

FIG2010 International Surveying Congress: 11-16 April 2010

A very sincere "G'day" to all readers of *Survey Review* and a warm, collegiate invitation to travel "Down Under" next year to attend the FIG2010 Congress in Sydney Australia on 11-16 April 2010.

It is very rare for a FIG Congress to provide you with the wonderful opportunity to visit the Southern Hemisphere. Registrations are open now on the recently updated Congress website www.fig2010.com, and intending delegates should ensure they take advantage of the early bird registration rates.

Thinking of submitting a Paper? The 'Call for Papers' is open on the Congress website. This is the perfect opportunity for you to publicise your research, voice your opinion or obtain support for your ideas before an international audience. Wouldn't it be great to hear one of your ideas raised and debated at this prestigious international forum! The FIG Congress Prize for Young Surveyors, the FIG Foundation Fellowship and up to six FIG Foundation Awards will be awarded to papers selected from those presented at this Congress.

By submitting a technical paper, you have the opportunity to be on the same program as such eminent professionals as Australian of the Year Professor Tim Flannery, GSDI President Abbas Rajabifard, FAO's Dr Paul Munro-Faure, Google's Ed Parsons, PAIGH Secretary General Santiago Borrero and the UN's Dr Daniel Fitzpatrick.

One of the key features of the FIG2010 Congress will be the Workshop on 'Small Island Developing States and the Millennium Development Goals'. This Workshop is being held specifically due to the location of the Congress on the doorstep to the Asia/Pacific Region and will focus on the issues confronting island nations as they confront land governance issues.

The program for the FIG2010 Congress is a complete package that has been designed to cater for both international visitors and local delegates. Pre-Congress tours organised by our Young Ambassadors trek to Central Mount Stuart in the desolate Australian Outback, the world-famous Barossa Valley wine region and the nation's capital, Canberra. During the Congress, technical tours include a float on a boat to Fort Denison in the middle of the magnificent Sydney Harbour; watching Big Brother watch you at the impressive Transport Management Centre, fighting bushfires at the emergency operations centre of the Rural Fire Service and a tour of the SNAP (Satellite Navigation And Positioning) laboratory at the University of New South Wales.

An attractive feature of this Congress is "at cost" optional tours for delegates and their families: because our professional congress organiser *arinex* is also a travel agent, there is absolutely no Congress mark-up on tours. *Arinex* will also staff the registration desk each day to help delegates organise last minute tours and activities. There is a whole range of accommodation options available, from sharing a tent on Cockatoo Island in Sydney Harbour to luxurious 5 star hotels close to the Congress venue in Darling Harbour.

The Congress website www.fig2010.com has all the details.

See you at the Congress!

Mark T Gordon, Assistant Congress Director (Administration), FIG2010 Congress

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