

## Opening Address

**Dr.-Ing. Andreas DREES, Vice President of FIG, Germany**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure for me to attend a Chinese conference on property valuation for the second time. I do this again on as deputy of the president of the international federation of surveyors FIG, Prof. Holger Magel, and I send you all his warm greetings.

It was two years ago in harvest 2003: I joined the South East Asian Surveyors Conference in Hong Kong, when I was invited by you to attend your conference in Shenzhen at the same time. Stephen Yip, the current chair of commission 9 (valuation) of FIG and me travelled from Hong Kong to Shenzhen and had a short stay for one day. It was really impressive to learn about CIREA and its various activities. It was obvious for me, that a joint conference with FIG commission 9 and HKIS would be a very good possibility to strengthen the exchange of experience and knowledge between Chinese and international valuation experts.

And today this starts to happen and I'm very happy about that:

- Being a licensed valuation expert in Germany myself I'm really interested to get to know these days, how Chinese valuation procedures are done.
- And an international part of this conference will show you more information about valuation in other countries of the world.

And this – to learn from each other and to exchange experience – is one of the main benefits of membership in an international organisation of a profession.

All professions have it – of course – and it is of crucial importance in a globalized world.

Let me tell you briefly about FIG:

FIG is the leading world wide organisation of Surveyors since 127 years, has about 100 national member organisations with more than 250.000 individual members.

FIG is a UN – recognized non – governmental organisation (NGO) and the only one, that represents all surveying disciplines.

FIG has 10 technical commissions, number 9 dealing with valuation.

Commissions are active to prepare working weeks (annually) regional conferences, seminars, workshops and, every 4 years, world congresses. The next congress will be in Munich, Germany next year. You are all warmly welcomed to participate and to visit beautiful Germany.

How can FIG support you ?

By organising events like this, providing information, providing co-operation, sponsoring students, ...

Let me give you some examples:

We provide

- co-operation with UN-agencies and other international important partners
- a Surveying Education Database on the web with more than 230 institutions and more than 430 courses
- a Surveyors Reference Library where you can get all international presented papers from FIG events
- a monthly e-newsletter
- grants for students and research projects with about 20.000 EUR/year.

I could talk about this for longer but this should be enough and I will come to the end.

Representatives of CIREA have been guest to FIG events for several time. I'm sure they have reported to you.

The FIG – family is looking forward to have CIREA as a member in our professional association.

Finally I want to highlight 2 items:

1. China and Hong Kong will be host of the next working week to come in 2007 and I would like to convince CIREA / HKIS in matters of valuation in China to provide special sessions during the conference and a technical tour to mainland China.
2. I want to thank CIREA / HKIS and especially my dear colleague Stephen Yip for all preparations and work to realize this conference. I'm sure it will be both, successful technical sessions and tours and an unforgettable impression of beautiful China.

Many thanks also to be invited again. I love to visit China for its kind people, unique culture and good cuisine. I'm happy to be here with you.

Thanks for your kind attention