

FIG Kick-off Event 2015-2018

The new FIG Working Plan 2015-2018 will be presented during the FIG Working Week in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 17-21 May 2015. 'Ensuring the Rapid Response to Change, Ensuring the Surveyor of Tomorrow' is the theme for the current FIG Council 2015-2018. This theme was launched during the FIG Kick-off Event and Seminar held in January 2015 in Athens, Greece. In her home city, the new FIG president Prof Chryssy Potsiou presented FIG's vision: a modern and sustainable surveying profession in support to society, the environment and the economy – providing innovative, reliable and best-practice solutions to our rapidly changing and complex world.

FIG is well respected as a proactive non-governmental organisation (NGO) by the UN family. There was general agreement that the Federation is ready to bring a positive response to the Post-2015 Development Agenda. A key element of FIG's support is the development of innovative, citizen-centric approaches and solutions for the of 70% people-to-land relationships that are undocumented. The 'fit-for-purpose land administration' approach of The World Bank/ FIG was mentioned by almost all speakers as a realistic approach in achieving this aim, and key representatives from global organisations expressed their support. This approach can be very well aligned with the agendas, guidelines and proposals from global organisations such as UN-FAO, UN-Habitat, UN-GGIM and the World Bank. The pressure from G8 to solve land issues was an important

item of discussion during the seminar. For the first time in history, a global land administration solution is needed more than ever and can be realistically be achieved. Technologies are available, foundation data is available (imagery, remote sensing), geodetic infrastructure is increasingly available – but capacity needs to be built. The importance of open Standards to underpin these solutions was addressed several times during the seminar, including by the leading GIS provider, Esri.

The kick-off event also celebrated the change in FIG's leadership. Departing president Teo CheeHai received warm words of thanks for his leadership, energy and achievements. Accomplishments under his presidency include: the position of the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies was further strengthened; the fit-for-purpose land administration approach was developed and published; the so-called 'Continuum of Continuums Approach' was also developed, including a continuum of approaches, technology and accuracy to provide a flexible contribution of the profession to the global agenda; the Land Administration Domain Model was published as an international ISO standard; and the FIG publication called Spatially Enabled Society established a foundation for the profession in the information society. At the end of his presidency, the FIG Congress in Kuala Lumpur in 2014, opened by the prime minister of Malaysia, was a truly global and successful event.



▲ FIG Council at the kick-off event. President Chryssy Potsiou with vice-presidents Rudolf Staiger (left), Diane Dumashie and Pengfei Cheng. Bruno Razza was not present.

Special thanks go to the sponsors of the event. Gold: Attica Bank and Eurobank; Silver: Marathon Daa Systems; and Bronze: Gaia SA, Geosystems Hellas, and the Association of Geoinformatics and Cadastre Companies. ◀

More information
1. <http://bit.ly/1J7o6Sx>
www.fig.net



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