

Gerasimos Apostolatos
Member of the Organizing Committee and Representative of the Technical Chamber of Greece

Dear colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen:

Last May, the FIG Annual General Assembly as well as the Working Week was held in Prague. A lot of participants who are present today took place there, one of them is myself, who participated as a member of the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG), delegation.

The TCG stands for the total of the qualified University graduated engineers in Greece (architects, civil engineers, surveying engineers, etc) and consists of more than 80.000 people.

Among the goals of the Technical Chamber of Greece is the research development and the science promotion at all fields where the engineers activate, and in order to reach this specific goal the TCG assigns the elaboration of studies and research, to WG's submits documented proposals to the Hellenic State, promotes programs of continuous training for engineers via an independent agency called IEKEM which follows the rules and functions by free market principles, and provides services for its members and all network users via the Information Bank. Also, it participates in all international fora of engineers, such as the Worldwide Organization of Engineers, the European Association of the Engineers (FEANI), in parallel engineers' organizations with a by-scientific approach (e.g. ICOMOS) etc. and by signing relative protocols it cooperates with independent organizations such as the Association of the Civil Engineers of USA.

Finally, the TCG organizes and participates to Hellenic and International congresses, for engineers' issues, aiming at the monitoring of the progress of know-how and its transfer to the Greek Engineers. Generally, the TCG promotes and advertises every such effort.

In the framework of this specific activity, the TCG participates and monitors not only the activity held by FIG but also by all Committees consisting together with the Hellenic Association of the Rural & Surveying Engineers the two members which represent Greece at FIG. The TCG supported from the very beginning the idea of this Meeting 2000 - Com3, in Athens, with the subject "Spatial Information Management" and for the same reasons it actively participates.

The topic of this year meeting "Experiences and Visions for the 21st Century" is very interesting and by combining the parallel and rapid changes we live through the last decade on digital technology and the "Spatial Information Management", it is anticipated that the perspectives of the relevant applications for the next century will be very important not only to the surveying engineers but also to all scientists and generally all people.

However, all the top level studies, applications and programs for infrastructure programs and district development, urban development and regional development as well as countries' development are still based on these specific methodologies.

These ascertainments are confirmed also by the huge number of the participating countries, at this year's meeting -com3 and also by the numerous presentations and announcements we will hear in this room which will give us optimistic messages for this meeting success.

The Technical Chamber of Greece, considers the work and activities of Com3, FIG, very important and welcomes the 2000 meeting in Athens. We wish every success to its works and await with interest its outcomes for their exploitation for the benefit of all society.

Thank you.