


THE FIG REPORT VOL. 1, NO. 5

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The XXIII FIG Congress held October 7-13 in Munich, Germany, was a great success. The FIG Congress was attended by 1,300 delegates from about 100 countries. Thirty-five participants in the FIG Congress were from the USA. Together with the German Intergeo Conference and other simultaneous events the congress was attended by 3,000 participants. The Intergeo exhibition attracted about 20,000 visitors and 580 exhibitors from almost 100 countries. The exhibition floor covered over 30,000 square meters (almost 323,000 square feet). This was the largest FIG Congress as well as the largest Intergeo even held.

At the opening ceremony the welcome address was given by Dr. Edmund Stoiber, Bavarian Minister President, the presidential address by Prof. Holger Magel, FIG President and the keynote address by Dr. Klaus Töpfer, long-time General Director of the United Nations Environment Program. The opening ceremony attracted a capacity hall of 1,400 participants. The social highlights included the FIG Congress welcome reception at the Holiday Inn with 700 people, the Intergeo Surveyors Party/FIG Foundation Dinner with 1,800 people at the Löwenbräukeller and the FIG Congress Farewell Dinner with about 600 people at the Hofbräuhaus - all these events were sold out.

Some 500 papers in 90 sessions were presented. Additionally several workshops, seminars and plenary sessions were offered along with 100 poster display presentations.

Key highlights of the FIG Congress included the election of Professor Stig Enemark (Denmark) as the new President of FIG (2007-2010). Also elected were Matt Higgins (Australia) and Dr. Dalal S. Alnaggar (Egypt) as Vice Presidents for 2007-2010. Professor Paul van der Molen (The Netherlands) was elected to fill Stig Enemark's



term as Vice President for 2007-2008. The fourth Vice President is Ken Allred (Canada) who will continue in the new Council. The new Council will begin its term January 1, 2007.

Dr. Chryssy Potsiou (Greece) was appointed as ACCO (Advisory Committee of Commission Officers) representative to the FIG Council for 2007-2008.

Marrakech, Morocco was selected as the site for the 2011 FIG Working Week after winning the majority of support over the other candidates-Rome, Italy; Puerto Rico; and Nigeria.

New member associations were approved from Benin, Brazil, Congo D.R., Georgia, Hong Kong, Iran, Mongolia, and Tanzania bringing the total of member associations to 102. In addition, five new affiliate members (ANZLIC, Iceland, Macedonia FYROM, Mongolia, and Romania) were admitted. The FIG General Assembly also endorsed membership of 7 new corporate members and 13 academic members.

Four new FIG publications were introduced. Reports from the FIG President and final reports from ACCO and the commissions for 2002-2006 were approved as well as draft commission work plans for 2007-2010 were introduced.

Presentations were made by nine representatives from the USA including a Plenary Presentation by David Zilkoski, Director, National Geodetic Survey.



[FIG, p. 36, col. 2]



Speakers at the launch of GIWIS. From left: Bob Samborski, Executive Director, GITA; Steve Hick, Director of GIS, University of Denver; Jeanette Alberg, Colorado Senator Wayne Allard's staff; Erin Minks, Colorado Senator Ken Salazar's staff; Jon Gottsegen, GIS Coordinator, State of Colorado; and Pete Gomez, Director, Information Requirements, Xcel Energy

—by Kathryn Henton, GITA

Attendees at the 2006 GIS in the Rockies conference were witness to the launch of one of the most exciting Web information networks in the geospatial industry: the Geospatial Industry Workforce Information System, GIWIS (gee-whiz). The official launch of the nation's first and only geospatial workforce information network took place September 13, 2006, at INVESCO Field at Mile High in Denver, Colorado. Local educators, government officials, industry leaders, Denver-area workforce personnel, and approximately 200 conference attendees were on hand for the launch.

GIWIS is designed to address the needs of the entire Denver metro area's geospatial workforce pipeline, from high school students to educators to employers. The purpose of GIWIS is to help educate and motivate workers to enter the geospatial industry in Denver. The launch of the GIWIS site is the culmination of an effort by the Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) and the Association of American Geographers (AAG), Wash., D.C., to study and identify the needs, challenges, and priorities in building and strengthening the geospatial workforce. The study was funded by a \$700,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The grant supports President Bush's High Growth Job Training Initiative by forming high-level partnerships to collaboratively develop solutions to meet the workforce challenges and labor shortages facing the geospatial industry.

"Our goal in creating GIWIS is to motivate students and workers to enter Denver's geospatial workforce," said GITA Executive Director Bob Samborski. "We believe this site has great potential and will continuously evolve, and we are hopeful that it will be a catalyst in many new partnerships and industry opportunities."

GIWIS, located at www.giwis.org, will enable educators, industry representatives, and workplace experts to communicate the opportunities available in the industry, skills required, and locations of educational institutions that offer geospatial programs in the Denver area. "The GIWIS site will provide an important tool to make sense of the wide and evolving array of geospatial uses, skills, and potential career paths," said Jon Gottsegen, GIS Coordinator for the State of Colorado. "I believe this will promote a congruity for the demand side of GIS skills and training so there is a well-prepared workforce out there to fill GIS jobs."

GITA past president Pete Gomez of Xcel Energy noted, "GIWIS will be a key tool that will help us not only staff but find those key skills that are needed to take this technology to the next generation and reflect and expand on where our roots really come from."

Because job seekers will be able to find job descriptions and salary information in addition to job postings, Steve Hick, GIS Director at the University of Denver, feels the GIWIS portal will serve a valuable purpose. "What is the first question new students ask? 'Are there any jobs out there?'" Historically, when it comes to advising students, five percent is academic, and 95 percent is career advising on who to turn to and where opportunities are," said Hick. "GIWIS provides one-stop shopping because many of you send me job announcements every day. They come pouring in. Now we've got a place to compile all that."

GIWIS will serve as a model for other cities on how to use collaborative partnerships to meet the geospatial workforce demands of the future. Those interested in learning more about GIWIS are encouraged to visit the site at www.giwis.org. ■

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The ACSM FIG Forum Delegation members in attendance included Steve Frank (Commission 2- Professional Education), Chuck Pearson (Commission 3- Spatial Information Management), Jerry Mills (Commission 4- Hydrography), Tom Soler (Commission 5- Positioning and Measurement), John Hamilton (Commission 6- Engineering Surveys), Bob Foster (Commission 9- Valuation and the Management of Real Estate), and John Hohol (ACSM FIG Head of Delegation). The next FIG Working Week will be held May 13-17, 2007 in Hong Kong, China. ■