

busy month has seen *GW's* down under correspondent attending conferences in Indonesia and New Zealand.



## Indonesia welcomes FIG with song

By John F Brock

Having only just returned from the FIG Regional Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Friday morning October 8 at 5.10 am, and then gone straight to work, this issue of DUC has had to wait until I returned from Auckland, New Zealand on Saturday October 16 from my flight across "The Ditch"! (the colloquial term for the Tasman Sea which divides the two nations!)

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### 3rd FIG Regional conference success

Even though some delegates were scared off from attending the conference in Jakarta through warnings by their governments (especially Australia!) there were still over 350 registrants for this most excellent gathering of surveyors from the South East Asian region and various countries of the world – 35 in all. The Opening Ceremony was addressed by the Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, **Professor Dr Dorodjatun Kuntjoro-Jakti**, and **Ir. Rudolf W. Matindas**, Head of the Indonesian National Coordinating Agency for Surveys and Mapping (Bakosurtanal). Both men were most enthusiastic for the future of surveying and mapping for the development of their recently democratized nation of over 160 million citizens with the final announcement of the election of their new president, **Mr Susilo Bambang Yudoyono**, only being made on the Wednesday of our conference. Our FIG President Professor **Holger Magel** must be congratulated for his initiative in promulgating and facilitating such excellent conferences in developing nations where the local surveyors can demonstrate their great skills to the visitors while also being able to learn some valuable new knowledge to incorporate in the most urgent areas of sustainable and environmentally proactive development.

### The singing Governor

On the Monday evening of the conference we were hosted by the Governor of Jakarta, His Excellency **The Right Honourable Sutiyoso** to a dinner in the Balaikota Building in central Jakarta complete

with traditional Indonesian menu and dancers. During dinner there was a Las Vegas style lady singer with piano player who had a wonderful voice, but the audience was a little stunned and greatly delighted when the Governor took the stage to sing two duets with the lady. He was in excellent voice and to demonstrate to us beyond our expectations of his truly most courteous regard for our presence, he waited at the exit door so that he could personally shake hands with everyone who attended for which all were most appreciative and eminently impressed.

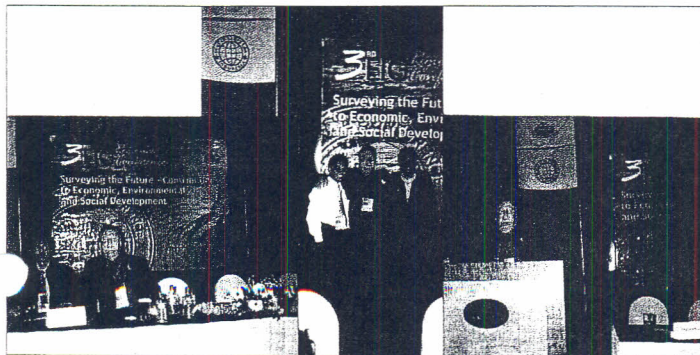
### By George I think she means Denzel!

There was a most lovely Indonesian lady selling the FIG souvenir polo shirts at the Technical Exhibition of the Jakarta Conference who got extremely excited when she saw one of our tall Kenyan surveyors, **Wafula Nabutola**, stride into the hall. She wildly exclaimed that he looked exactly like **George Washington**, which had people a little puzzled until our very astute Chair of Commission 8, **Dianne Dumashie**, from the UK of course, realized that she really meant to say that he looked just like **Denzel Washington** – not George! Everyone certainly agreed that Wafula bore a striking resemblance to Denzel but confined his similarity to George to their chosen profession as surveyors.

### Land subsidence monitoring

After attending quite a number of very interesting technical sessions it became startlingly clear to me that the work of our surveyor colleagues in many other nations was of pivotal importance to the livelihoods and protection of the citizens of their respective nations. Surveying to accumulate data for modelling in terrain affected by avalanches, mudslides, typhoons, cyclones, hurricanes, tsunamis and all manner of flood style disasters was most intriguing. However, I found the presentation by **Hasanuddin Z. Abidin**, from Jakarta, most absorbing. It displayed the absolute indispensability of the surveyors who monitored land subsidence emanating from earthquake and volcanic activity in the surrounding area. Some of this subsidence resulted in the levels sagging by up to five metres, with the obvious catastrophic translation into flooding, building and infrastructure damage requiring constant attention. **GW**

A montage of images showing our correspondent at the recent Regional Conference in Jakarta.



• Further information about this Regional Conference and the proceedings can be found at the FIG website: [www.fig.net/pub/jakarta](http://www.fig.net/pub/jakarta)