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Dear Members

Greetings and well wishes from FIG, the Office, the Council and myself.

The current FIG Council concluded its very last meeting (via email) on 25th November 2014. This essentially brought to a close the current four-year term of this Council. Please join the FIG Office and I to welcome President Chryssy Potsiou (TCG-Greece) and Vice Presidents Bruno Razza (CNGeGL, Italy), Pengfei Cheng (CSGPC, China), Rudolf Staiger (DVW, Germany) and Diane Dumashie (RICS, United Kingdom), whom together with the Chairs of FIG Commissions, Networks and Permanent Institutions, will now lead us forward. We wish them every success in their endeavors to bring our august Federation and Profession to newer heights.

At the very last council meeting, a number of matters were dispensed including membership and finance. The in-coming FIG Council will bring to the 38th General Assembly for decision a nomination for honorary membership. The General Assembly will also be informed of the three new Affiliate Members, two new Academic Members and three new Corporate Members approved by this Council at its last meeting. In addition to this will be the usual financial reporting. The financial status of FIG for 2014 is forecasted to record a slight improvement against the revised budget approved at the 37th General Assembly. Overall, during this term, the key financial measures adopted were met. The FIG General Reserve was kept between the mandated 90% - 100% level of the average annual regular expenditure as mandated by the General Assembly. In addition, we now have two additional reserves, one for events and the other for IT. All these will provide FIG with better financial stability and agility.

Furthermore, the preparation for our 2015 FIG Working Week including the 38th General Assembly, jointly organized with the Chamber of Graduated Surveyor Bulgaria, in Sofia, 17th – 21st May 2015 is well underway. I trust you and your colleagues are planning to join the new FIG Council in its first Working Week.

Back in February 2011, at the commencement of this four-year term, I wrote “*The Council and I are positioned to lead and serve the Federation and the Profession. We are mindful of the immensity of the task and the many expectations are not lost on us. Together with the chairs of FIG’s ten Commissions, two Networks and three Task Forces as well as the directors of FIG’s two Permanent Institution and the President of the FIG Foundation, whom I regard as the wider leadership of the Federation, we commit ourselves and endeavour to bring the Federation and the profession-of-our-choice to new heights during this term of office. We know that this can only be achieved through mutual respect, working with one another and commitment. Our vision is that we become a Profession, armed with knowledge and best practices, extending the usefulness of surveying for the benefit of society, environment and economy, increasingly positioned in significance and relevance, next door to everywhere*”.

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to FIG's membership, partners and stakeholders. FIG remains grateful for all the support and contribution which enabled us to function and strive towards meaningful engagements and contributions, efforts that should cascade to the local community and marketplace where we are present. Our thanks and appreciations also go to those who provided leadership within FIG and to the corps of volunteers from all over. All have worked and contributed, and together enhanced the usefulness for our sciences, technologies, knowledge and practices. These energies and efforts have contributed much towards advancing the utility, standing and relevance of our Profession and Federation.

Once again, thank you for the support and encouragement, the contributions and the esprit-de-corps, the friendship and counsel, especially from so many from amongst FIG's membership, partners and stakeholders. Many thanks also to the Vice Presidents, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of FIG Commissions and Networks, the Chairs and Members of FIG Task Forces, the Directors and Members of FIG Permanent Institutions as well as the President and Directors of FIG Foundation. There may have been times which you have felt that your President could have done better. Despite my best efforts, I am also human. So please excuse all the shortcomings and failings on my part during this term.

My sincere thanks for this tremendous professional and personal experience and it remains a distinct privilege. President Chryssy and her leadership team are positioned to now lead us forward and to them, please be ready to extend our every support.

As 2014 draws to a close and as we prepare to usher in a new year, I wish you the season's blessings and goodwill. May your new year bring with it new optimism and renewed commitment to strive for a better and sustainable future for all.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
International Federation of Surveyors



CheeHai TEO
President (2011 – 14)