

## **INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SURVEYORS**

### **PRESIDENTS' MEETING**

#### **SUMMARY NOTES**

of the meeting held in Lagos room at the Nicon Luxury Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
8:30 to 10:30

In attendance: Participants list attached as appendix to this memo. Totally 36 persons attended this Presidents' Meeting out of which 30 were Presidents of member associations or Heads of delegations.

#### **1. OPENING**

President CheeHai Teo opened the meeting and welcomed all Presidents, Heads of Delegations and representatives from member associations to the traditional Presidents' meeting and the third under his presidency. This meeting is arranged for the presidents of member associations to share their views on any issues of their interest in a more informal atmosphere on the sideline of the General Assembly. Furthermore a Member Associations' Forum was organized on 8 May 2013 where presidents can network and interact on issues and trends of mutual interest. The Forum is chaired by the host association (NIS, Nigeria) and the next host association (PEJUTA, Malaysia), can follow up next year on matters of interest.

President Teo asked the participants in the discussion to raise matters of concern to their associations nationally and internationally as well as any feedback to the organisers of the Working Week in Abuja.

Before opening the discussion FIG President Teo and President of the Malaysian association, Mohammad Azmi Mohd Zin, informed about the 2014 Congress that will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 16-21 June 2014 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. The General Assembly will take place over two full days since the agenda is expected to be lengthy on 16 and for the 21 June 2014 and will include end of term reports by Commissions, Networks, Task Forces, Permanent Institution, Foundation and Council; usual consideration and decision on the business of the Federation; proposed amendments of FIG Statutes as well as selections for vacant FIG Council positions (two Vice Presidents and the President for 2015 - 2018 term of office must be elected). The venue for both 2017 Working Week and 2018 Congress will also be decided in Kuala Lumpur.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Young Surveyors Conference will take place at the same time as the Congress but at another venue within walking distance from the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. The Young Surveyors will participate in the Opening Ceremony as well as the plenary sessions before proceeding to their own session.

The local association, PEJUTA, has organized a special Carbon Offset event for all participating presidents or head of delegations. The Carbon Offset Project is a tree-planting session during the Congress at a Park outside Kuala Lumpur and President/HoD is expected to participate and to each plant a tree on behalf of all participants. All presidents/head of delegation are encouraged to participate and it is recommended to wear comfortable out-door clothes.

**Recorded** that altogether 33 persons attended this Presidents' Meeting out of which 27 were Presidents or their representatives.

## 2. DISCUSSION

The discussion focused on comments from Presidents/HoD/Representatives of member associations on matters that may be related to-

- the state of the Association and Profession
- state of affairs within FIG as reported at the 1st session of GA
- any question or clarification that may be needed
- activities of this past week
- suggestion for this forum next year (earlier for example)
- President/HoD views of the Council's proposal on the revised voting structure

Jan Hardos, CSC Slovakia: There are too many surveyors in Slovakia. 50% of the new graduated surveyors are unemployed. What is the future of the profession? Until now technology has been very important, but now all are working with IT. FIG needs a permanent institution on "the Future of the surveyor", not only a task force. In the developed countries we face a problem with not enough new work for surveyors.

Co Meijer, GIN, Netherlands: Expressed thanks for this platform to exchange information between associations. GIN is also involved in several work groups in FIG. It is well represented and gives interesting information. The Netherlands is working on training new/young surveyors to organize themselves. The Netherlands is facing a high average age of surveyors, and new capacity and "new blood" is needed.

Francis Roy, CIS, Canada: In Canada, recruitment is high on the agenda. There are more jobs than available students/surveyors. Therefore it is necessary to attract more new students.

Robert Sinkner, CUSC, Czech Republic: Czech Republic is facing the same problems as Slovakia, that there are too many surveyors. Therefore the Commission 2 activities are very important. Czech Union of Surveyors and Cartogaphs hopes to have a close relationship with the ministry – today many surveying areas are decided by the Ministry of Finance, however they would like to have much of this moved to the Ministry of Agriculture. It is also important to secure that the jobs are being filled with Surveyors and not other groups.

Eunice Macharia, IOS, Kenya: Quite much is happening in Kenya right now. It is vibrant and busy. The association is working on establishing its own facilities and is building capacity in secretary, which is not easy and a challenge with voluntary work since people are busy. Furthermore they are setting up a training center which will be a big achievement. Therefore they are also looking at equipment. It is important to reduce costs for members. Furthermore

there is attention to the legislation, land reform, and the recruitment of surveyors as well as being inclusive.

Gintcho Petkov Kostov, USLMB, Bulgaria: USLMB is organising a yearly International symposium with participation from all over the world and with special sessions for young surveyors. Bulgarian surveyors are facing many issues; e.g. lack of work and opportunities (these past few years) plus intense competition. Recently graduated surveyors are fired from private companies.

Muhammad Bashir Nuhu, NIESV Nigeria: The Land Reform is a challenge for Nigeria. There are more than 770 local governments and it is a challenge to make the professionals work together. Furthermore, less than 4% of the land is mapped, so there is a big job ahead. Also valuers are involved and instead of having all working on their own and protecting their interests, it is necessary to encourage all to work together. There is no culture of having assistants (capacity).

Bode Adeaga, NIS, Nigeria: The surveying profession has developed rapidly. There are now 2000 registered members, but many are not allowed to practice in private registered surveying companies. A certification is needed for this incl. an extra education. Therefore qualified surveyors are brought in by foreign companies who take the jobs from the local surveyors. An issue would be to import less qualified surveyors and use the locals. NIS encourages FIG to look into mutual recognition. Furthermore NIS thanked all for coming to Nigeria.

Angel Yanakiev and Zlatan Zlatanov, CGS, Bulgaria: The technical sessions of FIG events are important. It is a good environment to share ideas. CGS faces that the government is not aware of the thinking behind the work of the surveyors (cadaster). Here FIG has a global importance. Furthermore CGS invited all associations to Sofia, 17-21 May 2015 for the FIG Working Week.

Paul Marshall, PLATO, South Africa: A new legislation is being implemented in South Africa to abolish the licensing body and instead be state dominated. When this legislation comes through the association is no longer valid, however they will try to work on having a voluntary organisation that will be taking over the representation.

Mamadou Ndir, ONGES, Senegal: ONGES thanked FIG and NIS for the Working Week and also the President, Vice Presidents and Chairs for making a very good Federation. The work with the Young Surveyors is important and good for the future of the profession. Would like to see FIG being active with land affairs in the various countries.

Marc Vanderschueren, UBGE, Belgium: UBGE is working on harmonizing the surveyors role both within Belgium and at European level. The Measurement Code for the Floor Area of Buildings (EuREAL) is important, and Belgium is continuing to develop cooperation with federal and municipal agencies.

Godelive Phanzu Vangu and Matshitshi Seraphin, FIGT, Congo DRC: Congo DRC has a two-tier system and activities have two levels, cadastral and others. The training for young surveyors for francophone is a good initiative. There is no numeric cadastre in Congo DRC, however they have a corporation with Belgium Development Agency to establish a system.

The country faces problems with the land affairs. The association is working on a special training for Young Surveyors in DRC, and has been in contact with John Hohol, FIG Foundation and Diane Dumashie, Chair of FIG African Task Force.

Jules D Pofagi, OGE, Benin: A challenge is that only part of the profession is organised. Therefore OGE encourages FIG to help Benin with the profession. It is the first time that Benin is present at the Presidents meeting.

Makila Ekwok Armand, APIT, Gabon: The association is only two years old and new in FIG from the General Assembly where Gabon was admitted as member. There are not many surveyors in Gabon, but 90% work in public administration. There are no jobs in other fields for local surveyors, however experts from outside are brought in. The university is also a new member of FIG – and the university is working on establishing an education for cadastral surveyors. Like other Sub Saharan countries Gabon struggles with the authorities to make them both listen and understand the possibilities that surveyors can help with..

James Dadson and Kofi Gawson-Adjeu, GIS, Ghana: Ghana has focused on young surveyors in order to secure that the interest in profession is sustained. They have started student memberships and give them professional lectures. They face that surveyors swap to other professions (e.g. banking), so one focus area is to keep them interested in the surveying business and to expand membership through faculties. Attending FIG conferences is one way, however funding is a challenge. Ghana hopes to send Young Surveyors to FIG activities helping them to sustain their interest. Another focus area is the legislation to regulate the profession. There are many who are not members and many who are not really qualified.

Volker Schwieger, DVW, Germany: There are too few surveyors in Germany, and there is a fear that other professions take over the surveying areas. DVW has tried to promote the profession through a web site: <http://www.arbeitsplatz-erde.de/index.php?id=1&L=1> which is also published in English. The target group of the web site is young people. The hope is to attract you people to study the surveying field. The web site describes among other things different career possibilities. Furthermore DVW is trying to merge all German associations into one brand name, and it is discussed to use the term “Geodesy” in the name. The technical sessions at FIG Conferences are important. You can find a lot of information on the internet, but the sessions give the possibility to interact, discuss and debate.

Yerach Doytsher, ALSI, Israel: Israel is also facing having too few surveyors. The economy in Israel is good and there are several larger infrastructure projects. There are 1000 surveyors with licence/registered, but only around 200 are practicing. The profession has changed. 10 years ago focus was on the technology, however today it is necessary to articulate a new vision and define the tasks of a surveyor differently. ALSI encourages FIG to widen the topics of e.g. conferences to enable other people/professions to join us.

Chryssy Potsiou, TCG/HARSE, Greece: The Greek economy is in transition. There are many restructurings and reforms in the public sector creating instability and which affects the role of the surveyor, both in the public and the private sector. An educational reform is being worked on, trying to adjust the education into the current needs. The panning system is also being revised, and there has been a changed legislation for land valuation. The real estate

market is very low which also creates a problem for surveyors. However, Greek surveyors still have jobs and are well

Pengfei Cheng, CSGPC, China: It is good times for surveyors in China. There are plenty of jobs, and students/new graduated can easily find jobs. A surveyor registration system was established three years ago it is however not being enforced. An improvement in the system for assessing surveyors is needed. National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation (NASG) of China has received USD 4.8 million over 5 years to support UN initiative – especially supporting Young Surveyors and meetings for Director General to meet and discuss. CSGPC is considering submitting a bid for FIG 2018 Congress.

Shujiro Nishi, JFS, Japan: A problem in Japan is that young surveyors are not interested in the activities of FIG. Last year there were 6 presentations at the FIG Working Week, but that was an exception, and only because there was a special theme on disaster/risk. JFS does not know how to solve this. The surveyors are more interested in other academic activities.

Mohammad Azmi, AALSM Malaysia: There are altogether 3000 land surveyors in Malaysia, but about 600 are licensed. The government is working on new legislation for land surveyors. AALSM is networking with regional groupings, and is having multilateral and bilateral discussions in the region. AASLM is deeply engaged in the preparations for the 2014 FIG Congress Furthermore a post-congress gold game is being organized.

Maria Henriques, OE/CEG, Portugal: Portugal is also facing financial problems like many other southern European countries. OE/CEG is hosting the first European Young Surveyors meeting 17-18 October 2013 and encouraged European associations to support the young surveyors to attend.

Arvi Teller, MIL, Finland: The situation in Finland is generally good, but in general costs are being cut. A more process orientated approach is being worked on. A new land registration has been made with electronic conveyancing. The Finnish associations have earlier indicated that and remain very interested in bidding for and co-organizing the FIG Working Week 2017, because it is the year of Finland's 100 years independence.

CLSS, China: Important areas in China are land use mapping, and undertaking cadastral surveying in the rural areas. China is a fast developing country and therefore the mapping and cadastral surveying is of high importance.

Leonie Newnham, SSSI, Australia: The economy in Australia is quite strong, but still in the surveying area there are issues with government. A challenge for the association is the fact that the members are not very active and not many are attending conferences. They ask the question what is the value of participating in international organisations? Why should we be member of FIG and what do we get out of it. At the universities financial support has been moved from surveying into engineering, and surveyors are being merged with other fields. Therefore SSSI is working quite intensely on the image and identity of the surveying profession. A commission 1 workshop on the changing role of surveyors is being held on 11 Sept 2013.

John Hohol, NSPS, USA: Some of the key constraints for the association is that there are 60,000 professionals in the US, however only 4,500 are practicing and the average age is high – 58 years. This also means that teachers in the university system are retiring, and there are no one to take over their positions. It is necessary to fill the gap. The NSPS is organising a “Worldwide Day of Surveyor” and encourages other to take part in this.

Diane Dumashie and Gary Strong, RICS, UK: Thanked the host of the FIG Working Week 2013. RICS is working on recruitment and try to cover as many parts of the profession as possible. RICS is interested in getting more people attracted to enter the profession – also non-surveyors. It is necessary to open up, but still to maintain standards. Is working on strengthening the RICS brand and getting high professional and ethical standards. RICS is working on their partnerships and are represented in many areas of the world. E.g. in India they have established a school, since India is very short of surveyors. Another important issue is thought leadership – what will be the future of the profession. It is necessary to get together to think and discuss. This could be a FIG task.

Henning Elmstroem, DdL, Denmark: Thanked Nigeria for the hosting of the FIG 2013 Working Week and to the FIG office. A suggestion to future FIG conferences is to have more powerful internet and be more digital. There are 1000 surveyors in Denmark and currently there are no unemployment, and the association is facing a challenge with only few students. All European Universities are connected to define a code of qualifications, code of areas, and a code of ethics.

A. J. Alufohai, NIQS, Nigeria: The institution is responsible for the training of the surveyors. A three year training is needed to get qualified to practice. There is a good relationship in Nigeria with the other surveying associations. Nigeria is an emerging economy and therefore there is a lot of work to do and to keep the quantitative surveyors busy. NIQS hopes that a mortgage system that works and building system can be established to help their work. NIQS also thanks all participants for coming to Nigeria.

### 3. SUMMARY

In his closing remarks President Teo thanked all for the comments and concluded that there are many commonality as well as diversity in the challenges faced by the membership. President Teo suggested that the presidents meeting could perhaps be held much earlier in the week and that topics from the meeting could be used in the forum to address certain issues. It is an intensive week, and it may be a pity that the presidents are only gathered at the end of the week with no further possibility to talk and network amongst each other.

Members are encouraged to dialogue and work with each other and to help in providing leadership in the Profession. Eunice Macharia, ISK, Kenya proposed whether it would be possible to use IT forums to meet more frequently. There is also a need for mutual recognition of qualifications to facilitate the mobility of surveyors especially the younger, but it is not simple to implement.

FIG Office requests to be updated with latest/correct contact person and email addresses, and encouraged all members to remember to inform FIG if there are changes. There is a lot of

information on the FIG web site, and much information can be found here. FIG has started a process to improve the technology and to upgrade the web site.

Bode Adeaga, NIS, Nigeria, remarked that it was a pity that there was not larger participation from outside Nigeria and thanked all for present for having the confidence to come. He furthermore encouraged more cooperation between the associations.

President Teo closed the meeting by encouraging engagement and appealing to all participants to continue its contribution and support of the many volunteers that make FIG effective and successful. The value of FIG is people, and FIG is thankful for the contributions from the members e.g. to support active people in the voluntary work and to participate in the FIG events.

## FIG Working Week 2013 - 6-10 May 2013

### Attendance List

#### Presidents' Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Name	Member Association
1) Jan Hardos	President, Chamber of Surveyors and Cartographers, Slovakia
2) A. J. Alufohai	President, N.I.Q.S, Nigeria
3) Co Meijer	Head of Delegation, GIN Netherlands
4) Francis Roy	Head of Delegation, Canadian Institute of Geomatics, Canada
5) Robert Sinkner	Head of Delegation, Czech Union of Surveyors and Cartographers, Czech Republic
6) Eunice Macharia	Head of Delegation, Institution of Surveyors of Kenya
7) Gintcho Petkov Kostov	Head of Delegation, USLMB, Bulgaria
8) Muhammad Bashir Nuhu	President, NIESV, Nigeria
9) Bode Adeaga	President, Nigerian Institute of Surveyors, Nigeria
10) Bern. Omo Akhigbe	Representative, NIS, Nigeria
11) Angel Yanakiev	President, Chamber of Graduated Surveyors, Bulgaria
12) Zlatan Zlatanov	Representative, Chamber of Graduated Surveyors, Bulgaria
13) Paul Marshall	President, South African Council of Surveyors, South Africa
14) Mamadou Ndir	President, ONGES, Senegal
15) Godelive Phanzu Vangu	President, FIGT, D.R. Congo
16) Matshitshi Seraphin	Representative, FIGT, D.R. Congo
17) Marc Vanderschueren	Head of Delegation, Union Belge des Geometre Experts, Belgium
18) Jules D Pofagi	President, Ordre des Geometre Experts, Benin
19) Makila Ekwok Armand	Head of Delegation, APIT, Gabon
20) James Dadson	President, Ghana Institution of Surveyors, Ghana
21) Kofi Gawson-Adjeu	Representative, Ghana Institution of Surveyors, Ghana
22) Volker Schwieger	Head of Delegation, DVW, Germany
23) Yerach Doytsher	President, ALSI, Israel
24) Chryssy Potsiou	Head of Delegation, TCG/HARSE, Greece
25) Pengfei Cheng	Head of Delegation, CSGPC, China
26) Shujiro Nishi	Head of Delegation, Secretary General, Japan Federation of Surveyors, Japan
27) Mohammad Azmi	President, AALSM, Malaysia
28) Maria Henriques	Head of Delegation, OE/CEG, Portugal
29) Arvi Teller	Head of Delegation, MIL, Finland
30)	Head of Delegation, CLSS, China
31) Leonie Newnham	Representative, Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute, Australia
32) John Hohol	Head of Delegation, NSPS, USA
33) Diane Dumashie	Head of Delegation, RICS, UK
34) Henning Elmstroem	President, DDL, Denmark
35) CheeHai Teo	President, FIG, Chair of the Meeting
36) Louise Friis-Hansen	FIG Manager, Secretary to the Meeting

36 participants from 30 member associations.