Closing Remarks at "GIS 2002" Istanbul, Turkey September 26, 2002 by Robert W. Foster, President, FIG

President Ulku, Chairman Ipek, Colleagues:

At the opening session on Tuesday I predicted that your program would advance surveying in its service to society in the application of GIS, cadastre and land management, emergency monitoring and management, environment and natural resources study and monitoring, and the management of utilities and urban planning. The quality of these presentations has certainly fulfilled that prediction in presenting a variety of GIS applications in disaster monitoring, environmental application, consideration of access to data and public participation.

We have heard a full spectrum of presentations about GIS, from the near-glorification of this technology to the question of its place and purpose in the urban planning process. It has been a challenging and intriguing week of discussions.

(I inserted here a short report about the FIG Foundation and the grant of software packages to academic members of FIG from ESRI with an invitation for all schools to join FIG and for those academic members to make application for a grant of one of the remaining (10 of 25) software packages.)

(I closed with a few extemporaneous remarks of thanks and appreciation for the warm hospitality of the Organizing Committee specifically and the Turkish people generally.)

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