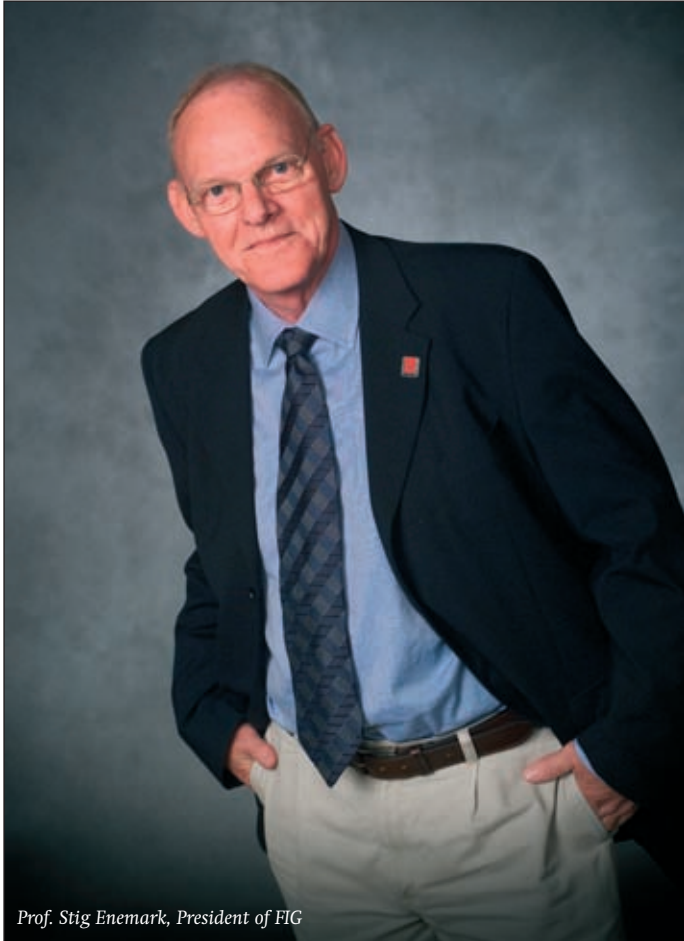


# Interview: Prof. Stig Enemark, FIG President 2007-2010

## FIG: Linking Strong the Global Agen



Prof. Stig Enemark, President of FIG

*Prof. Stig Enemark from Denmark commenced his term of office as the new FIG President on 1st January 2007. Taking over in an era with high demands for providing leadership in a complex and globalised world, the new president has set his goals clear. He knows what he wants to achieve, leading a natural evolution of the role of the FIG towards a wider global approach. He truly believes that we should both fly high by contributing to the global agenda and at the same time we should keep our feet on the ground by being aware of our role and services to society, constantly developing our professional base, and being proud of our contributions. Please, join and support the new FIG President in his thoughts and paths towards developing the FIG organisation to become a truly global icon for all surveyors.*

By Joc Triglav

**In your presentation speech to the General Assembly before the elections of FIG President you suggested the surveyors “to fly high and keep our feet on the ground at the same time.” The global surveying profession needs such positive motivation indeed. Please, explain also to our readers with your encouraging visionary thoughts how can we follow your motto?**

**Enemark:** The profile of FIG has changed during the last decade from a conference organiser and from internal network to an international key player in land and geospatial issues. By “fly high” I mean that we need to have a big vision e.g. in contributing to solving the global challenges especially with regard to poverty reduction and in responding e.g. to the Millennium Development Goals endorsed by the United Nations. As the leading international NGO on land issues this is our core global responsibility. At the same time we need to

keep our “feet on the ground” in two senses: we must serve the needs of our members associations and the individual surveyors and make sure that they get benefits from our global activities and from the work of our technical commissions. We need to give value for money for the daily business of the members. We can promote this through providing an international forum for professional development and innovation in all aspects of surveying, and by terms of capacity building, events and publications, and standards and guidelines. We must be able to strengthen the links between the global agenda and the surveying grass roots. The second point is that we need to keep in mind that the work off FIG is based on volunteers. Even though we have achieved a lot and will do even more in the future, there are limitations to what volunteers can do next to having a full time job. So we need to get our priorities right. It is also important to create an atmosphere that welcomes new professionals to join our work.

**How is FIG responding to the Millennium Development Goals and in which directions can we expect increased FIG involvement regarding the Goals in the near future?**

**Enemark:** We will focus our work on land related issues as we have been doing in the recent years. The main partners include UN-Habitat and FAO and also the World Bank whose role will increase during the next four years. We are planning to organise a joint expert group conference with the Bank in 2008 to address our common contributions to the MDGs. The main topics on our agenda will be development of pro poor land tools and tools for achieving environmental sustainability (e.g. for coastal areas and in relation to disaster risk management). To achieve these goals we will put efforts on building capacity at regional level especially in Africa and in Latin America. “Building the Capacity”

# da and the Surveying Grass Roots

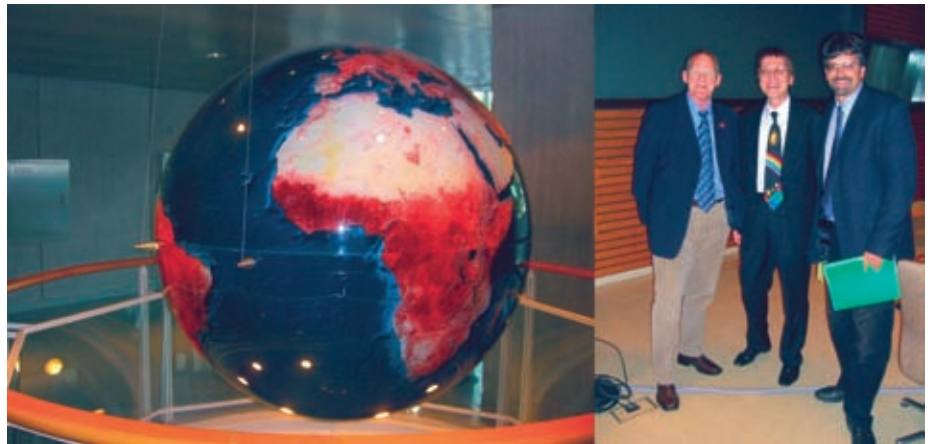
has also been selected as our motto for the next four years.

**In which ways is FIG achieving better integration of women, students, young surveyors and other under-represented groups in the work of the Federation and in the surveying profession? Please name a few examples of good practice approaches in the member associations and in the universities.**

**Enemark:** The big challenge to all professions is how to attract students. For organisations like FIG there is also a big demand to integrating women, young surveyors and other under-represented groups in the work. I am happy that in our Council - for the first time - we have two female members out of six. With students and young people there is a bigger problem as international participation requires

both funding and long-time commitment, which is difficult especially in relation to students who are doing their master's degree. We are considering the opportunities of how

to integrate young people in the FIG work, not only at the conferences but also through other means, e.g. by encouraging international student exchange and mentor activities.



*One of the main partners for FIG in the next years will be the World Bank in fighting against poverty with land related tools. President Enemark visited the World Bank in November to discuss the joint World Bank and FIG Conference in 2008 with Klaus Deininger and Malcolm Childress.*



*The major challenge for surveyors and the globe in the next decades will be environmental issues and disaster risk management especially on coastal areas.*

Some of our member associations have already learnt that there is a great benefit in supporting students. I would like to mention Sweden, Germany and DdL from Denmark, my own country, that for several years have supported student members to attend major FIG events. The best example was introduced by ISA from Australia that appointed 20 young surveyors as young ambassadors to promote the FIG congress 2010. These ambassadors are committed to the FIG work until the congress in Sydney.

**How close is the surveying profession to achieving its strategic goals stated in Cadastre 2014? To what level does the latest global development in the cadastral field confirm the realisation of Cadastre 2014 visions?**

**Enemark:** The role of cadastre has changed remarkably since the Cadastre 2014 agenda was introduced in 1998. Now we really have reached a multipurpose cadastre that integrates a range of functions. However in many countries there is still a long way to go. At the same time FIG has moved forward by considering the needs beyond the 2014 concept. We are also currently preparing the first core cadastral domain model that will have a major impact on the design of future cadastral infrastructures and also as a poor land tool to be used in informal settlement areas. However, I have to say that in many coun-

tries the basic problem is not the technical solution of cadastre. The main barrier is around the institutional and managerial issues and the related capacity building perspectives.

**In the past decades, we are witnessing an irreversible process of professional change in surveying methods and applications. You also stated recently that FIG is in a state of transition and reaching a milestone. Where are we headed as a profession? Which are the achievements that the surveying profession can be proud of and which are the most important tasks that still have to be accomplished?**

**Enemark:** I think that surveyors can be proud on the progress that has happened in the land administration field and also in introducing geographic information systems. In many countries surveyors were pioneers in introducing GIS. In the technical field (geodesy and photogrammetry) the technical development has been so fast that it has been a challenge to respond to the new working environment. It is obvious that the number of highly educated surveyors in field of measurement science has declined and will

decline even further in the future. This is why we have to strengthen our skills in management and broaden our expertise to cover the full definition of surveyor as described and adopted by FIG. From an FIG point of view the milestone that we have just implemented is the new governance of FIG. Although this is an internal issue for us, it is a remarkable change that FIG has now become a fully global organisation with directly elected council members. With the new governance structure we can now focus on policy issues independently to the congress and not related to a country based council.

**In your opinion, which are the reasons that the unquestionably very important contribution of the surveying profession within operation of each country and its economy is too often left overseen and unknown? Are we simply too passionately devoted and concentrated only on our work? Are we too modest as a profession?**

**Enemark:** It is true that many surveyors consider themselves as experts and are not interested to get involved in politics. This has to some extent narrowed the role of surveyors in build-

*"... we need to have a big vision e.g. in contributing to solving the global challenges especially with regard to poverty reduction..."*



The agenda for FIG is to make a better world to our children.

ing the society. However, the saying “no news is good news” often applies in this regard. If the basic land administration infrastructure and the economy in the country are developing well and if surveyors are the key profession behind a well functioning real estate system and land markets, what more can be asked? For a single profession this is great achievement. On the other hand, in countries in transition where the land issues are changing the role of surveyors is much more visible. The same applies to countries where surveyors are actively involved in land use planning and land development. In general, it is of course important that the surveying profession, through their national associations and through regional institutions, try to influence government and thereby improve the position the surveying profession. FIG strongly supports such efforts such national and regional efforts.

**There is a constant need to bring FIG activities closer to the surveying profession members on the national levels. Is the expected establishing of a FIG virtual journal with peer reviewed papers one of the steps in this direction and which should be the main goals of such a journal?**

**Enemark:** FIG has made great progress with our web page and by publishing all conference papers and FIG publications on line. The web page is very much alive. All council and commission activities are posted immediately on the web. This brings the results of our work closer to individuals. The idea of a FIG virtual journal is a natural next step to this policy. The thinking behind this initiative is also to raise the quality of the conference papers. It will offer academics a new platform to get their papers

reviewed and published. This will help academics to attend the FIG events and will also create a bigger audience to the findings of their research. Especially in the land management area there is an international demand for such a journal.

**The current FIG Surveyors Reference Library website is a short cut to all papers of FIG Congresses, Working Weeks and other FIG events. Are you perhaps considering this as a first step towards the development of a broader digital library of surveying profession with global reach, which could include many other professional topics? In this regard, what do you think about the latest EU initiative “i2010: Digital Libraries”?**

**Enemark:** FIG has for some years now published all proceedings from our conferences on the web – and they are available free of charge for all interested. The reference library is only one tool to collect these articles in one place. We need to consider what the future concept should be. Progress within the search engines for example is so fast that it is difficult to say what will be the main stream in the future. There are several databases in the surveying industry that should be linked together. FIG alone has also other tools e.g. our permanent institution OICRF that provides access to a whole range of articles related to land administration.

**Please outline the main topics of Strategic Integration of Surveying Services, which is the theme of the next FIG General Assembly and Working Week organised in Hong Kong in May this year.**

**Enemark:** The next FIG conference will be the working week in Hong Kong in 13-17 May 2007. The theme of this conference has been selected to be “Strategic Integration of Surveying Services”. This will bring together all surveying disciplines: land surveyors, appraisers and quantity surveyors. It will also discuss the role of technology in solving the global agenda and issues related to land issue. There will be a special focus on the South East Asian region and especially on surveying services in China. This includes issues such as urbanisation, real estate markets in mega cities, and environmental issues including disaster risk management. Also issues related to services and free movement of labour will be on the agenda. For the new FIG Council the meeting in Hong Kong will be the first. The work plan for the next four year will include a whole range of strategic issues to be discussed by the General Assembly.

**In the past decades, the damage due to natural and man-made disasters increased worldwide in amount and magnitude. In which ways can and should the modern surveyor support good governance and capacity building to play an important role in the field of disaster risk management? Why is sustainable land use management so important as a tool for risk reduction?**

**Enemark:** With regard to environmental issues it is important to have a holistic approach. Surveyors have traditionally had the competence of collecting and analysing information, designing planning solutions, and implementing the plans. Together with other geospatial professions we are strongly involved in information collection and monitoring. Building the necessary capacity in this area is extremely important. In this regard, I would like to refer to the very recent FIG publication on disaster risk management and surveyors’ role in assisting in handling these threats. We have also focussed much on coastal zone management as the role of coastal areas will be crucial in the next decades. The upcoming FIG Regional Conference in Costa Rica 12-15 November 2007 will address this issue as a main topic.

**Thank you for your inspiring thoughts. We wish you an excellent start of your presidency and many remarkable global achievements of FIG during your term!**

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