



# FIG WW 2009 CONFERENCE REPORT

## THE FIG2009 CONFERENCE IN EILAT, ISRAEL PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT

The annual International conference of surveyors, FIG WW 2009 in Eilat, Israel (May 3- 8, 2009) was an exceptionally successful conference with more than 600 attendees from more than 65 countries including China, Germany, Nigeria, USA, Australia, Serbia, United Kingdom, Italy, Portugal, Netherlands, Turkey, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, Canada, Hungary, Finland, Brazil, Ghana, New-Zealand, Kenya, Bulgaria, Cyprus, India, South Africa, Mali, Indonesia, Eritrea, and many more.

More than 250 lectures were presented in 60 sessions including three plenary sessions given by leading experts such as Vanessa Lawrence, CB, Director General and CEO, Ordnance Survey, Dr. Haim Srebro, Director General, Survey of Israel and the Congress Director, Lawrie E. Jordan III, Director, Imagery Enterprise Solutions, ESRI, Prof. Stig Enemark, President of FIG, Prof. Orhan Altan, President of ISPRS, Minister Dr. Ze'ev B. Begin, Past Director of the Geological Survey of Israel, Prof. Dr. Ing. Rudolf Staiger, University of Applied Sciences Bochum, Germany, Chair of FIG Commission 5, and Dr. Joseph Forrai, Deputy Director General for Cadastre, Survey of Israel. The Keynote speaker at the Opening Ceremony was Prof. Isaac Ben-Israel, Major Gen. (Res.), Chairman of Israel Space Agency who addressed the role of Israel in Space.

The conference has been a major platform for new collaborations and cooperation between national agencies and between global companies, such as the cooperation agreement between the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping (SBSM) of the P. R. China and the Survey of Israel (SOI).

Moreover, A Directors General Forum meeting was organized by the DG of SOI. The Directors General Forum was well attended with more than 20 Director Generals and leaders from National Geospatial Agencies. Presentations were given by Mr. A. P. C. Njebuome from Nigeria, Dr. Vanessa Lawrence from United Kingdom, Mr. Warwick Watkins from Australia, Mr. Xu Deming from China and Dr. Haim Srebro from Israel, who chaired the first session. Prof. Stig Enemark, FIG President was the Chair of the second session of the forum which concluded with strong understanding for the necessity to



Dr. Haim Srebro, Director General of the Survey of Israel (left) and Mr. Xu Deming, Vice Minister and Director General of the SBSM of the P. R. China signing the cooperation agreement.

share knowledge and information across national agencies as a way to tackle the global challenges and budget cuts.

In addition, Minister Dr. Ze'ev B. Begin from the newly formed Israeli government and a leading scientist in Earth sciences met with a delegation of the international surveying and mapping community to discuss various measures to preserve and protect our fragile global environment. The "Location Strategy" of the British government and the Ordnance Survey slogan "everything happens somewhere" was a key issue in the conversation as well as the Swiss definition of mapping and cadastral data as national infrastructure.

The conference was the venue of many booths of international companies presenting innovative technologies in the exhibition among them Bentley and Sivan Design, the silver sponsors of the conference. Each conference participant received a copy of the newly published book "60 Years of Surveying and Mapping Israel" by Haim Srebro, Ron Adler and Dov Gavish.

In addition to the professional activities the conference had some remarkable social events including an exceptional Gala Dinner that was held in a one of a kind venue, at the heart of the desert near the base of the magnificent King Solomon's Pillars of Timna Park – home to the world's most ancient copper mines of King Ramses III (12th C BC). The group of the FIG Young Surveyors was very active, conducting a session and a few discussions regarding the encouragement of students and young professionals to take an active role at FIG.



from left: Prof. Stig Enemark, Minister Dr. Ze'ev B. Begin, Dr. Haim Srebro, Mr. Iain Greenway, United Kingdom, Mr. Warwick Watkins from Australia, Mr. Matthew Higgins FIG Vice President, Dr. Liao Jungping, Vice President and Dr. Song Chunhua, President of the China Institute of Real Estate Appraisers (CIREA).