

**FIG President Professor Dr.-Ing. Holger Magel**

**Welcome Greeting to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Congresso Nazionale Geometri  
in Palermo on 18 October 2005**

Dear CNG President Piero Panunzi, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Dear Friends

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to convey to you my congratulations and greetings as well as the greetings of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the global mother association of CNG and more than 100 other countries, on the occasion of your impressive Congress 2005 in Palermo.

I am happy to be with you for the third time in this year after first meeting at the Headquarters of CNG in Rome in February and the following discussion meeting with President Panunzi during the FIG Working Week in Cairo in April. I am happy therefore – as it is my goal as the FIG President – to visit and to contact our member associations directly on site to discuss common strategies and goals aimed to strengthen our profession and to exchange experiences. This is the case especially with our founding and still very vital member CNG.

It will be part of my keynote speech on Friday at the International Day to talk about our changing world, including the changing world of our profession, showing that it is not only Italy that is faced with problems. According to the mottos of your conference ‘New Horizons of the Profession’ and of my FIG presidency ‘Shaping the Change’ I would like to point out some few hot issues:

1. We cannot rest on our laurels anymore. Surveyors have continuously to adapt to new technologies and philosophies of measurements and for example land administration and to change or even to enlarge the fields of their activities. This means best education and continuous professional development. I am convinced that CNG and its members are very well aware of these needs and are going to provide best education level thus being better prepared and trained for these changes and evolutions. FIG as a global association can give information on trends like an ‘early warning system’ e.g. about problems like mutual recognition, standards, ethics, moral or other qualifications for competing in a single market.
2. Surveyors must be embedded not only within other technical and business oriented disciplines but also within society, politics and politicians. Once again, I would like to say that CNG is fulfilling these ambitious goals very well. Surveyors and surveying should be regarded as ‘guarantees and custodians’ for a democratic, just and sustainable society and for enhancing good living conditions, especially for good economic, ecological and social environment like one can find in Italy on many, but unfortunately not at all places. By providing excellent land administration and land management surveyors can become an indispensable pillar of the societies and the institutions.
3. In a global and fast growing European market surveyors have to be carefully aware not only to survive but, on the opposite, even to use very, very pro-actively the chances of growing new markets like they exist in real estate, valuation, land management, GIS etc.

CNG is a very strong professional organisation which can do both, to help its own members and to contact and support also neighbour associations like it is planned within the Mediterranean Surveyors Association and like it is desirable regarding especially in Africa. I am coming from Germany and I am very proud, that we do have, for the first time, a President who was the former Director General of the International Monetary Fund, Professor Horst Köhler, who has started a new initiative for Africa. I am proud, because he is very well informed about the need of secure tenure as a basis and as a starting point for reliable investments and for more welfare. Against this background and in this light, surveyors should start initiatives to help our colleagues in these countries for self-help but also in the interest of our countries.

I know that CNG uses its excellent contacts to European institutions and even members of parliament and to other European wide working associations like OGE, TEGoVA or EGoS. That's the right policy according to the motto 'Think globally' or 'Think on European level act locally'. The more CNG is oriented continentally or internationally the more CNG will and should play an increasing role within FIG in future. As an important precondition, I do hope that CNG is encouraging lot of young surveyors to learn English to become better involved in FIG family.

4. That's finally my hope and my wish: CNG will become once again host of important FIG events thus demonstrating being an essential part of the global family of surveyors and being able to show and demonstrate a profession which successfully copes with changed needs of society and changed markets.

I wish you a very successful Congress 2005.