



15th of January 2020

Dear Presidents, Members, Colleagues and Friends

On behalf of all FIG Council members, I wish you and your families, colleagues and friends a happy, prosperous and peaceful year 2020. May all your wishes, expectations and dreams become true!

The current FIG Council comprising of Diane Dumashie, Orhan Ercan, Mikael Lilje, Jixian Zhang, Louise Friis-Hansen (FIG-Director), Winnie Shiu (ACCO representative) and myself just finished their first year as FIG Council.

Last year I had the honour to represent our federation at the 11th session of the Working Party on Land Administration (UNECE, Geneva, February 27-28), the 19th Land and Poverty Conference 2019 organized by the world bank (March 25-29, Washington) and the 9th Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM, New York, August 7-9).

In addition, I had the occasion to visit our members in Poland, Kenya, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia and Austria. It was also a pleasure for me to participate in the European Young surveyors meeting in Porto (Portugal).

Reviewing the last year, I would say that we had a good start. The highlight was certainly the working week in Hanoi (Vietnam). Thanks to our colleagues from the Vietnamese Association for Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (VGCR) we all spent a wonderful time and were contributing to a remarkable and extraordinary FIG working week 2019. Two new Task Forces (TF) were installed. One is dealing with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the other one with the Governance structure inside our federation. In addition to this Council announced and launched a working group on the development of a long-term-strategy called "FIG 2028".

The commissions and networks have all been having an equally busy year. Commission chairs and council met in January 2019 in Copenhagen to kickstart the term and had two productive days in which also the technical programme for the Working Week was more or less designed. Each of the two regional networks held network meetings, commission 3 and 7 also held their yearly meeting and the Young Surveyors several regional meetings. Thanks to all chairs, working group chairs and members and all others for the contributions.



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The coming year will be as busy as the last one. Our Dutch colleagues are preparing the next working week, which will take place from the 10th to the 14th of May in the wonderful city of Amsterdam (Netherlands). The overall theme will be “Smart surveyors for land and water management”. Especially the water management has a long and outstanding tradition in Holland, which was started hundreds of years ago. In times of climate change and sea level rise that are definitively no fake news, we can all profit directly from the huge experience and knowledge of our Dutch colleagues in this field.

During the Working Week 2020 in Amsterdam, Council will not only present the current status of the TF on Governance, furthermore we want your valuable input and to discuss the next steps. At the end of the Working Week the General Assembly will vote for the venue of Working Week 2024 and will elect to new Vice Presidents for the term 2021- 2024.

In the past the new Commission Chairs were elected more than 2 years prior to the official start of the respective term. Last time this election was postponed until the Congress in 2018 due to the activities of the Task Force on Commissions. Last year FIG Council decided to postpone the election of the new chair-elects (for the period 2023- 2026) to the working week 2021 in Accra (Ghana). This gives us and the Commissions more time to find qualified candidates for the ten important positions of a Commission Chair.

Hope to see you soon, latest in Amsterdam

With my best regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rudolf Staiger', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Rudolf Staiger
President of the International Federation of Surveyors