very wide - technical, managerial and also 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 achieved.

However, the creation of modern information systems and the implementation of sound land administration systems is not as simple as that. This is the challenge of the broad based profession of land professionals.

The special feature about this conference is the focus on the Francophone culture. It is a real pleasure and very encouraging to see so many representatives from Francophone countries especially from the African region.

Please enjoy this great opportunity to share experiences and also enjoy the unique and beautiful environment of the old Quebec City.

Thank you very much.