



FIG Working Week 13 - 17 May 2007 Hong Kong



同心共策 測量服務 Strategic Integration of Surveying Services

Venue : Kowloon Shangri-La Hong Kong

Website : www.figww2007.hk

Organisers :



香港測量師學會
The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
www.hkis.org.hk



International Federation of Surveyors
www.fig.net

Co-organiser :



香港特別行政區政府地政總署
Lands Department, the Government of the HKSAR
www.landsd.gov.hk

Message from the Chairman, Hak CHAN



The FIG Working Week 2007 will be the first FIG Working Week to be held in Hong Kong. Every endeavour is being made to ensure the event will be conducted in the most exact and glamorous manner as befitting an FIG event as well as commensurate with the tradition of the Hong Kong Surveyors, and most important of all, a most enjoyable and rewarding time for all participants coming from far and near.

begin with, the venue chosen is a top rated hotel. All functions, except those technical and social visits, will be held under one roof thereby providing the most comfort to the participants. Full and quality catering will be provided, such as, tea and coffee break with abundant snacks and buffet lunches with a large variety of food throughout the event, two receptions and one FIG Foundation Dinner, which are all inclusive for Full Delegates, and a value for money Gala Dinner with a taste of the fabulous Chinese cuisine.

In addition to the many quality technical papers to be presented by learned experts from various fields of surveying, in the same venue, there will be an exhibition area for world renowned surveying equipment manufacturers and software and services providers to display their latest technology and products, and participants will have the chance to have the first glimpse and touch of these state-of-the-art masterpieces.

Hong Kong is a vibrant and lively mega city. Perhaps to some of you from afar the city is no strange place, but you will definitely find something new and extraordinary that will fascinate you each time you come. On behalf of the Organising Committee, I extend my warmest welcome to you. See you in the FIG Working Week 2007.

Message from the Congress Director, Winnie SHIU



I have much pleasure to be the Congress Director of the FIG Working Week 2007. My primary role is to maintain a close dialogue with FIG Council on matters related to the Working Week with a view to directing the Working Week in meeting its goals and the expectations of all the stakeholders, such as you, the valuable participants. An equally important role is to take part in the work of the Organising Committee to ensure that essential facilities and logistics are provided for the smooth operation of the event.

The plenary and technical programme sessions are planned to facilitate maximum participation. Whilst quality technical papers are being selected by the Commission Chairs with the co-ordination of the FIG Council, effort is being made to identify prominent persons to deliver the keynote and plenary speeches. Technical tours will be available to visit some of the finer examples of surveying work in Hong Kong.

There will be ample well equipped rooms for the various activities, such as, the Annual Commission Meetings, General Assembly, Exhibitions, and Plenary and Technical Sessions, all in the same premises. Quality catering in abundance will be provided to freshen up participants in between tense technical sessions as well as receptions and dinners for everyone to relax and enjoy in the evening.

Every effort will be put in to make the FIG Working Week 2007 a rewarding and memorable occasion for all participants. Hong Kong is always a lovely place to visit, for leisure or business. I look forward to seeing you in the Working Week.

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website: figww2007.hk



Above: Ruth Adams discovered these reference marks from ancient times in Regensburg. They show foot, yard and fathom rules fixed to the market place wall.

required delegates to either take taxis or the metro and leave in good time. For my part, I preferred to walk and soak in the lively life along the way. There seemed little point being at a \$225-a-night conference hotel on the edge of the old town, when one could be at a good \$80 hotel right in the centre of where all the action was and only a short walk to the events. I must admit, the Holiday Inn's breakfast were superb – everything one could ever want.

The conference centre where the papers were presented was about 8kms from the Holiday Inn. For most people it took 40-45 minutes to get from the hotel by metro, requiring a change of trains that weren't that frequent.

Ruth Adams: Commission 4

This year's FIG conference was a culmination of four years' work. Since Washington, in 2002, Commission 4's working groups have been researching various topics and Munich saw the launch of two key FIG documents. Both were very well received and are a credit to those who contributed, from not only Commission 4 but Commission 5 (Measurement and Positioning) and Commission 7 (Cadastre and Land Management). They can be downloaded from:

<http://www.fig.net/pub/figpub/pubindex.htm>

Alongside this there was the usual plethora of hydrographic papers ranging from tidal corrections using GPS, current work in the IHB (International Hydrographic Bureau), LIDAR surveying of shallow waters and even hydrographic surveying of small alpine rivers. After seeing the torrents that the surveyors in Austria have to measure, **Steve Shipman** (IHB) dryly commented that he'll never complain about working in a hostile environment again.

Two workshops were also held: one on Economic Benefits of Hydrography and the other on Pathways to Professionalism. Details of all papers can be found at www.fig.net Commission 4 also launched their annual CD, which contains a collection of hydrographic papers written over the previous year. Copies can be obtained from the FIG office.

This was **Adam Greenland's** (LINZ, Land Information New Zealand) last conference as the chair of Commission 4. He has faithfully led us with drive and determination over the past four years and left it in great shape for the next chair. Commission 4 owes him a huge thank you for his unstinting commitment.

The new chair is **Andrew Leyzack**, Canadian Hydrographic Service. He has served Commission 4 for the past four years as vice-chair and administrative officer so is well placed to take the reins. He launched the work plan for 2006-2010. Some themes continue from 2002-2006, such as education and standards, but new subjects are introduced, such as the working group on capacity building and the economic benefits of hydrography.

Gordon Johnston is the lead for this latter group as the RICS UK representative.

FIG Publication 37 and RICS Guide

Along with other members of Commission 4, we have produced a guide on vertical reference surfaces for hydrography, particularly concerning the determination of a vertical transformation model. As many of you know (particularly my long suffering family!) this has been a key mission of mine over the past few years. The document provides background and technical information covering subjects such as how to build a vertical separation model, country studies etc. It can be downloaded from

www.fig.net/pub/figpub/figpub37/figput37.htm

It has been incredibly well received – not only in Munich but globally. Within a week of launch, I had messages from colleagues in the US saying how useful it was. **Matt Higgins** (Chair Commission 5) was delighted to bump into an old friend in Munich who was lamenting that it was about time somebody produced a guide to vertical reference frames. You can imagine Matt's satisfaction when he tugged FIG 37 from his jacket pocket and gave it to him!

Alongside this, the RICS has produced a guide – *Developing a Hydrographic Reference Surface for Hydrography*. This is co-published with FIG and fits in the RICS 'Technically Speaking' series of client guides. This can be found at:

http://www.rics.org/Environmentalandlandconsultancy/Geomatics/Hydrographicsurveying/hydro_clientguide.htm

Droggies on the Danube

It is now common for Commission 4 to have a hydrographic technical tour. True to form, this was a cracker. We headed off to Regensburg for a day on the Danube. Our hosts were the Centre of Geoinformation of Waterways and Shipping Directorate South. The Centre is responsible for surveying a stretch of the Danube in their region. The average depth is about 2.5m and is regulated by a series of dams. We watched surveying on both their two boats using their extended echosounding array, which is ideal for the hydrographic terrain they operate in.

We settled in for the afternoon cruise on the Danube on their visitor's boat, listening to lectures and watching Bavaria slip by. We had a quick one hour tour of medieval Regensburg before leaving. As surveyors, we were most fascinated by the foot, yard and fathom rods that were nailed to the market place wall to ensure consistency in measurements. Our host said she'd never seen a group quite so transfixed by these!

Not only was this my last FIG but I am also stepping down. These past four years have been great; both from a professional and personal point of view. However, the demands of a busy job, children and husband, not to mention my continuing RICS work on the Geomatics Faculty, mean that I can no longer devote to FIG what it deserves. I wish my successor, Gordon Johnston, all the best as I hand over the RICS UK Rep mantle to him. **GW**

Ruth Adams and Adam Greenland celebrate the launch of the new publication.

