

FIG WORKING WEEK, ROME

MARKKU VILLIKKA REPORTS ON THIS YEAR'S KEY EVENT IN THE FIG CALENDAR



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This year's FIG Working Week was organised in Rome, Italy, 6-10 May under the banner "Knowing to manage the territory, to protect the environment, and to evaluate the cultural heritage."

The event, hosted by Italy's CNGeGL jointly with FIG, attracted more than 1,200 delegates and, in total, some 1,500 individuals from almost 100 countries participated in a programme that featured more than 100 technical sessions, discussion forums and workshops.

New initiatives

New initiatives launched during the Working Week included the 1st FIG Young Surveyors Conference attended by 120 participants under the age of 35 years from 40 countries to discuss issues of common interest. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and it is certain that the conference will continue in the same or new format in the future.

In his opening address at the Parco della Musica in Rome, President CheeHai Teo emphasised the role of surveyors in global initiatives aimed at managing all information spatially; outlined FAO voluntary guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forest; and looked at how spatially-enabling governments and societies fostered greater transparency and good governance.

President Teo stated that, "We have to progress beyond securing tenure rights for all into land valuation and taxation, land development and construction and the land market. We need to move into the next paradigm where we are inclusive and innovative, where we will be required to embrace Open Standards; Interoperability (of systems, legislation and institutions); subscribe to the culture of collaboration and sharing; avoid duplication; incorporate volunteered information; develop enabling platforms and



The General Assembly at the Rome Cavalieri was attended by more than 350 participants representing 65 member associations - in the front row, the chairs of ten Commissions

deliver knowledge from information and data from different scales, purposes and origins."

Programme

The three plenary sessions of the conference included presentations from Alexander Mueller, Assistant Director General of FAO, and from two of the major member associations of FIG: RICS President See Lian Ong, and DWW President Karl-Friedrich Thöne from Germany.

Two key components in the technical programme consisted of the FAO segment that focussed on the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forest, and of the GLTN segment with representatives from grass root organisations and other GLTN professional partners.

At the General Assembly two new Vice Presidents for 2013-2016 were elected: Bruno Razza from Italy and Pengfei Cheng from the People's Republic of China. Also new Commission chairs-elect were appointed or elected. They will, under normal circumstances, assume their

posts as Commission chairs after the next FIG Congress in Kuala Lumpur in 2014.

Votes

Following a vote, the Working Week 2015 will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, while that for 2016 will convene in Christchurch, New Zealand. The General Assembly also discussed voting rights with the result that the biggest member association will get more power in the decision-making starting at the Congress in 2014.

The next FIG events will be the 8th FIG Regional Conference in Montevideo, Uruguay 26-29 November 2012 and the Working Week in Abuja, Nigeria, 6-10 May 2013.

For more information about the Working Week including proceedings, visit:
www.fig.net/fig2012/

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