



International Federation of Surveyors
 Fédération Internationale des Géomètres
 Internationale Vereinigung der Vermessungsingenieure

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Liaison FIG/International Association of Geodesy (IAG)

Professor Gerhard Beutler, president of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), presented a very well received keynote speech during the first plenary session of the FIG Working Week held from 22nd to 27th May 2004 in Athens, Greece. In it he outlined the development of geodesy and surveying and their evolution during the space age. He paid special attention to the major effect of the emergence of Global Navigation Satellite Systems. His keynote went on to explore possible areas of co-operation between FIG and IAG. There will be further coverage of this keynote in a later issue of GIM International.

A subsequent meeting between Professor Beutler and FIG Commission 5 officers allowed detailed discussion of areas for further co-operation, in addition to compilation of a document on how FIG/IAG Liaison will now be further enhanced:

- ◆ cover the establishment of a joint committee of key FIG and IAG officers to oversee liaison and implementation of the MoU between the two organisations
- ◆ to reflect the latest structure of the IAG (for the benefit of FIG officers)
- ◆ to outline the commission structure of FIG (for the benefit of IAG officers)
- ◆ to identify the relevant FIG and IAG officers needing to liaise on specific topics, (e.g. which FIG Working Group Chairs need to liaise with which IAG Sub-Commission Chairs)
- ◆ ensure closer co-operation at future events, such as the FIG Regional Conference in Jakarta in October 2004 and the IAG Sci-

entific Assembly in Cairns, Australia in August 2005.

UN Office for Outer Space Affairs

The second keynote in the first plenary session was by Ms Takemi Chiku, of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN OOSA). Under the title 'Building Capacity of Developing Countries in Using Space Technology for Sustainable Development' her presentation highlighted three main areas for co-operation between FIG and UN OOSA:

- ◆ Capacity Building
 - through the UN Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education
 - through UN workshops, training courses and seminars and their follow-up projects
- ◆ Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)
 - establishment of the International Committee on GNSS
 - defining the role of user community
 - implementation of pilot projects
- ◆ Disaster Management
 - articulation of user requirements in developing countries (mapping, urban planning, management of land and water resources).

This presentation also outlined the role of various other UN Action Teams related to the use of Space Technology and of possible interest to FIG commissions. Following her presentation Ms Chiku met with the FIG president and FIG Office director and the chairman of FIG Commission 5, and the wording was agreed for a Memorandum of Understanding between FIG and UN OOSA. Co-operation with UN OOSA arose through the UN Action Team on GNSS and represents an important development in view of the



Prof. Jean-Marie Becker receives the honorary membership certificate from FIG president Magel.

gathering momentum of the European Galileo project.

Hydrography: Vertical Reference Frame

Another highlight of the working week in Athens was the Workshop on a Vertical Reference Frame for Hydrography, a joint session involving FIG Commission 4 (Hydrography) and Commission 5. In this workshop, Ruth Adams of the UK Hydrographic Office and Steve Shipman of the International Hydrographic Office in Monaco presented issues identified to date by our Joint Working Group on the topic. Their presentations were given from a hydrographic point of view, based on the white paper drafted by the Joint Working Group and IHO consideration of the issues. An excellent and wide-ranging discussion followed, which included some geodetic concepts drawn from the knowledge of Commission 5 people present. This

workshop was an excellent example of how joint Commission activities can enable stringent, multidisciplinary examination of practical problems. Ruth Adams will use feedback from the workshop to revise the white paper accordingly.

Prof. Jean-Marie Becker

Prof. Jean-Marie Becker (immediate past chair of Commission 5) was appointed as a new Honorary Member of the Federation. The present author served as vice-chair to Jean-Marie and spoke on behalf of all commissions in strong support of this recognition of his long and excellent contribution to FIG.

Website

Further information on FIG and its commissions is available at www.fig.net

Matt Higgins, Chair, FIG Commission 5