

2023 Global Surveyors Day

Welcome address By Dr Diane A Dumashie, FIG President

Dear President FGF Marc Vanderschueren thank you for inviting me. Dear Joseph Pascual, President of the Higher Council of the Order of Surveyors - France, Dear

Françoise Duquenne, President of the Association francophone de topographie (AFT), Dear President CLGE Vladimir Kruper, Dear Presidents of National member associations, all protocols extended and observed to you.

Dear colleagues from across the world, it is a pleasure to add a few welcome words to you on this 2023 celebration of Global surveyors day organized by FGF, the French-speaking Surveyors' Network (FGF), in collaboration with CLGE and FIG, and live streamed from Paris - (Order of Geometric Experts) OGE's office here in Paris.

It is a pleasure for me to address you on behalf of the community of the International Federation of Surveyors and its more than 100 member associations throughout the world representing more than 300,000 surveyors from the land and built environment professionals. Of which many of you are members. Please accept my warm greetings to you all.

FIG is pleased to support GSD, and I thank CLGE for initiating this annual event as long ago as 2012. Originally starting as a European celebration it is beginning to spread across the world.

The day is about bringing global recognition to the pioneers, individuals and industry who shaped the history of Earth measurement and who continue to be the foundation of the surveying community.

And,

FGF, has nominated 2 French mathematicians and astronomers, **Jean-Baptiste Joseph Delambre** (1749- 1822) astronomer, historian, and geodesist and **Pierre François André Méchain** (1744- 1804) who were the key collaborators and inventors of the metric system. I look forward to hearing more about these pioneers later

Reflecting together in recognition of those whose shoulders we stand upon is a good thing; because as you know measurement is the foundation upon which our broad family of surveyor practices in land administration, land management and land governance has emerged.

We are all well aware that the issues of land administration and management are in the heart of the global 2030 agenda in terms of the sustainable development goals. And we as the professionals in the land, built environment and natural environment have a responsibility to respond to this global agenda and to contribute to improving the living conditions in our societies. Eventually our profession and what we do in the land and built environment is about people and their well being.

This is why the new FIG term, starting January 2023 has the vision "**Surveyors serving society for the benefit of people, planet and to work in partnership**". This draws from the global partnership of nation states, UN habitat.

So in the context of our reflections today, Jean-Baptiste Joseph **Delambre** and Pierre François André **Méchain** are amongst the worthy pioneers. Today coincides with Women's History month, and perhaps future nominees can be found amongst the pioneering women in our profession. Further looking to the present there are path makers emerging today, because above all the surveyor community can advance discussion of critical importance to the built

and natural environment, inspiring positive and sustainable change for a prosperous and inclusive future. Time will tell.

FIG and the international surveying community are fully behind this celebration. I am impressed by todays, organization that outreaches in different time zones, underpinning that this is a reflection of pioneers surveyors from around the world.

I congratulate the organizers once again for putting together such an important event. It is my pleasure to be here in person, Thank you very much.

FIG President Diane A Dumashie

21st March 2023