

FIG Working Week - Integrating Generations

Stockholm, Sweden 14 - 19 June 2008

GIS Development participated in the recently held FIG Working Week at the Stockholm City Conference Centre in Sweden. The Working Week was organised by the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) in association with the local organising body - Swedish Association of Chartered Surveyors (SLF) under the patronage of the King of Sweden, His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf.



The conference witnessed a rich cultural milieu of nearly 950 delegates from 95 countries, which is an all time high figure for FIG Working Week. The conference had an interesting theme - Integrating Generations, which aimed at developing capacities of the young surveyors while integrating knowledge base of the older ones. There were over 450 scientific and professional papers presented during the 7 day event. In conjunction to the Working Week, a Seminar on "Improving Slum conditions through Innovative Financing" was held by FIG and UN HABITAT. The event was sponsored by Trimble, ESRI, Lantmateriet, Swedesurvey and Structutor.

The programme for the Working Week began on Friday, June 13th with the Council meetings, a Workshop on History of Surveying and Measurement, FIG ACCO meeting and FIG General Assembly meeting. The Opening Ceremony on June 16th started with the majestic and melodious welcome music by the Swedish Mountain Band of Royal Lifeguard. The ceremony was later followed by a very alluring performance of traditional folk dances from different parts of Sweden by a theatre group. The Welcome Address was given by Mr. Svante Astermo, Conference Director and SLF Director. Mr. Astermo commented on the success of the theme 'Integrating Generations', as the conference had more than 100 students attending from various countries. He said

that Integrating Generation is a bridge not only of ages but of countries and cultures as well. This was followed by the Welcome Address by Prof. Stig Enemark, President FIG, who spoke on the relevance of the theme Integrating Generations and encouraged the student community by saying that students are the future and FIG is always behind them. Prof. Enemark said, "FIG is becoming a major partner in supporting sustainable development and achieving the millennium development goals as adopted by UN." Prof. Enemark introduced a new term, Land Governance that relates to the spatial dimension of land property and natural resources. He commented on how "...property rights are the basic right for economic development and growth."

The Inauguration ceremony was formally opened by Mr. Andreas Carigren, Minister for Environment, Sweden.

Following the formal opening of the FIG Working Week, Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN HABITAT addressed the audience by presenting the Opening Keynote Speech.

The technical programme of the conference consisted of 70 Technical Sessions in addi-

tion to 3 Plenary Sessions on Sustainable Urban Development and the Millennium Development Goals, Land Administration and Finance Systems and Technical and Organisational Innovations, which had some very diverse issues being addressed and gave opportunity to an equally diverse set of Plenary Speakers to present their views. Running parallel to the conference was an exhibition with participation from Blom, Bentley, Lantmateriet, Swedesurvey, ESRI, Trimble, Leica and Fugro. The working week brought out the dynamic and multifaceted concerns that a Surveyor faces today. It addressed issues such as land administration, land management, land governance, environment management, education, cooperation, human resource issues of the Surveying profession and many more such issues in the technical sessions and the networking circles. FIG gave due importance not only to issues related to the 'hardcore' surveying work, but also to 'soft' skill sets and surrounding concerns like retention of human resource in the surveying field, knowledge management, communication, coordination, partnership and dialogue. The event was a time the survey community took to validate their existence and 'feel good'

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The closing ceremony was held on Thursday June 19th where Mr. Svante Astermo, Chair of the Local Organising Committee presented the conference report and Prof. Stig Enemark gave the Closing address and summarised the proceedings of the Working Week. He welcomed delegates for the next FIG Working Week, scheduled from May 3-8, 2009 at Eilat, Israel. The theme for the forthcoming conference is 'Surveyors Key Role in Accelerated Development: New Horizons Across Red Sea'.

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