

SHARING GOOD PRACTICES: E-LEARNING IN SURVEYING,
GEOINFORMATION AND LAND ADMINISTRATION

**FIG Commission 2 and 7 workshop
Enschede, The Netherlands, 11-13 June 2008**

Opening Address

Stig Enemark, FIG President

Dear colleagues and friends

- As president of FIG it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this workshop organized by FIG Commission 2 and 7. I am very happy to see how the two commissions have focused on addressing on the really key issues of our times: learning through digital and interactive media. I am also happy to notice so many participants – probably the mix of presentations, sharing of experiences and real hands-on activities is the right way to go a workshop on this important topic.
- A special thanks to Liza Groenendijk, vice-chair of Commission 2 for being the key organizer behind this event. Also thanks to the Chairs Bela Markus of Commission 2 and Andras Ossko of Commission 7 for joining their efforts in this area. And thanks of course to ITC and the rector Prof. Martien Molenaar for hosting this workshop. I can hardly think of a more suitable place for hosting a workshop focused on building the capacity through the use of modern digital approaches.
- AS you will know, the overall theme of FIG over this current four period 2007-2010 is “Building the Capacity”. Capacity can not be build without training and without using modern digital approaches. And capacity can not be build without looking at the institutional issues – and again ITC is the ideal place accommodating this approach in an interaction between education, research and professional practice.

- The workshop is also the ideal appetizer for the big event - the FIG Working Week 2008 - coming up in Stockholm by the end of this week. I am in fact on my way right now to Stockholm to start preparing for the meeting – so this is why you I have give this address through the virtual media.
- In fact, we are using this interactive communication also for teaching purposes when running our program in Surveying in parallel at two campuses – in Aalborg where I am now, and in Copenhagen. We have done this since September 2007 and the experiences are very encouraging. We will do an evaluation and then of course share the lessons learnt with FIG community.
- Looking at the program you have three very exciting days ahead of you. E-learning and applications within our professional areas is not just about implementing new technologies.
- It is basically about reengineering university concepts to include a more flexible learning environment and a changing role of the universities towards a more open communication with society. There is no doubt that the global drivers such as improvement in storage and transmission and also in computation and visualisation as well as mobile technologies will change dramatically the university learning environment. Knowledge management is a key word in this process. This includes on-line access to the newest knowledge that should also be structured in a way so that it is easily accessible for professional practice.
- I wish you all the best for a successful workshop. I think that it is very timely in any sense. So, on behalf of FIG I warmly welcome you all and I do look forward to see many of you again in a few days in Stockholm.
- Thank you very much