



3rd FIG YSEM 16 May 2015 Sofia, Bulgaria

'European Young Surveyors together for tomorrow's challenges'



3RD YOUNG SURVEYORS EUROPEAN MEETING REPORT



The success of previous FIG Young Surveyors events have paved the road to yet another collaboration of Young Surveying Students and Young Professionals. Merely a year has gone by since the FIG Young Surveyors Network with the support of FIG, CLGE and the FIG Foundation held a remarkable 2nd Young Surveyors European Meeting in Berlin, Germany.



The **3rd Young Surveyors European Meeting** was held in sunny Sofia, Bulgaria on the 16 May 2015. About 50 keen young professionals from 20 countries gathered together to share and explore new ideas, address pressing issues and focus on the future development for the European YS Network. Through organizing the meeting as a pre-event of the FIG Working Week 2015 we were lucky to also welcome YS from Malaysia, China, Japan, Nigeria and Ghana to share with us their current needs and views.



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The future of Young Surveyors, as professionals as well as individuals, entails endless possibilities and unique opportunities, interspersed with various challenges and new agendas. What is our role in this future and how can we best meet those challenges and seize those opportunities?! This is only a glimpse of the questions raised and discussed during yet another fruitful YS European Meeting.





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The meeting traditionally started with an opening ceremony and a photo session. The ceremony entailed short welcome speeches by the representatives of the organizations. FIG President and the guest of honor – *Chryssy Potsiou* shared her conception on how essential FIG's close collaboration with the YS Network is in joined effort to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for our profession as well as facing providing solutions to the pressing matters at hand. *Eva-Maria Unger*, chair of the YS Network and *Paula Dijkstra*, the vice chair of administration presented the agenda of YS Network and gave an overview of the work plan.



Seeing that the Meeting focus was on European YS and CLGE represents the regional European Surveyors Network, its recent projects activities, such as integration of a YS representative in CLGE's Ex board, were especially highlighted by *Mr. Anakiev* who spoke on behalf of CLGE President - *Maurice Barbieri*. Followed are speeches from *Angel Anakiev*, Chairman of the chamber of Engineers in Surveying in Bulgaria and *Borislav Marinov*, the Dean of the University where the meeting was held. Both speakers encouraged YS to get involved in various organizations, such as CLGE and FIG and broaden their horizons to be in sync with the rapidly changing world. The ceremony was concluded by *John Hohol*, FIG Foundation President, whose support and dedication to helping and promoting YS knows no bounds and a round of applause for all the speakers.



During the one day event there was a variety of topics covered, the first being astronomy and the somewhat surprising relation it has with surveying. The inspiring and enlightening presentation was giving by *Vladimir Bozhilov*.

After the coffee break, during which the participants had the opportunity to get to know each other, the stage was given to keynotes speakers: *Rahmi Nurhan Celik*, *John Brock* and *John Hohol*. Each speaker took the audience on a journey through our unique surveying history. Starting with Aristoteles, highlighting surveying achievements during the Napoleon time and ending in



the modern world of surveying through an extraordinary tale taking place in Japan, covering the most outstanding discoveries and groundbreaking inventions.

'A Better Future Can be Built on Past Experiences'

Next on the itinerary was an interactive working session, themed "Wisdom through Trial and Error". The attendees were divided into 3 groups, one gave emphasis to broader integration of YS in different organizations and the prospect of tighter collaboration, the other focused on YS role on an international scale, and the third group brainstormed on the topic of YS Network unfolding tasks and responsibilities. This was a stirring illustration of a spirited team work.

Some of the objectives presented at the end of this session included:

- :: establishment of a global professional forum as a platform for data, experience and resources sharing
- :: a much extensive promotion of YS activities with priority given to advertisement of various meeting via students' associations worldwide and quid pro quo affiliation with national organizations, which entails job outsourcing in exchange for sponsorship

The afternoon session was dedicated to "Challenges of the Modern World, Innovations and Land Management". The goals and missions of the UN-Habitat Global Land Tool Network as well as the essence of the "Fit for Purpose" concept, were highlighted by *Cyprian Selebalo*.

Followed by *Nyncke Emmens* presentation on the potential of land consolidation as a tool for land administration and development. The session continued with *Artemis Valanis*, who shared her ideas and experience regarding international job opportunities:

"Think Globally, Act Locally"

Prof. Borislav Marinov explained fundamentals of modern photogrammetry, whereas the innovation part of the session was demonstrated by *Dr. Khaled el Nabbout*. The participants were dazzled by latest achievements in 3D laser scanning and unlimited data management.

The concluding session of the day offered an opportunity for open debate by inviting the participants to the speakers' corner. Diverse ideas were brought up, various topics discussed. Featuring "Urban change digital mapping" a research conducted by *Godwill Pepple*, an inspirational and encouraging pitch from *Zurairah Abdul Halim* on a surveyor's time-line, followed by *Asparuh Kamburow* presenting an innovative project for raising awareness and advertising the many aspects of our profession among the young generation. The session rounded up with a taste of what's to come – the upcoming events:

:: 4th YSEM in the Netherlands *Paula Dijkstra*

:: 5th YSEM in Finland *Thomas Jylha*

:: 6th YSEM in Turkey *Pinar Demirci*



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At the closing ceremony the organizers took the opportunity to express our appreciation and gratitude to our esteemed supporters: **CLGE, FIG** as well as **Trimble** without whom this event wouldn't be achievable. A special thank you to **FIG Foundation** which made it possible for 12 lucky YS to attend the meeting owing to the funds provided.

Furthermore the unprecedented teamwork of the organizing committee was praised. 19 enthusiastic YS guided by *Paula Dijkstra* and *Eva-Maria Unger*, came together to prepare and carry out this imperative event. After a very full and productive day, time has come to explore and enjoy Sofia's hospitality. All of the participants and honored guests joined together at a traditional Bulgarian restaurant, to savor local cuisine, to enjoy conversation and dancing.

'Alone We Can Do so Little, TOGETHER We Can Do so Much'
- Helen Keller

Those simple, yet brilliant words best recap the outcome of this amazing event, which made possible for YS from around the world to learn from each other's experience, gain new perspectives, and contribute to forging of the **European YS**.

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