

# A valuable working week

**D**URING the last month I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) working week in Rome, Italy. The week provides the international surveying fraternity with an opportunity to discuss latest innovations, methods of working and regulations that affect the industry across the globe. I was pleasantly surprised at the number and diversity of people and nations that attended, and was interested to see that the problems we encounter in the UK seem to be replicated across the globe.

The theme of the week centred on managing territory whilst protecting the environment and evaluating cultural heritage. ICES was not only represented by myself, but Professor Gethin Wyn Roberts was also in attendance overseeing discussions on his speciality of deformation monitoring and presenting papers on subjects such as detecting fire damage using laser scanners.

For my part, I was asked to present a paper on building information modelling (BIM). Luckily, within the institution we have a number of individuals who are leading the way with the implementation and development of BIM and this provided me with some excellent material on which to develop a paper.

The presentation appeared to be well received although, as always, I should have read the script and been more aware that some leading lights in the implementation of BIM would be in the audience. The questions and answers session at the end of the presentation required me to expand on technical details – I just hope my muddled responses were well received!

The working week also involved a gala dinner. Becky and I were fortunate enough to be placed on a table with the president of the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors whom Ken Hall had previously made acquaintance with during his presidency. The evening provided opportunities for networking with various other presidents and representatives from institutions around the world, and to further promote our institution to the FIG confederation.

## Back in Blighty

In matters closer to home, the institution continues to provide valuable support to the industry through work we are carrying out with the Construction Industry Council regarding further implementation of BIM within the government procurement model.

We are also providing expertise in the development of a method of measurement for railway works in conjunction with



*Top: Jason at the FIG presidents meeting. The meeting was attended by about 40 presidents from FIG member associations.*

*Middle: Over 500 FIG delegates joined Jason and his partner, Becky, at the gala dinner at the Villa Miani next to the Rome Cavalieri hotel.*

*Above: The working week also hosted the first ever FIG Young Surveyors Conference.*

the Institution of Civil Engineers and Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

## If your name's not down...

Preparations are continuing for the institutional dinner at Warwick Castle in September. I am pleased to report that we have sold all our tickets and have had to implement a reserve list.

*Jason Smith FCIInstCES, President  
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