

FIG Handover Ceremony
2 December 2006, Münster, Germany

Address of the New President

Prof. Stig Enemark, FIG President 2007-2010

FIG President Holger Magel, FIG Honorary Presidents Peter Dale and Robert Foster, DVW President Hagen Graeff, Colleagues and Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honour for me to stand here today wearing this traditional President's chain of office as a symbol of the Presidency of FIG 2007-2010. So, even if my term of office will not commence until 1 January 2007 - I will enjoy this moment.

As mentioned already, this is not only a handover. This event is a milestone representing the threshold to a new era of FIG. An era based on direct personal election of the FIG leadership in terms of the President and the council members, to ensure that FIG becomes a truly democratic and globally based NGO. This is not a criticism of the former FIG structure that now ends. This evolution is natural. The country based leadership was rooted in traditions of hosting the 4-yearly congress, while the directly elected leadership is based on the demand for providing leadership in a complex and globalised world.

The current structure of country based leadership has provided great leaders. We are happy to have with us today two Honorary Presidents: Peter Dale from the UK bureau and Robert Foster from the US council, and of course the current FIG President Holger Magel from the German council who has carried the transition period.

So standing here today as the incoming FIG President 2007-2010 I do realise that I am standing on the shoulders of my predecessors. And standing on the shoulders of the last President Holger Magel is quite a high stand – the foundation is solid and the view is good. Thank you Holger for your eminent leadership that have delivered an organisation so highly geared for facing the upcoming challenges. The new council will take on this challenge and develop FIG even further. Also thanks to the German association DVW for supporting FIG so heavily during the last four years. I hope and I trust that this commitment will continue also in the years to come.

The role of the FIG council will now change towards a more global approach. The personal style of the President will also change – as has always been the case in the FIG history. Compared to Holger, I may have a more modest style – but I do know what I want to achieve.

We should always mind the gap. As an international NGO we have achieved so much but still there is so much to be done. I just can't wait to get into action to implement the program presented at the Congress in Munich. I truly believe that we should both fly high – be engaged and contribute to the global agenda as presented by the United Nations. In this regard I am happy to continue the work started by the previous councils, and even broaden it especially in relation to the World Bank. At the same time, however, we should keep our feet on the ground – being aware of our role and services to society, constantly develop our professional base, and being even proud of our contributions.

Yes, together with the new team, I do have an agenda for the next four years. In fact, this agenda is a heavy one. But I am happy to have an excellent and globally well focused council, very committed commission chairs, and also highly professional office staff to help me achieving the goals. FIG is stronger than ever and we will develop the organisation even further with a special emphasis on the regional and cultural aspects.

Let me conclude by conveying my personal and collegial thanks to Holger. I understand that you have been canonised as the pope of the rural areas. So, in contrast, I would like to give you this beautiful book focusing more on the urban design. To me, balance is a key word in both our professional and personal life. Thank you Holger - I will follow your footsteps, but I will also find my own paths towards developing the organisation to become a truly global icon for all surveyors.

Stig Enemark
FIG President Elect 2007-2010