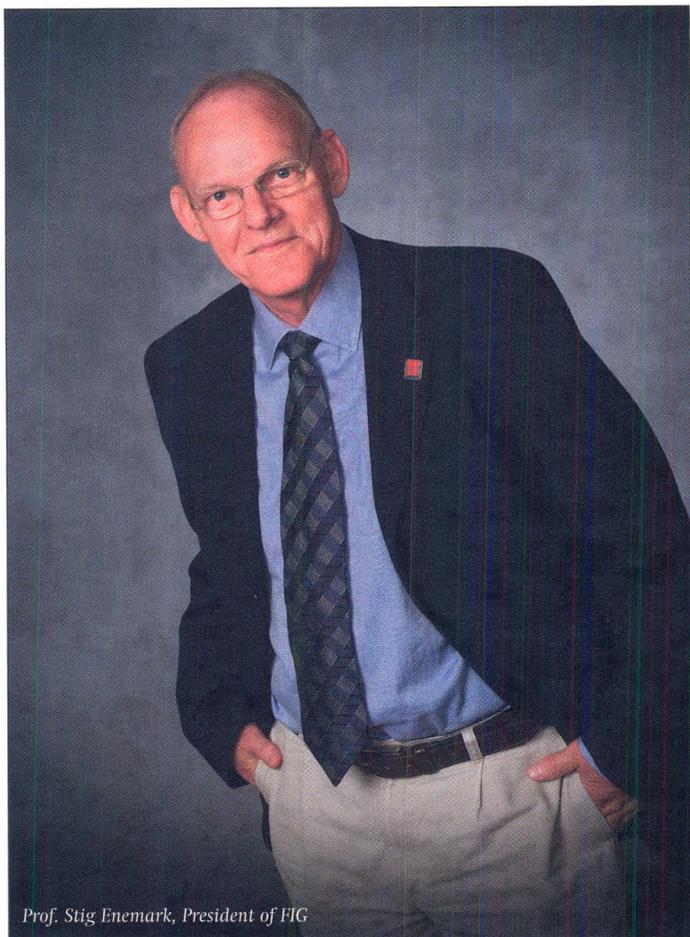


Interview: Prof. Stig Enemark, FIG President 2007-2010

FIG: Linking Strong the Global Agen



Prof. Stig Enemark, President of FIG

Prof. Stig Enemark from Denmark commenced his term of office as the new FIG President on 1st January 2007. Taking over in an era with high demands for providing leadership in a complex and globalised world, the new president has set his goals clear. He knows what he wants to achieve, leading a natural evolution of the role of the FIG towards a wider global approach. He truly believes that we should both fly high by contributing to the global agenda and at the same time we should keep our feet on the ground by being aware of our role and services to society, constantly developing our professional base, and being proud of our contributions. Please, join and support the new FIG President in his thoughts and paths towards developing the FIG organisation to become a truly global icon for all surveyors.

By Joc Triglav

In your presentation speech to the General Assembly before the elections of FIG President you suggested the surveyors “to fly high and keep our feet on the ground at the same time.” The global surveying profession needs such positive motivation indeed. Please, explain also to our readers with your encouraging visionary thoughts how can we follow your motto?

Enemark: The profile of FIG has changed during the last decade from a conference organiser and from internal network to an international key player in land and geospatial issues. By “fly high” I mean that we need to have a big vision e.g. in contributing to solving the global challenges especially with regard to poverty reduction and in responding e.g. to the Millennium Development Goals endorsed by the United Nations. As the leading international NGO on land issues this is our core global responsibility. At the same time we need to

keep our “feet on the ground” in two senses: we must serve the needs of our members associations and the individual surveyors and make sure that they get benefits from our global activities and from the work of our technical commissions. We need to give value for money for the daily business of the members. We can promote this through providing an international forum for professional development and innovation in all aspects of surveying, and by terms of capacity building, events and publications, and standards and guidelines. We must be able to strengthen the links between the global agenda and the surveying grass roots. The second point is that we need to keep in mind that the work off FIG is based on volunteers. Even though we have achieved a lot and will do even more in the future, there are limitations to what volunteers can do next to having a full time job. So we need to get our priorities right. It is also important to create an atmosphere that welcomes new professionals to join our work.

How is FIG responding to the Millennium Development Goals and in which directions can we expect increased FIG involvement regarding the Goals in the near future?

Enemark: We will focus our work on land related issues as we have been doing in the recent years. The main partners include UN-Habitat and FAO and also the World Bank whose role will increase during the next four years. We are planning to organise a joint expert group conference with the Bank in 2008 to address our common contributions to the MDGs. The main topics on our agenda will be development of pro poor land tools and tools for achieving environmental sustainability (e.g. for coastal areas and in relation to disaster risk management). To achieve these goals we will put efforts on building capacity at regional level especially in Africa and in Latin America. “Building the Capacity”