

25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 –

**FINAL: Welcome Address by Dr Diane A Dumashie, FIG President  
2024 Geospatial Intelligence Software Technology Conference in China (GISTC 2024)**

Good morning, As the President of the global organisation of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) It is an immense honor and privilege to address you all today at the opening of the 2024 **Geospatial Intelligence Software Technology Conference (GISTC)**, hosted by **Technology Innovation Center for Geospatial Information Systems** in the **Ministry of Natural Resources**.

In the FIG community all professionals acting in the disciplines of land, natural resource and built environment are represented..... Of which you and some of your colleagues are members. FIG members include China Land and Planning institute, Ministry of Land and Resources (affiliate), **Chinese Society for Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography (CSGPC)**, **China institute of real estate appraisers and agents (CIREA)**, **China Land Science Society (CLSS)** + School of Public Administration Academic + and as an FIG corporate member, **SuperMap**.

Dear distinguished Guests, Dear esteemed Colleagues, ladies and gentleman, all protocols observed Please accept my warm greetings to you all, coming together to discuss the significant advancements in geospatial intelligence and the cutting edge technologies that are shaping our world.

This program of the GIST **Conference**, is very impressive with a range of interesting topics covered. The organisers should be congratulated for putting together such an interesting and very attractive event. In this regard, the theme of the conference: **“Geospatial Intelligence, Driving Quality Development”** is very appropriate and timely.

As we face unprecedented global planetary challenges from climate change, rapid urbanisation, resource management and increasingly responding and managing climatic induced disasters.....The role of geospatial intelligence has never been more critical. Our professional ability to collect, analyse and interpret geospatial data is essential for informed decision making, effective policy implementation and the creating of resilient and sustainable communities.....Arguably we are **‘just-in-time’** to discuss the technologies and developments in geospatial intelligence.

FIG and its more than 115 country members throughout the world representing more than 330,000 surveyors from the land, built environment and natural resources worldwide: .... we are committed to promoting the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and collaboration in the survey and geospatial community.

Accordingly, the current FIG Council mission is underpinned by **‘Surveyors serving society for the benefit of people, planet and to work in partnerships’** ..... which I am so pleased aligns to the purpose of this conference. We are, after all, recognised experts in the whole scope of land Management, land administration, geospatial and connected engineering, surveying and mapping activities [*very pleased to be opening alongside your Director in survey and mapping*]. I’d also like not to forget our colleagues in the **hydrographic** area.

The field of geospatial intelligence has experienced exponential growth and transformation over the past few decades. What once was the domain of traditional surveying has now expanded and encompasses satellite imagery, remote sensing, GIS and advanced data analytics. This evolution has been driven by the relentless pursuit of innovation, the increasing availability of geospatial data and the integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning into our analytical processes.

These remarkable developments in geographic information are across the world.... Here I am, in your homeland,.... Republic of China... I am very much looking forward to learning more about the incredible rapid progress in GIS technology happening here [China].... From the development of sophisticated satellite systems to cutting edge data analytics that supports China's position as a global leaders in geospatial innovations.

Importantly, it is not just GIS development, but these developments **must have purposeful applications**. The ability to analyse and interpret vast amounts of geospatial data is enabling us to make more informed decisions to enhance efficiency. This of course is transforming the way our societies operate. Again here in China, GIS is being utilises impressively for urban planning, smart city initiatives, environmental monitoring, and disaster management, and much more.

China's commitment to advancing geospatial technologies and aiming to foster a culture of innovation is exciting. The work being done here will inspire the global survey and geospatial community and underscores the importance of continued investment in research and development.

But in my mind it is an absolute MUST to continue to build the foundation of our profession and therefore our ongoing relevance to society. I'd like to highlight the importance of building capacity as a fundamental to attract young people into our profession, this is a role carried out by us all: Universities and professionals [associations] together. We really do need to ensure Young Surveyors are well represented in our deliberations.

Before I close my speech, please allow me to express my SINCERE thanks to **SuperMap**. Having lent my support in GISTC 2023 with a virtual address, **SuperMap** kindly invited and are hosting me to join you all today/ 2024. SuperMap as a FIG corporate member, I have met on multiple occasions and have learnt that they are a leading provider of GIS software and solutions (founded in 1997). They are always so willing to collaborate and promote the use of geospatial technologies that in turn drives innovation in this field, as well as the exchanges among people and enterprises both inside and outside of China. As a valued FIG member, I very much look forward to SuperMap continuing involvement their help to advance shared goals in the future.

I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to the other organisers of GISTC 2024....and there are several. One I'd like to particularly mention is UN GGIM who is providing 'special support'. They have brought us together at this event, and once again thanks to our host, Technology Innovation Centre for geospatial information systems.

And, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate **Professor Yan** Quin, President of the Chinese Academy of Survey and Mapping who after a successful election in Ghana, will be joining my FIG Council in January 2025 as Vice President. FIG very much looks forward to your contributions

As we embark on this exciting journey over the next two days, I encourage you all to engage with the diverse breadth of presentations and discussion that this conference has to offer. Let us share our knowledge, exchange ideas, and forge new partnerships. I am confident that our host and organisers have set us on a program that will generate insights and connections to continue to innovate **What Is Possible** in geospatial intelligence and contribute to a more sustainable and prosperous future for all, and to leave no one behind.

Thank you, and I wish you all a successful and inspiring conference.

END- June 2024