

International Federation of Surveyors Handover Ceremony

26th November 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark

Address of the Incoming President

CheeHai TEO, FIG President 2011-2014

I am deeply humbled and honoured to wear this chain of office as I stand before all of you today. The immensity and weight of this responsibility are not loss on me. It is a responsibility and stewardship that I pledge to carry with dedication, diligence and dignity over the coming four years, with the Grace of the Almighty.

After the selection process in Sydney, I remarked that President Stig's shoes are definitely too big to fill. This has become more evident as days lead to weeks and months. President Stig, we salute your contribution to the Profession and the Federation. On behalf of the Federation, I thank you for an energetic and illustrious Presidency, for your able leadership and passion in developing and bringing the Profession and the Federation to new and greater heights. It is only natural that a day like this is also a time of reflection over the past four years. I am privileged to be part of this period and would just summarise by quoting Albert Einstein –

“Everything that can be counted does not necessarily count; everything that counts cannot necessarily be counted”

So, again, on behalf of the Federation, I wish to express our utmost thanks and appreciation for your leadership and success of the Federation. We wish you well and success in your ongoing endeavours. We look forward to your continued contribution in the development of the Profession and the Federation.

The surveying profession in Malaysia is indeed fortunate to have the main stakeholders come and work together to continually strengthen the relevance and role of the profession. In the audience today is the Director General of Survey and Mapping Malaysia who is also an Adjunct Professor at two of our leading universities with programmes in surveying, Prof Dr Abdul Kadir Taib as well as the President of the Association of Authorised Land Surveyors Malaysia, FIG's sole member association from Malaysia, Mr Mohammad Azmi Mohd Zin. They represent the Government, the Industry and the Academia and I am indeed very grateful for their ardent support for the in-coming Presidency, the Federation as well as the XXV FIG Congress in 2014.

Not only do I have to thank my home member association and the Government of Malaysia, I would also like to express my thanks to my colleagues and partners of the practice where I began my career as a Graduate Surveyor about 30 years ago. I also need to express my sincere gratitude to my dear wife and my three children whom, as I said before, constitute the only members of my fan club. Though they cannot be here today, I know they are cheering me on. Last, but not least, I must thank member associations as well as the general membership of the Federation for this privilege and for the many of you who travelled here for this occasion.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on Council – all the elected Vice Presidents, the elected chairs of FIG’s ten Commissions, the chairs of the two FIG Networks, the chairs of the Task Forces, the Directors of FIG’s Permanent Institutions and the President of the FIG Foundation. At the onset of a new term, I want to acknowledge the many who are volunteering their resources, who will toil away unrecognized, in the shadows of those of us having positions. The Federation is where it is today because many have unselfishly volunteered and contributed. The Federation will scale new heights with the unselfish performance¹ and contribution of many more including you who are here today.

Stig and I have been working closely over the past six months to ensure a smooth transition of the Federation’s leadership. Though our background differs, so our style and preferences. I must say we have worked very well together as we are both committed to that single destination² for our Federation and our Profession. One of the key initiatives revolves around the FIG Office and Administration. The Federation remains stable and is well respected with a membership that is energized. I am thankful to Stig for his graciousness and guidance during this transition.

As the Profession continues the race to the top, efforts must continue to seek opportunities to extend the usefulness of surveying into governance of land and natural resources, environmental sustainability, national and economic development, mindful that with opportunities comes responsibility.

Yesterday, the in-coming FIG Council met and among others discussed the proposed Council Work Plan, a road map in the Council’s management and development of the Federation. The Council is mindful of the need –

- To continue engaging global challenges in partnership with international and multi-lateral agencies and bodies; and
- To enhance the significance of surveying, to promote the Profession’s relevance and extend the usefulness of surveying for the benefit of society, environment and economy;
- To continue engaging the membership, to encourage higher levels of participation in FIG events and activities.

The proposed FIG Council’s work plan had inputs from many and I thank you. It is one that doesn’t clamour for change rather it is about developing continuity. The Federation, heading into the second decade of this century, requires that Council build futures from the foundations that had been laid by councils and bureaux in the past decade.

Within the Federation’s global surveying community, it is recognised that there is strength in the diversity of cultures and languages. It is this diversity that gives not just the breath and the depth to the Federation’s work but also richness in the results as all come together to journey with one mission and one vision.

The Federation will continue to play a significant role in its partnership with UN agencies such as UN-Habitat, UN-FAO, UN-OOSA, and the World Bank as well as sister and allied

¹ “Confidence . . . thrives on honesty, on honour, on the sacredness of obligations, on faithful protection and on unselfish performance” (Franklin D. Roosevelt)

² “Our minds are as different as our faces, we are all travelling to one destination” (Charles Caleb Colton)

organizations in facing global challenges. When encountering these global challenges, the Profession through our knowledge, standards and competence, can provide confidence, clarity, certainty and be part of the solution.

The Council, through its various activities, will engage and encourage the wider membership, particularly member associations, to enhance their role and relevance of the profession within its jurisdiction and work towards sustainable futures.

Finally, the Council recognises that at the onset of its term in office, we are in a period of austerity brought on by global economic and financial uncertainties. These economic and financial uncertainties affect the Federation's membership directly. Thus the Federation's administration and finance will be underpinned by fiscal prudence and restraint.

It is now my distinct pleasure to introduce to you the in-coming Council.

- Vice President Dalal S. ALNAGGAR (2011 – 2012) from Egypt.
- Vice President Iain GREENWAY (2011 – 2012) from the United Kingdom
- Vice President Chryssy POTSIOU (2011 – 2014) from Greece, and last but not least,
- Vice President Rudolf STAIGER (2011 – 2014) from Germany.

Commissions are the powerhouses of the Federation and yesterday, the incoming Council discussed and will recommend to the General Assembly to adopt the revised budget for 2011 where Commission's Grant will be increased by 20% with the hope to improve the Commission's effectiveness and delivery system. I have the pleasure to introduce to you the Chair of FIG's 10 Commissions.

- Ms Leonie NEWNHAM (Australia)
Chair, FIG Commission 1 (Professional Standards and Practise)
- Prof Dr Steven FRANK (United States of America)
Chair, FIG Commission 2 (Professional Education)
- Prof Yerach DOYTHER (Israel)
Chair, FIG Commission 3 (Spatial Information Management)
- Dr Michael SUTHERLAND (Trinidad and Tobago/Canada)
Chair, FIG Commission 4 (Hydrography)
- Mr Mikael LILJE (Sweden)
Chair, FIG Commission 5 (Positioning and Measurement)
- Prof Dr Gethin Wyn ROBERTS (United Kingdom)
Chair, FIG Commission 6 (Engineering Surveying)
- Mr Daniel ROBERGE (Canada)
Chair, FIG Commission 7 (Cadastre and Land Management)
- Mr. Wafula NABUTOLA (Kenya)
Chair, FIG Commission 8 (Spatial Planning and Development)
- Prof Dr Frances PLIMMER (Ms) (United Kingdom)
Chair, FIG Commission 9 (Valuation and the Management of Real Estate)
- Mr Robert SINKNER (Czech Republic)
Chair, FIG Commission 10 (Construction Economics and Management)

I must also mention others whom I consider are part of the Federation's wider leadership and some are here in the audience today.

- Dr David MARTIN (France)
Chair, FIG Standards Network
- Ms Katie FAIRLIE (Australia)
Chair, FIG Young Surveyors Network
- Dr Diane DUMASHIE (United Kingdom)
Chair, FIG Task Force on Africa (2009 – 2014)
- Dr Daniel STEUDLER (Switzerland)
Chair, FIG Task Force on Spatially Enabled Society (2009 – 2012)
- Prof John HANNAH (New Zealand)
Proposed Chair, FIG Task Force on Surveyors and Climate Change (2011 – 2014)
- Mr. Christiaan LEMMEN (The Netherlands)
Director, FIG International Office of Cadastre and Land Records (Office International du Cadastre et du Régime Foncier) (OICRF)
- Mr Jan DE GRAEVE (Belgium)
Director, FIG Permanent Institution for the History of Surveying and Measurement
and definitely not the least,
- Mr John HOHOL (United States of America)
President, FIG Foundation

I thank you.