

## Speech at Opening Ceremony

**George Papavassiliou, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee**

Dear colleagues

On behalf to the Local Organizing Committee and the Greek Surveying Engineers  
I'd like to welcome you to Athens Greece

According to your decision in 1999 in Sun City of South Africa we undertook the organization of the Working Week and the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

We worked hard

And we believe that you will bring great impressions back home not only from the workings of the Conference, but also from the social events and the pictures and lifestyle of our city.

We'd like to thank you for your participation and I inform you that so far we have got  
353 participants  
from 65 countries  
from all 5 continents of our planet, which brings us to one of the highest participation in the history of the Working Week of the FIG.

There will be 41 sessions  
(technical plenary or working sessions) and  
217 papers will be included in these.

We'd like to welcome you to a city that has completed all the great projects that we spotlighted in 1999 in order for you to approve our nomination.

Athens is ready to welcome the Olympic family and the Athletes from all over the world and to conduct the safest Olympic Games.

Do not pay any attention to any unfinished works in the city, since they only concern some details of the last moment in order to have an exceptionally brand new city.

We can assure you that everything will be on time.

The Hellenic Association of the Rural and Surveying Engineers is also organizing the 1<sup>st</sup> Hellenic Conference with the following topics:

- Historical development of the sector,
- The role of the Rural and Surveying Engineer in the modernisation of the Public Administration,
- Institutional frame of the profession practice,
- Education and
- New professional objects

with very interesting papers and mainly 300 Greek Rural and Surveying Engineers will have the chance to be with colleagues from all over the world.

During our Conference you will have the chance to admire some models of several measuring devices used in topography and astronomy of Ancient Greek Technology such as:

- Astrolabe of Ptolemy  
an astronomical instrument of the 2nd century A.D.
- The Mechanism of Antikethyra an astronomical instrument of 80 B.C.
- Heron's Dioptra  
a portable surveying instrument for making accurate geodetic measurements
- Heron's Odometer

and to be informed about the first measurement of the earth's periphery by Eratosthenis in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C.

with accuracy of 15% but 2300 years ago

You will also have the chance to watch an animation describing a historical technical achievement of the transportation of a rock weighing 2000 tones, along a distance of 20 km, from Filandoxoria to St. Petersburg of Russia, by the Greek Engineer Marinos Charburis in 1770.

All this great work is only a part of a significant project that the "Association for Ancient Greek Technology Studies" is conducting sponsored by the Technical Chamber of Greece, Professor Tassios and his remarkable associates.

Thank you very much Professor Tassios

The brand new idea concerning the workings of the FIG to have registration badges with our photos on, is for you to see that except for the Ancient Greek Technology we are equally capable and familiar with the new technologies as well.

We hope you'll keep them as souvenirs and forget the possible long waiting in the registration queue!!!!