

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SURVEYORS

PRESIDENTS' MEETING

NOTES OF MEETING

of the meeting held in Fes 1 at the Palais des Congrès, Marrakech, Morocco 22nd May 2011
from 8:30 to 10:30

In attendance: Participant list attached as appendix to this memo. Totally 47 persons attended this Presidents' Meeting out of which 37 were Presidents or Heads of delegations.

1. OPENING

President CheeHai Teo opened the meeting and welcomed all Presidents, Heads of Delegations and participants to the traditional Presidents' meeting and first 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 than the formal meetings of the General Assembly.

At the beginning of the meeting all participants introduced themselves briefly.

Shujiro Nishi from the Japan Federations of Surveyors read the message from President Murai from JFS to thank all members for their support and encouragement after the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

President Teo asked the participants to raise in the discussion any issues that their associations are facing at national level and further to give any feedback to the FIG Council and about the Working Week in Marrakech. In addition, President Teo asked the meeting to consider whether a sort of "Member Association Forum" would be helpful, primarily to facilitate what he termed as "peer-to-peer learning", interacting, sharing and encouraging one another to further develop our respective member associations.

Recorded that altogether 47 people were present at the meeting, out of which 37 were Presidents or their representatives.

2. DISCUSSION

The discussion focussed on remarks and proposals from member associations related to the issues addressed by the President and other issues that the member associations felt relevant.

Mamadou Ndir (ONGES, Senegal): The Working Week was most successful and as new member of FIG ONGES participants have learnt a lot. Thanks to ONIGT and FIG as organisers.

Henning Elmstroem (DdL, Denmark): The title of the Working Week well selected and the event has given good mixture of different cultures. Suggested that the dates should be returned to the previous practice starting on Sunday and closing on Thursday. Complained on registration fees for accompanying persons as there was nothing included in the registration fee. This should be taken into consideration in the future events.

Jürg Kaufmann (geosuisse, Switzerland): Brought greetings from the President. The Working Week has been a nice one in an interesting environment. In Switzerland there are fewer practicing members and this has an impact in attracting new students and professionals. Considering to reintroduce curricula for licensed surveyors. There will be 100th Federal Cadastral Survey in May 2012. There is a need for “Surveyors Vision” that the FIG Council should consider.

Karl-Friedrich Thöne (DVW, Germany): The key issue in Germany is to integrate surveying and the society and in relation to political agenda and other professions as well as to attract young surveyors – this is the biggest challenge. There should be “one voice” internationally via FIG . Big thanks to ONIGT and in particular to the student helpers at the conference. Thanks too for organising the breakout session and putting the issue on voting rights on the table and understand the process would take time. For the conference quality is more important than quantity. In the future more forums and open discussions e.g. disaster risk management.

Diane Dumashie (RICS, United Kingdom): Thanks to ONIGT and young students at the conference administration. She also thanked for the help given to Commission 8 Wafula Nabutola during the Working Week (including First Class). RICS is building global partnerships and offers associate route to RICS membership (technical level). This has been important for hydro and geomatics sections. Further online academy has been established to help on training. RICS is focusing on policy consultations with EU and other policy makers. Valuers are under big pressure after the financial crisis and registration has been re-introduced. The FIG Work Plan is comprehensive but needs ongoing monitoring on annual basis (both Commissions and the Council). The plenary sessions in Marrakech were disappointing – a few more presentations in English would have helped. The plenary presentations should be in English.

Paul Marshall (PLATO, South Africa): Great conference. It is difficult to get to resort venues like Marrakech and Eilat. This should be considered when selecting the venues in the future. In South Africa the review on legislation and licenses is now in process. This may impact PLATO’s membership in FIG and the membership may be transferred to a voluntary association in the future.

Bence Toronyi (MFTTT, Hungary): Greetings from the MFTTT President. International conferences and personal meetings are very important. The economic crisis has impacted attendance to international events, but FIG’s role is very important and stronger relationship are needed.

Muhammad Bashir Nuhu (NIESV, Nigeria): The dream of NIESV has come true when the association became a member of FIG in Marrakech. NIESV will cooperate with NIS to make FIG 2013 a big success. The association will participate actively in the FIG work.

Fausto Savoldi (CNGGL, Italy): The Italian surveyors will surprise all FIG members in Rome in 2012. At the technical sessions even when interpretation is provided at least all slides should be in English. The keynote speakers and programme in 2012 will be decided in close co-operation with the FIG as have all preparations until now.

Jan Hardos (KGK, Slovak Republic): The registration fees are always going up, this is unfortunate because the main target of the conferences is to meet with each other. What are the benefits of FIG membership is a continuous question that we face from our members. Language is also a hindrance to more participation from Slovak Republic. Proposed that each Commission would provide a 1-2 page reports after each conference on the key findings and what were the best papers. This could then be translated locally to national language and disseminated. At the moment the information is limited to only few national delegates.

Dalal S. Alnaggar (ECSM, Egypt): Thanks to ONIGT for the largest FIG Working Week in the history. The event was well organised. FIG should increase its efforts to attract members from Africa and South America so that they feel part of the family. FIG should be a network to find surveyors contribution and point of view in actual challenges (e.g. earthquake and risk e.g. in Japan). FIG is about sharing knowledge.

Chryssy Potsiou (TEE, Greece): Congratulations to organisers. Raised concern on the costs, it would be a good target to lower the costs and allow bigger attendance. The Young Surveyors event may partly address this need. Greek economic situation impacts contributions from Greece to FIG. There is need for co-operation in her region and demand to develop education.

Collins Kowuor (ISK, Kenya): Language was an issue at FIG 2011 on technical programme and on tours. In future there should be more consideration to avoid clash between technical tours and the sessions. Request to consider if some guidance could be given to speakers “how to make effective presentations?”. Thanked FIG for ISK’s involvement with the Africa Task Force and the new Task Force on Property and Housing.

Bernard Puepi (ONGC, Cameroun): There is a need a send a short report to the government, Could FIG provide a report that could be submitted. There is need to address the ethical conduct in the World Bank financed projects – need for the international actors to cooperate with local surveyors.

John Hohol (ACSM, USA): A very full programme at this Working Week. Difficulty was in selecting which sessions to attend. In USA the big issue is ageing. The average age is 58 years. ACSM has worked in intermediate school level together with local surveying groups and companies to increase interest as well as with other geospatial partners (COGOS have been established). FIG at its Working Week must involve as many local surveyors as possible and when language is an issue, perhaps even accepting abstracts in the local language (with translation).

Steven Nystrom (AI, USA): Congratulatuons to ONIGT, Commissions, FIG Office and President Teo and one question is how to contribute to the task. In USA natural disasters have had a big impact. The economy is slowly recovering so there are lessons learnt for the new Task Force on Property and Housing. AI has been successful in producing text books and offering international certification programme that is also aimed at the international market.

Helen Murray-O'Connor (SCS, Ireland): Thanks for the conference. Suggested some improvements to technical facilities (pointers, video, access to internet) and access to printers and copiers. Participant list was missing. In Ireland SCS is merging with valuers and construction professionals. This may have an impact in the SCS membership in FIG in the future. Proposed to the Council to study options for database on international internship and work placement.

Paddy Prendergast (IIS, Ireland): Well organised Working Week. Best wishes to Teo and the new Council. Support to the proposal on two page summary from each Commission. IIS has lost 20 % of its membership and has difficulties to collect membership fees from another 30-40% of its membership. The cost cut has been 40 % at the same time when fees to FIG and CLGE have increased.

Kees de Zeeuw (GIN, the Netherlands): Good environment. As new participant has got a good overview on the association and involvement of different surveying associations at the international level. GIN organizes regional events within the Netherlands to discuss local issues. This has been successful. Age problems is actual in the Netherlands (average 56-57 years). GIN has initiated ideas on promoting the profession (changing role of technologies). Thanks for the initiative on young surveyors conference.

Yakubu Maikano (NIS, Nigeria): Congratulations to ONIGT. Welcome to Nigeria in 2013. The land reform programme has started and progress report will be available in 2013. There is a lack of government funding for universities providing surveying education that causes staffing problem at the institutions.

Brian J. Coutts (NZIS, New Zealand): Congratulations to President Teo. The way to Marrakech is long (46 hours) so in the future to consider venues with international flight connections. The university takes 65 students per year and number of applications is double. In total there are 220 students and the university will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2012. There are about 700 surveyors in NZ and the average age is 46 years. The earthquake in Christchurch has created lot of work for surveyors (disaster management report and rebuilding projects) It has also impact on CPD and works. The association bidding for 2016 Working Week in Christchurch.

Marc Vanderschueren (UBG, Belgium): Thanks to ONIGT and FIG for arrangements. UBG has focused on co-operation with EU and with OBIG in Belgium and the Belgium Cadastre and also with FGF, CLGE and OGE. The biggest worries are students and young surveyors.

Mohammed Rabah (OGEF, Algeria): The association has 70 members. Invited President Teo to OGEF General Assembly in October 2011 and to help with the political authorities to improve the situation for the profession and to help in developing the association.

Rafic Khouri (OGE, France): Thanks to ONIGT and FIG. There has been big challenges with the big number of participants. OGE is very much committed and working with FGF that now has 25 countries involved – 9 present at the meeting in Marrakech. Urged FIG to consider the language issue and not only to stick to the rules. FIG can afford to add services on other languages than English. Because of the language it is difficult to convince the members at national level on FIG benefits.

Maria Joao Henriques (ORDEM, Portugal): Thanks for the FIG web site. It is difficult to explain the importance of FIG to national members. Membership numbers in Portugal are decreasing. It was sometimes difficult to follow the presentations in Marrakech, so at least the slides should be in English.

Mohammed Azmi Mohd Zin (PEJUTA, Malaysia): ONIGT has been a wonderful host. Have learnt lot for Congress 2014. Welcomed the suggestion for some sort of Association Forums and peer-to-peer learning. AALSM has been organizing visits to other associations in the region and the learning and exchanges have been helpful.

Shujiro Nishi (JFS, Japan): The main focus at the moment is in disaster risk management and its implications to several areas including cadastre.

Angel Yanakiev (CGS, Bulgaria): The main problem in Bulgaria is the lack of support from the government for cadastre. The attendance to FIG conferences is very expensive and not possible to attend for most members. Thanks to ONIGT and congratulations to President Teo.

Robert Sarib (SSSI, Australia): The merger into SSSI has now been completed and focus is now on services offered to the members. Concurred with DVW on FIG's voice internationally. Need to maintain high quality in the technical programme especially the plenary. Costs of events need to be considered.

Mikael Lilje (ASPECT, Sweden): Thanks to student helpers. Thanks to President and the office for their engagement in promoting FIG. There is current discussion in Sweden on the membership fee and services received. Discussion on voting right should continue. Commented on the many "drop-off" at the various technical sessions. As chair of Commission 5 welcomed the proposals to Commission chairs and will bring them to ACCO (together with the ACCO representative).

Pavel Novak (CUSC, Czech Republic): Greetings from CUSC president. Thanks for good conference however there were too many non shows in the technical sessions.

Varnavas Pashoulis (Cyprus Property Valuers Association, Cyprus): Thanks to organisers and best wishes to President Teo. There was 30-40 per cent absence among speakers in certain sessions. Guidelines are needed for these technical sessions. In Cyprus the economy is down by about 15% and the property market by 30%. Property taxation is important and the focus of discussion. Discussion on voting rights is a democratic process. FIG is to share information and small members cannot be discriminated.

Su-il Hong (Korea Confederation on Surveyors/Korea Cadastral Survey Corporation): Invited the participants, particularly national geospatial focal-points to the first UN United Nations Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management in Korea in October on behalf of President Kim Young Ho.

Nbiba Abdelaziz (ANIGET, Tunisia): Thanks to organisers. The language is a problem. Welcomed the international high school in Morocco as it has capacity to develop education in Africa.

Mohamed Ettarid (ONIGT, Morocco): Thanks to President Teo and FIG for their support in organising the Working Week and to the participants for attending and their kind comments at the meeting. There were about 800 participants from Morocco. For international events it would be possible only for 8 -10 of them to participate and therefore it is important to have the conferences in as many places as possible. The language is an issue and we need to show what FIG is about first.

3. SUMMARY

In his closing remarks President Teo stated that there are challenges and successes in the Working Week and other activities. FIG will learn and move forward even though not all is well. There were several comments for the Council to consider both for the next events and other activities.

He suggested to consider having the Presidents' meeting earlier in the programme so that Presidents or Heads of Delegation or Representatives can begin to know each other thus allowing interaction and discussion during the week. This idea was supported in the discussion and one option could be to have a meeting on "association" issues after the General Assembly on the first day of the Working Week and then a second discussion on the last day to evaluate the conference and continue the discussion.

The Forums were adjudged to be successful and should be developed further. This applies to the membership forums and also to thematic forums. President Teo proposed that Commission and Task Force chairs could possibly attend the Presidents' meetings as observers, to track comments as well as to interact directly with those present during the working week. It was pointed out that the Chair of ACCO is present and would be able to provide the feedback as well as to interact with participants with respect to matters concerning commissions.

The third issue is the concern for the next generation and thus marketing the profession to students, young surveyors etc. could well be the topic for any "association forum" going forward. He commented on his observation in Korea during the 2010 NSDI Expo where there were both an art competition (spatially theme) for school children as well as school visits to the exhibitions. These initiatives to promote surveying right down to school going children can be shared with others.

President Teo mentioned as way forward that the membership fees will be fixed to 2012 level for the term of office 2012-2014. This was also acknowledged by the corporate members as they would like to get four year commitment on membership fees. Managing FIG finances with this proposal is obviously challenging.

President also thanked ONIGT and the Moroccan government in making the efforts to address the safety and security issues after the bomb blast of 28 April 2011. He also thanked the young helpers at the conference, ONIGT and the organising committee for a memorable conference.

Recorded by Markku Villikka
22nd May 2011
Marrakech, Morocco

FIG Working Week 2011
18-22 May 2011, Marrakech, Morocco
Attendance List
Presidents' Meeting 22nd May 2011

Name	Member Association
CheeHai Teo	President, FIG, chair
Su-il Hong	Korea Cadastral Survey Corp, Korea (on behalf of President Kim Young Ho)
Henning Elmstroem	DdL, Denmark
Jürg Kaufmann	geosuisse, Switzerland
Michael Zurhorst	Germany (Publicly Appointed Surveyors)
Karl-Friedrich Thöne	DVW, Germany
Diane Dumashie	RICS, United Kingdom
Paul Marshall	PLATO, South Africa
Mamadou Ndir	ONGES, Senegal
Bence Toronyi	MFTTT, Hungary
Muhammad Bashar Nuhu	NIESV, Nigeria
Fausto Savoldi	CNGGL, Italy
Enrico Rispoli	CNGGL, Italy
Jan Hardos	KGK, Slovak Republic
Dalal S. Alnaggar	ECSM, Egypt (FIG Vice President)
Chryssy Potsiou	TEE, Greece (FIG Vice President)
Collins Kowuor	ISK, Kenya
Bernard Puepi	ONGC, Cameroun
Aziz Hilali	ONIGT, Morocco
Mohamed Ettarid	ONIGT, Morocco
Moha ElAyachi	ONIGT, Morocco
Khaled Yousfi	ONIGT, Morocco
John Hohol	ACSM, USA
Steven Nystrom	AI, USA
Helen Murray-O'Connor	SCS, Ireland
Paddy Prendergast	IIS, Ireland
Kees de Zeeuw	GIN, the Netherlands
Yakubu Maikano	NIS, Nigeria
Brian J. Coutts	NZIS, New Zealand
Marc Vanderschueren	UBG, Belgium
Mohammed Rabah	OGEF, Algeria
Rafic Khouri	OGE, France
Maria Joao Henriques	ORDEM, Portugal
George P. McFarlane	CIG, Canada
Mohammed Azmi Mohd Zin	PEJUTA, Malaysia
Shujiro Nishi	JFS, Japan
Angel Yanakiev	CGS, Bulgaria
Robert Sarib	SSSI, Australia
Mikael Lilje	ASPECT, Sweden
Pavel Novak	CUSC, Czech Republic
Varnavas Pashoulis	Cyprus Property Valuers Association, Cyprus
Yaacoub Saade	Order of Surveyors, Lebanon
Nbiba Abdelaziz	ANIGET, Tunisia
Iain Greenway	FIG Vice President
Rudolf Staiger	FIG Vice President
Markku Villikka	FIG Director (Secretary)

47 participants from 37 member associations.