

FINAL: Closing Address by Dr Diane A Dumashie, FIG President
2024 Italian Summer School, Bari, Italy
26th July 2024

Good morning, I am Diane A Dumashie, President of International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). Good morning Dear President Paolo Biscaro of the National Council of Italian Surveyors (CNG) Good morning President of the Provincial Board of Surveyors of Bari, Angelo Addante, And our host in today's closing event here in Bari

Dear President Piero Grimaldi, the lead organizer of the Summer School, A special thanks to you and your team efforts to organise this 2 week event jointly with CNG. I learnt last night that it has been another excellent summer school with all participants enjoy the Italian hospitality.

Thankyou Professor Enrico Rispoli, Secretary of CNG for reaching out to me, to say a few words at your Italian Summer School event . Last but not least, thank you Bryn Fosburgh, President of FIG Foundation for all the support given to this 2024 program

Dear honourable guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen from across the continents of: Latin America, Europe, Africa, Middle East and Asia (Turkey)... Please accept my warm greetings to you all.

1. Introduction

As President, it is a great honour for me to address you all on behalf of FIG, The International Federation of Surveyors, and its more than 110 member associations throughout the world representing more than 330,000 surveyors from the land, built environment and natural resources sector worldwide. In addition to FIGs members in cadastral and mapping agencies and ministries, universities and corporate organisations.

It is always a pleasure to extend my greetings on a platform organised for and attended by FIG young surveyors. Above all, as young surveyors in FIG you are a crucial part of an international organization representing the interests of surveyors worldwide. I'll come back to the importance of this (i.e people) in a few minutes.

We are an UN-recognized non-government organization (NGO), importantly our collective aim is to ensure that the disciplines of surveying and all who practise them meet the needs of the markets and communities that we serve. Our global membership is important because of the international recognition we collectively achieve, and by working together, enhance the profile of the surveying profession.

It is an honour to be here with CNG because Italy was one of the 7 founding members of FIG. And the dates of your program is so timely because FIG formal establishment date is 18 July 1878, i.e last week! (the seven national associations are - Belgium, France, Germany, UK, Italy, Spain and Switzerland)

We are a fellowship, a global network that can actively professionally help each other as we expand our minds into new horizons. As some of you are aware, participating in FIG means there is ready access to the international surveying community for exchange of experiences and being part of new developments of many aspects of the range of surveying practice, including ethics, standards, education

Indeed here today, I'd like to acknowledge the Italian national association (CNG) for their active engagement in the FIG community. Dear President Paolo Biscaro CNG

- 1) Thank you for CNG's continuing support, CNG has sent an Italian delegation over many years to FIG WW. Indeed CNG hosted in 2012 a memorable conference in Rome still talked about today. Your members contribution over the years adds significantly to our international deliberations. I am happy that our FIG family grows as I recall 2 former Young Surveyors Danile and Cromwell who remain active now. And meeting Lenardo and Enrico yesterday was a pleasure as they kindly hosted me
- 2) Thank you dear President for your support of FIG CNG representative Enrico Rispoli. FIG cannot operate without members holding senior positions, such as Enrico and accordingly the FIG general assembly that appointed him FIG honorary member in recognition for his contribution to the global survey profession.

- 3) And last but not least, Thank you, CNG has consistently involved and supported Italian YS not only as we see your support here today, also in FIG events (above all in the W Weeks),

2. Members participation/ Interest

As I overviewed your Summer School program it is very impressive with interesting topics covered in Survey, Land, and the built and particularly the archaeological environment. The organisers should be congratulated for putting together such an interesting and very attractive event.

Reflecting on your program I note it has resonance with our community across the world. The broad field of Surveying, including photogrammetry cadastre, valuation, is not only about serving the clients – it is also about serving society as we are recognised experts in the whole scope of Land Administration and land Management and connected geospatial, engineering, surveying and mapping activities. Noting your deliberations in topics associated with GIS, Photogrammetry, Survey, heritage & built environment and some more- these are all issues that the FIG community is tackling as we all innovate and work to remain relevant to society.

Above all, FIG members are part of the global community of surveyors seeking to extend the usefulness of surveying for the betterment of society, environment and economy.

This is important to note because FIG's current 4 year plan of work, has the vision that Surveyors serving society for the benefit of people, planet and to work in partnerships.

Let me unpack what I mean by this a little more:

3. FIG Council Work Plan 2023 -2026 for People and the Planet

Sustainability is at the core of our plan and as recognised UN NGO we are closely aligned to the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Remember the 2030 agenda is universal, it is transformative and rights based plan of action.

At its heart are five key dimensions: people, planet, partnership, peace and prosperity. This is important because it is an inspirational foundation for the approach to FIG's workplan. It inspires us to think creatively and critically rethink the way we approach the development challenges of today.

The story behind the FIG's agenda (2023 to 2026) is predicated upon that we do have a significant role to play in society and to continue to provide leadership we must be relevant to PEOPLE, The key to a sustainable profession is that we deliver services in a sustainable manner and address the global sustainable development agenda which is now very much driven by a need to act now to address the climate agenda.

There is much in the FIG work plan, but today I'd like to highlight a little further you and your place in the profession.

People

Sustainability in the context of people is about making sure that we demonstrate equality, diversity and inclusion in our profession. We need to make sure we leave no one behind. In this context we need to ensure our skills and training keep us relevant and to build the capacity to deal with the global mega challenges.

This is why this summer school is so important, This is why I applaud the organisers, and applaud you for attending, and maintaining your curiosity to continue to learn.

Dear colleagues, we are all happy to see the vitality of the YS working groups and as they represent the future so in my view we must be behind them in their activities. I believe in positive action to bring on the future leaders of our profession. Just as CNG and the organisers of this summer school demonstrate and noteworthy is that young surveyors from this alumni often go onto significant roles in the profession helped by the experiences gained here.

So, I have also made this a strategic pillar in my work plan. I am keen to increase the visibility of our young surveyors having already taken steps including appointing to my Council; providing opportunities for YS to represent FIG at highest levels (UN and EGM's), and I try to include a plenary speaker from the YS community. Further I have appointed a FIG task force on diversity across the generations.

I invite you to be involved in FIG, through the YS network, but also through the wider community at the Annual international working week/ conferences

4. FINAL REMARKS

Ladies and gentlemen, We are all aware that the issues of the survey professional are in the heart of the global 2030 agenda particularly in terms of the SDG's. FIG will continue to be a major partner in promoting a sustainable development agenda, specifically the SD Goals. FIG and the global surveying community have already made significant contributions in this regard, but we still have a lot to offer. We should be really proud of our profession.

Linking to your program strapline- the future has an ancient heart- Let me conclude by saying that FIG has a long history. FIG is – maybe because of that – a very vital, mature, and dynamic organisation which is recognised world wide. We as surveyors are needed to meet many of the future global challenges such as climate change.

We are the world wide organisation of Land Professionals. Our essence is Serving society; tackling the challenges of People and planet IN partnership

With collaboration and global connectivity in mind, I'd like to extend an invitation to you ALL to attend the 2025 FIG global conference being organised by Geospatial Council Australia, with the conference theme "Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience: Championing a Digital Generation"

This theme has its focus on You and your generation. I'd welcome you to take the opportunity to be part of an international community of likeminded professionals for several days, where together we will be seeking to tackle the many global issues.

Dear. President, ladies and gentlemen, I congratulate the organisers, led by Piero Grimaldi, once again, for putting together such an important and interesting program.

I very much look forward to seeing you in Brisbane in April 2025

Thank you very much.

Dr Diane Dumashie RICS, FIG President

2025 FIG WW: Brisbane Convention centre 6th to 10th April 2025.