

**Report for the 27th General Assembly
FIG Working Week in Athens, May 2004**

**Regional Reports – Asia and the Pacific
Report on Activities 2003 – 2004**

After FIG Working Week in Paris in April 2003 my work had been very much affected by SARS. However I endeavored to work as much as I could within the region. Here is my brief report.

1. Membership Promotional works

My visit to Brunei to explain to Brunei Institute of Geomatics (BIG) more about FIG and its works. Brunei at present is an Affiliate Member. Now it has formed into a full institute I have invited BIG to upgrade to Full Membership. BIG is considering the proposal.

Note: My finding was that many member associations are still not familiar or aware of what FIG is doing and what benefits member associations are getting. In this respect I want to do more so that member association will have a better understand about FIG. In this way they will participate more in the activities of FIG both internationally and regionally. The annual FIG Working Week is international and the FIG Regional Conference is regional. FIG intends to reach to the professional surveyors in every region especially the developing countries in Africa, Asia and South America.

2. Conferences co-sponsored by FIG

a. 7th SEASC 2003, Hong Kong SAR

FIG was the co-sponsor of the 7th South East Asian Survey Congress held in Hong Kong in November 2003. Many of the surveying associations are also member association of FIG. Though the conference was affected by the effect of SARS it was well attended by about 280 participants from 26 countries. There were about 80 technical papers covering the following topics:

- Cadastral Surveying;
- Satellite Positioning and Geodetic Surveying;
- Engineering Surveying;
- Hydrographic Surveying;
- Photogrammetric Surveying and Remote Sensing;
- GIS and Spatial Information Management;
- Valuation and Land Management;
- Project, Cost and Contract Management;
- Survey instruments;
- History of Surveying.

At each daily Plenary Session there was keynote speech given by well-known surveying professionals. FIG Deputy President, Dr. Andreas Drees on behalf of FIG delivered keynote speech on “Shaping the Change – FIG Policy for the Challenges of Today’s

World”. He outlined the importance of the UN Millennium Declaration with examples of issues where surveyors can contribute.

FIG Honorary President Earl James on “A Review of the SEASC 1979 – 2003” outlining his belief that there could be better participation by grass root surveyors. He believed that the Congresses to date is (a) not doing enough to involve the less developed countries of the region; (b) not acting on resolutions and taking those resolutions to relevant government organisations such as ASEAN.

Former Surveyor-General of NZ. Dr. Bill Robertson gave a plenary keynote on” Surveying! Preparing for Change and Opportunities Into the Future”.

President of Chinese Society of Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography, Professor Yang Kai gave a keynote on “The Strategy and Policies for Development of Geo-spatial Information Infrastructure (GSII) in China”.

Dr. Khoo Boo-kean, President of ASEAN FLAG (ASEAN Federation of Land Surveying and Geomatics) spoke in his keynote on “Pacing The Times”, a paper examining the changing marketplace and preferences of consumers, the role of technology and progression towards a knowledge economy, the role of Surveyors and the need to constantly work to maintain relevance to society in general and the work of ASEAN FLAG and its role in Asia-Pacific Region in particular.

Commission 4, 5 and 9 were actively involved both in the technical sessions as well as in the technical tours. A FIG open forum on FIG matters was convened by me and many international participants from 10 countries attended. Chairs of Comm 4 and 5 outlined the works of FIG, in general and of the Comms in particular. We open up a panel discussion on issues such as participation by national delegates in the work of FIG Comms, how to increase involvement in FIG by less developed countries and liaison with FIG international sister associations.

It was an overwhelming success.

b. 3rd FIG Regional Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, 3–7 October 2004

FIG Director, Mr. Markku Villikka and I visited Jakarta, Indonesia to oversee the preparation of the FIG’s 3rd Regional Conference in the developing countries. FIG had its 1st Regional Conferences in Nairobi, Kenya in Africa. The 2nd Regional conference was in December 2003 in Marrakech, Morocco in North Africa and the 3rd Regional Conference will be on 3–7 October 2004 in Jakarta, Indonesia in Asia.

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sobar Sutisna, Head of Centre of Boundary Mapping is getting ready everything and is taking off promptly. Dr Sobar and I will promote this 3rd Regional Conference at the 4th International Conference on Mobile Mapping Technology, co-organised by FIG Comms 5 Working Group 5.3 in Kunming, China from 29–31 March 2004.

Important dates

- 31st May 2004 deadline for Abstracts
- 20 June 2004 authors will be informed; and
- 31 July 2004 is deadline for full papers.

Venue

The venue is the JW Marriott Hotel in Jakarta.

Please visit www.fig.net/jakarta for more details.

T.N. Wong
FIG Vice President

26 March 2004. Hong Kong.