

XI International Conference, San Jose, Costa Rica, 16 – 18 September 2010

## Congratulations – Closing Address

Dear colleagues and friends

Queridos colegas y amigos

- First of all - Congratulations to the founding countries of APPA and especially to Costa Rica for facilitating and conducting the process. A new organization for the surveying community in the Americas is born.
- This is a big step into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There is a long journey ahead – but even the longest journey starts with a first step. You have taken this first step today – congratulations.
- FIG has been pushing for this over the recent years - starting with the conference in Rosario in 2000 followed by conferences in Puerto Rico, Cordoba, and the FIG regional conference here in Costa Rica, November 2007. And now it has come true.
- Over the last four years FIG has been very supportive to such regional structures in other parts of the world - such the Asean Flag, the Arab Union, CLGE in Europe, the Francophone Group of Surveyors, and the recent Africa Task Force. The reason for this is that some issues are better dealt with at regional level rather than national or global level.
- But this new Pan American organisation is not an alternative or substitute to FIG. A range of issues can only be handled at global level such as the interaction with UN-agencies and the World Bank, global development of the various professional areas, and development of the profession through educational and institutional standards. FIG has a major role to play in developing the global surveying community.
- FIG is looking forward to close cooperation with the new Pan American surveying organization and you can count on our strong and full support. The FIG Regional Conference to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, by the end of 2012 will act as a focal point of this future cooperation. I am looking forward to see you all again in Montevideo 2012.

Thank you - Muchas gracias