

**Greeting at the Opening Ceremony**  
**Professional Enhancement Course for Surveyors**

**Rome 11 September 2006**

**Dr.-Ing. Andreas Drees, Vice President of FIG**

Dear Mr. President Panunzi, distinguished guests, dear colleagues and friends of FIG,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a real pleasure for me and an honour as well to convey to you the greetings of FIG, the mother of all surveying disciplines and surveyors. I also congratulate all Italian surveyors for organising this professional enhancement course for surveyors here in Rome.

I also bring you all a warm greeting from the FIG President, Prof. Holger Magel, for whom I am standing in today. He has the best memories from his latest visit to your national congress that was held last year in Palermo. He is very happy about the close co-operation between CNG and FIG. Based on this close relationship FIG is happy co-sponsor this professional enhancement course for surveyors.

We are meeting in Rome, which is one of the eldest cities in Europe and about 2,800 years old. Rome was the centre of the Roman Empire and became later the major location of the Roman Catholic Church. As a consequence it got a very strong impact not only on Europe, but the whole world: a lot of languages have roots in Latin; the ancient state – and legal system was a model for modern states and their legal systems; architecture from Rome influenced buildings in the entire world. As a result Rome and Italy have affected world history. Bridging over to our surveyors' world one can say, Rome and Italy were and still are of great significance for FIG.

The Italian surveyors belonged to the founding members, when FIG was established in Paris in 1878. As you can see FIG is a very old lady – but she is still beautiful. Since those early times CNG has played a very important role in FIG. The FIG Congresses have taken place twice here in Rome (1938 and 1965). Further more two Permanent Committee meetings (or as we today call them Working Weeks) were held in Italy, in Rome in 1935 and in Florence in 1955.

The contribution of the former Italian FIG Presidents (Fanti 1939-1942) and Biagi (1964-1966), councillors, honorary presidents and members (Fanti, Chiaramello and Fantini), several commission chairs and a big number of delegates to FIG has always been outstanding. The current Council appreciates very much, that CNG has decided to apply to host the FIG Working Week 2011 again in Rome. As you know decision on the host and venue will be made at the FIG Congress in Munich next month.

FIG Director Markku Villikka and I will take the opportunity during the next days to have a sight inspection on the possible conference venues and accommodation facilities so that we are prepared to report back to the FIG Council and the General Assembly next month. I wish CNG and Italy all success with your application and your efforts to get this major FIG event again to this fantastic city.

But let me return back to this course that starts today. To enhance the professional knowledge and skills of surveyors is one of the most important objectives for FIG. To do this at an international level is the target we have to follow. Bearing in mind the global market, surveyors in all countries have to be carefully aware not only to survive but to use the opportunities of the growing new markets in GIS, property valuation, land management, photogrammetry and others. To be prepared for this, best education and continuous professional development (CPD) are required.

What you have prepared now is an international enhancement course just of this manner, because you dedicated the programme and the participation not only to Italian surveyors, but to international students as well. To open the course also to foreign participants is a really good approach to this topic.

With this professional enhancement course you, Mr. President Panunzi and distinguished representatives of CNG, have made a really international activity and I am very sure that this will benefit both sides: Italian surveyors will learn a lot from the knowledge and experience exchange with the international participants as they will do vice a versa.

I also congratulate you on the international profile of this course by bringing in international experts as lecturers from Turkey and Greece in addition to the Italian experts.

I will report about this event to the FIG family and tell them all, that this refresher course could be a model also for other member associations to improve their CPD programmes.

I wish you all a lot of success and help for your business and your professional career. Last but not least, I hope that you will have time and opportunity to enjoy also the life and lifestyle in this unique and wonderful city of Rome.

See you soon at the XXIII FIG World Congress in Munich next month!

Thanks for your attention.