

Dr. Alain Gaudet
President of FGF
40 Avenue Hoche.
75008. Paris. France.

Date: 15th August 2006.

Dear Alain,

I refer to your letter on the 5th July 2006. I am sorry for the late reply. But I promised I'll give you a formal reply. Here it is.

I am writing in my personal capacity as a candidate for the Presidency of FIG year 2007 – 2010. There are two parts. The first part deals with Language; and the second part deals with proposed co-operation between FIG and FGF.

A. Language.

FIG in its Internal Rules endorsed by member associations in the General Assembly stated that English shall be the Official Language. It's aimed to simplify the work of the bureau and limit the expenses. Carrying out simultaneous translation is very expensive and need lot of resources.

However, the concern expressed by you and your FGF cannot be ignored. This is a real situation and we must face and solve it. It's is my feverous intention and hope that an organization such as FIG should be aware of and should address this important language issue not only thinking of saving the costs but also should look after the interests and should work for the benefits of member associations. FIG should make sure that all published information must reach and understand by all member associations. Otherwise these information is not useful.

Academic and professional surveyors of a great number of under-developed and developing countries need to express, put forward, meet, discuss, exchange ideas and to share their experience on their common issues

Presently six major languages were spoken. The distribution of these spoken languages are as follows:

German 10 countries in Central Europe;
French 30 countries mostly in Africa;
Spanish 20 countries in Central and South America
Arabic 25 Countries North Africa and Middle East
English 60 Countries
Chinese 2 Countries

During my presidential year from 2007 – 2010 I shall endeavour to explore the viability, practicality and cost implication in order to establish a good solution for all the participants, academia and professionals of the above-mentioned six language-speaking groups on :-

- (a) dissemination of useful information to all member associations; and
- (b) providing a workable environment for FIG General Assembly, technical sessions, technical papers, meetings and discussions, commissions and websites.

1. General Assembly and in Plenary Sessions or Keynote Sessions:

English shall be used to conduct General Assembly Meeting. All Power Point Texts will be in English. Simultaneous translation shall be organized and carried out during General Assembly but on a voluntary basis by each of the six major languages-speaking groups, so that delegates of these language-speaking groups can understand the contents and discussions of the General Assembly, Plenary Sessions and Keynote Sessions.

The hosting country, with the assistance from FIG Office, shall provide five rooms with appropriate hardware for simultaneous translation of the five language speaking groups. Member association of a particular language-speaking group shall find its own translator for this purpose. Cost shall be born by the respective language-speaking group.

Technical Sessions

All Power Point Texts for presentation shall be in English. Presenters shall speak in any one of the five major languages and as far as practicable shall speak in English. English Speakers can speak English and present Power Point Text in English.

It shall not be possible for other five languages to be translated simultaneously at technical sessions. If these are the cases we would have to equip with five translators for each technical session. If we have five parallel technical sessions running parallel then we have to have twenty five translators. This will be very expensive and unpractical unless these can be arranged voluntarily by the respective language-speaking group. Students from universities who are presenting papers or attending can participate in these simultaneous translations. Suggest the own group to meet the cost.

For Technical Papers

Member association may select the texts considered as important and useful and then translate them and put them on the FIG website in order that all professional surveyors can get the important information in their own languages.

Commissions

Chair of Commissions shall have a linguistic group consisting of professionals who speak Arabic, English, French, German, Spanish and Chinese. Member association shall nominate a representative for each commission. If the group finds some good papers and good reports, the chairs will coordinate the translation of these and then publish them on the FIG Web Site.

Tools

Internet shall be used as a tool to communicate and exchange information and ideas, share experience as well as in carrying out the translation.

WebSite

FIG Office will update website on good papers and reports which were voluntarily translated by all the following language-speaking groups namely Arabic; FGF; German; Spanish and Chinese.

B. Proposed Co-operation between FIG and FGF.

I support and share with your view on the proposal of establishing a close co-operation between FIG and FGF in a spirit of complement and non-competing manner. This shall save a great deal of resources and costs. All surveying expertise and experience shall be shared and exchanged by all the language-speaking groups.

May I propose to you to work out a draft Memorandum of Understanding in Munich in October 2006.

Regards

Sincerely Yours,



T. N. Wong.

Candidate for FIG Presidency for year 2007-2010

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