

FIG General Assembly 2015 – Close-run Decision between Vietnam and Switzerland

The FIG 38th General Assembly was held on 17 and 21 May 2015 in Sofia, Bulgaria, in connection with FIG Working Week 2015. The General Assembly was very well attended. On 17 May, 51 member associations out of 102 were represented while 56 out of 103 were present on 21 May. The sessions were attended by affiliate, academic and corporate members as well as observers.

The only election was the decision on the venue for the Working Week 2019. Four strong candidates were included in the first round, and FIG was grateful for such substantial interest in hosting a future FIG Conference. The competition was very tight, and all bidders showed great creativity in their presentations throughout the Working Week. Since no bidding association secured a total majority in the first round, a second round of voting took place between geosuisse, Switzerland, and VCGR, Vietnam. This produced 35 votes for Switzerland and 40 for Vietnam, which means that the FIG Working Week 2019 will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Two member associations were admitted as new members: Distinctive Engineering Group, Rwanda, and Licensed Surveyors Association of Ghana (LISAG). Since the last General Assembly, FIG Council has admitted 5 new affiliate members, 5 new corporate members and 6 new academic members.

The General Assembly appointed Teo CheeHai as FIG honorary president, especially in recognition of the exceptional job he has done for FIG in the past four years as president of the Federation. Meanwhile Christiaan Lemmen was appointed honorary member for his outstanding work for FIG for many years,



◀ Angel Yanakiev, president of Bulgarian Chamber of Surveyors, hands over the FIG flag to Jeff Needham, president of New Zealand Institution of Surveyors which will be organising the FIG Working Week 2016.

not only as chair of the Permanent Institution, OICRF, but also in assisting the development and promotion of the surveying profession at an international level, his contributions to several FIG publications and his work in FIG Commission 7. The adoption of both appointments was accompanied by a standing ovation.

Dr Clarissa Augustinus, UN-Habitat, has worked closely with FIG for many years through her position in UN-Habitat and since the establishment of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN). FIG Council wanted to acknowledge the long-standing cooperation with her that has outlasted many councils and FIG presidents. Therefore, at the General Assembly, FIG Council announced its decision to recognise Clarissa Augustinus as honorary ambassador as a special consideration.

FIG president, Chryssy Potsiou, revealed the ideas behind the Work Plan 2015-18 and the planned activities including a new FIG

Regional Capacity Development Network based on the Africa Task Force 2009-2014. Four Task Forces were endorsed by the General Assembly: Real Property Markets, Commission Structure, Corporate Members, and Scientific Journal.

It was pleasant to see an active General Assembly commenting and asking questions to the Commission Work Plans of which many related to communication, education, mutual recognition and how national delegates can be more involved in the work of the commissions. Unfortunately the chair of Commission 9, Dr Liao Junping, had to make the sad decision to step down as chair. FIG Council decided to appoint Mr Steven Nystrom, NCSP, US, as chair of Commission 9 for the rest of the term 2015-2018. ◀

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