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# Leaving ICES in a leading global position

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**I**N my last column, I spoke of the success of the GEO Business conference and exhibition in London, where the surveying community came together in the UK for the very first time in May of this year. An equally significant event in the surveying calendar took place in Kuala Lumpur in June. I am referring to the 25th congress of FIG, the Federation Internationale Geometres or, in other words, the International Federation of Surveyors. AKA the international surveying community.

The congress is held every four years. In Kuala Lumpur we saw more than 2,500 delegates representing surveying bodies from more than 100 countries. FIG was originally formed to share experiences, knowledge and best practice among surveyors practising all over the world. It might, perhaps, be argued that this could now be done more effectively in an electronic age over the internet. Undoubtedly this would be true were an exchange of technology the only aspiration — but there is much more purpose to FIG than that. FIG provides the international surveying community with a platform of credibility, gravitas and status from which it can lobby and influence governments on the role that surveyors can play in better managing our biggest natural asset; the planet we live on.

Between each congress, FIG has ten working commissions that provide the technical input to support the various surveying sectors. These sectors cover the fields of standards and practice; education; spatial information management; hydrography; positioning and measurement; engineering surveys; cadastre and land management; spatial planning and development; valuation and management of real estate; and construction economics and management.

The work of the commissions was in action in the workshops that are an integral part of the congress week. We, at ICES, have at times chaired Commission 10 (construction economics and management) through Andrew Morley and Commission 6 (engineering surveying) through

Gethin Roberts. So, quite apart from lobbying governments and being a voice for surveying all over the world, FIG offers an opportunity for this institution to share its own aspirations and develop and elevate the profession of surveying on the world stage.

This year our CEO Bill Pryke and myself attended FIG and, together with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, we made up the UK contingent. The opportunity to network was not lost with many contacts being made and many new and exciting international friendships established — of which you will become aware of in months to come and which will open up opportunities for our members worldwide.

Organised by PEJUTA (the body of authorised land surveyors in Malaysia) and held at the KL Convention Centre in the shadow of the iconic Petronas Towers, the congress was a model of how such a meeting should be organised. By way of explanation, the surveying profession in Malaysia is served by two bodies. PEJUTA is the professional body for land surveyors and the Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM) is the professional body for building, quantity, valuation, estate and land surveyors. Many surveyors in Malaysia are members of both bodies.

The highlight of the week for me was when I was invited to present certificates

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of fellow membership of ICES to the president of PEJUTA and nine other members at RISM's AGM. As I write this column, our new members are in Hong Kong receiving instruction from our chief examiner Ian Cowling and will eventually form the review panels for future ICES members in Malaysia and Asia.

I am particularly proud that the president of PEJUTA himself, Mohammad Azmi Mohd Zin, has accepted to be the chairman of the new ICES Malaysia. I am humbled even by the fact that our paths have come together again, after Azmi and I were both taught by the same lecturers at the same London college so many years ago. The world has indeed become smaller or is it that we and the institution are continuing to grow in stature?

### Farewell

This is my last column as president and I would like to thank you all for the support and encouragement that I have received. In particular, I would like to thank Bill Pryke and his staff at Sale.

Hopefully you have not heard the last from me, but I assure you that you will be in good hands with incoming president Ian Bush. I extend my best wishes to Ian and trust that he will enjoy the presidency as much as I have.

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**Lately...** We met with government minister **Ken Clarke** to discuss issues for SMEs when conducting business in the EU. • We attended the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) congress in **Kuala Lumpur**. • We met with the new president of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, **Louise Brooke Smith**. • We congratulated **Diane Dumashie** in her role as new FIG vice president. • We went to the Survey School's **graduation day** in Worcester. • We attended the University of Salford's **prizegiving** ceremony. • We were at the launch of the **PAS 128** specification for underground utilities. • We held membership surgeries for staff at **Carillion** and **Bridgeway Consulting**. • We had a working lunch with **Topcon**. • We met with our mailing house to talk about how **CES** gets on your doorstep each month. • We met with **Balfour Beatty**, **Kevan Witt Associates** and **Murphy Group** to discuss membership and development schemes. • We spent a day at Emirates Old Trafford for the Manchester Chamber of Commerce **Construction Summit**. • We welcomed **Angus Quinn** to Dominion House as editorial intern at ICES Publishing. • We visited CES printers **Buxton Press** and chatted about all things print and digital. • We discussed feedback from May's **GEO Business** and plans for 2015's show. • We visited incoming ICES president **Ian Bush** to chat about his new role. • We met the new **Leica Geosystems** press team. • We proudly watched our members' work being showcased on the **BBC** in The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway. • We reached over 1,200 followers on **Twitter**, over 2,600 members on our **LinkedIn** group and over 800 likes on our **Facebook** page. • We've been busy arranging October's **Cambridge Lecture** on NEC3. • We continued discussion with the Engineering Council and Institution of Civil Engineers on our bid to offer **chartered engineer** status. • We offered our support to **SPAR Europe** and the **European LiDAR Mapping Forum**. • We have been looking at venues for the **2015 ICES Dinner**. • We secured the **Blond String Quartet** for this month's ICES Dinner. • We began work on the Continuing Professional Development in Construction (Highlands and Islands) **Jim Attwood Lecture**, to be hosted by **ICES Scotland** in November. • We accredited new courses at the **University of West London**. • We set up approved development schemes for **Colas Rail** and **Wessex Water**. • We held **membership** surgeries in Sale, London and Cambridge. • We met with ICES Yorkshire chair **Neil Harvey** to talk about events in the region. • It's been busy...