

Welcome to FIG Working Week 2008

Svante ASTERMO, Conference Director

Dear friends, conference delegates, students, accompanying persons, ladies and gentlemen welcome to the FIG Working Week 2008. All together we are over 900 registered participants from more than 90 countries. So far the theme "*Integrating generations*" has been a great success; we have more than 100 students registered. I really hope that this marks a breakthrough for bringing young surveyors and students to FIG events. *Integrating generations* is the key to the survival of the FIG. It is wonderful to see so many young attendees here today. Even if it is hard to believe - I was once a young surveyor attending the FIG Congress back in 1977 which was the last time Sweden hosted a FIG event. I can recognise a few faces from that occasion way back then.

Integrating generations is the bridge between ages but also between countries and cultures. The delegates are from all continents, it is really a global assembly. We are very pleased to have Dr. Anna Tibaijuka from UN-HABITAT in Kenya with us today. I would like to extend an especially warm welcome to you. We also welcome our own Minister of Environment Andreas Carlgren. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to be with us today, to open the Working Week and speak at the first plenary session.

The FIG President Stig Enemark and Honorary Presidents Robert W. Foster, Juha Talvitie and Carl Olof Ternryd, the backbone of FIG, are of course also warmly welcomed.

This conference is held under the patronage of His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf who wishes us all a successful week together. His Majesty hopes that you will leave with favorable impressions of Sweden and have many good experiences both on a professional as well as a personal level.

All sessions except for this opening ceremony will be held in Norra Latin, the former secondary grammar school just across the street. The exhibition is on view in the same building on the ground floor and plenary sessions 2 and 3 will be held in the Aula. The rooms for the technical sessions can be found from the first to the fourth floors in Norra Latin as well. If you need any assistance our kind team of volunteers in the blue shirts are available to help. These volunteers are students and young surveyors from all over Sweden. You may also be advised by the Local Organising Committee.

Tonight we will see each other at the Vasa ship for the FIG foundation dinner. Tomorrow Swedish colleagues have invited you for dinner in their homes, where you will be able to enjoy some Swedish hospitality. Your host will be in touch with you before tomorrow afternoon to confirm the arrangements. Wednesday evening sees the gala dinner at the Grand Hotel and on Thursday we end with the Farewell reception given by the organising committees of both Stockholm and Sydney.

There are several technical tours to choose from. Details on the visits are included in the programme book.

For me as the chairman of The Swedish Association of Chartered Surveyors, SLF, it is a great pleasure to welcome you more than 900 surveyors from 90 countries. SLF is 100 years this year and last Saturday we had a memorable anniversary dinner. Once more a very warm welcome to FIG Working Week 2008. I wish you all an excellent few day's here in Stockholm with an enriching exchange of experience, good scope for networking, Swedish hospitality and many opportunities for *integrating generations*.