

FIG-President's Closing speech
Conclusions and FIG-Responses
of the 2nd FIG Regional Conference
**"Urban-Rural Interrelationship
for Sustainable Environment"**

Marrakech, 2-5 December 2003

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Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues, how do you feel now? A little tired perhaps, but surely happy. At least we of FIG-council are both tired and happy! When you'll arrive at home in the next days you probably will be asked about the outcomes of this conference and the usefulness of your participation. Like it will happen to me at my university. Let me try to help you find the right answers:

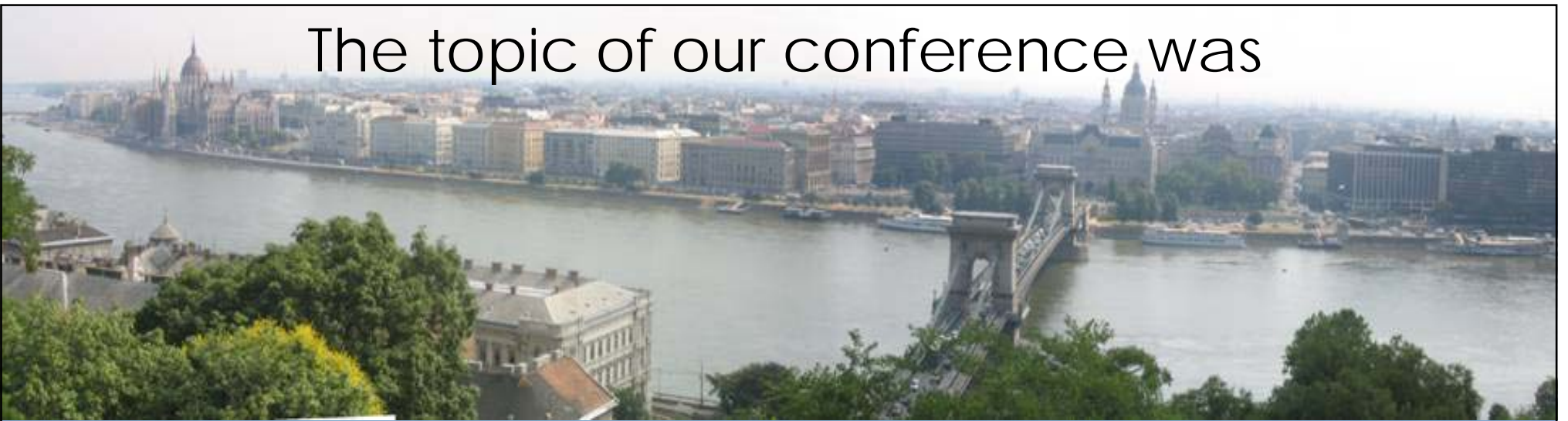
Let us firstly remind of the Objectives of the Conference

- To discuss of urban-rural issues against an increasing awareness of the international communities / organizations
- To strengthen our profession and the links between public and political institutions in Africa and especially in the Arabic countries
- To convince countries and academic institutions to join FIG and to benefit from mutual dialogue and knowledge exchange
- To be better prepared for the international dialogue concerning the need to build a sustainable and more just world
- To ensure that the results of this 2nd Regional conference on rural-urban interrelationship becomes an essential component of the dialogue, which is fully in line with the FIG-motto "Shaping the Change"

FIG is strongly interested in a multi-disciplinary collaboration with many other partners for comprehensive solutions. We trust in the contributions of our member associations, commissions and highly qualified experts. Against this background we welcome regional networks like the Arab Federation of Surveyors and the ASEAN FLAG

The topic of our conference was

Rural-Urban Interrelationship
for sustainable environment



The Political Challenge like it was pointed out by
UN-representatives and myself in my opening
speech is

To move from pro- or contra-urban
view to well balanced politics for both
urban and rural development and
urban-rural cooperation

And we have to cope with political Challenges as they are formulated in

UN-millennium declaration and global campaigns encouraged actions on crucial challenges of mankind:

- Good governance
- Poverty alleviation in urban **and** rural areas
- Access to land, secure tenure in urban **and** rural areas
- Sustainable development in urban **and** rural areas

The social and technical responsibility of professions - including FIG as global NGO - is to address and contribute to the above challenges.

FIG can respond in an excellent way with a broad range of competences and contributions

What are some preliminary Conclusions and FIG's responses?

It is not just and we can not talk only about data, procedures and technical issues like many surveyors do prefer it. **It is about making good policies and decisions.**

It is our duty to inform, motivate and influence (policy) decision makers and the public

It is about interdisciplinary and cross-sector cooperation which demands knowledge sharing between professional disciplines

It is about awareness and building capacity in the professions, government agencies and educational institutions

To continue with FIG's Responses!

It is essential to coordinate and simplify cooperation

- Global and regional initiatives have to play a key role in supporting sustainable developments

It is essential to establish new interdisciplinary approaches

- The past has not provided satisfactory solutions for the present. New visions and management tools are needed to provide solutions for the dynamic future.

It is essential to provide better planning, use and management of land and natural resources based on broad participation of stakeholders

- This is not only a political necessity – it is a **matter of survival: we must act**

What are our FIG politics, strategies and FIG - actions in future with regard to the outcome and usefulness of this Regional Conference?

Continue the FIG Regional Conferences in cooperation with UN and other partners (the next one will be in Jakarta as we just have heard it!)

- To provide focus on regional issues in a global context and
- To respect the variety of needs, cultures and languages within FIG

Create Marrakech Declaration

- To enhance awareness within the professions and decision makers about the growing urban - rural divide
- To provide adequate tools to improve urban – rural linkages
- To develop pragmatic solutions for today's complex problems
- To promote the role of surveyors in these fields as enablers, mediators and advisors
- To focus on better education conditions especially in sub-Saharan Africa

Back to our Conference Objectives, with which I have started my closing remarks

- New Arabic members (Algeria, Saudi-Arabia, Tunisia have joined)
Welcome to FIG-community!
- The challenges of a changing world call for increased international cooperation (Stig Enemark).
FIG is prepared for it – but not only FIG, but also our Moroccan member association ONIGT and our brilliant Moroccan organizers!

Congratulations and many, many thanks!

So let me come to the end:

It's really a great privilege for me – on behalf of all of you from so many countries – to say words of thanks.

Many many Thanks

- to his majesty the King and to the Moroccan government and all governmental authorities
- to ONIGT – President Aziz Hilali and his council members for overwhelming hospitality, to congress director Ahmed Boukri and his team for excellent organisation incl. an outstanding public relation work and to El-Mekki Abouelala, our inspiring and charming chair of the hospitality committee for a wonderful programme.

We always had great confidence in you and we got an outstanding reward!

I would like to thank on behalf of you

- to all speakers, chair, rapporteurs and participants!
- the drafting group and all of my very engaged council members, commission chairs and delegates and especially our office director Markku Villikka with his team
- to all African, Arabic and especially Moroccan colleagues
The participation was overwhelming. It was - according to a very often cited criticism and bias - not only the international FIG-jet-set who was in Marrakech! No, it was really a Moroccan event with many Moroccan colleagues. This is the outstanding success of this conference!

I'm totally sure that this 2nd Regional Conference in this unique city which is a world heritage for all of us, will remain unforgettable and will for ever remain an outstanding experience of nearly 1001 night. And you all can tell your people at home: It was not only a dream, no it was reality!

Inspired and full of new energy and hope let's come to the closing of this conference and let's raise for our fanfare!