

New FIG president

Teo CheeHai has been elected new president of FIG. Mr CheeHai, a land and hydrographic surveying consultant from Malaysia, beat off competition from Australia's Matt Higgins and ICES fellow lain Greenway to be named president for 2011-2014.

Chryssy Potsiou, Dalal Alnaggar and Rudolf Staiger were elected vice presidents. It was also agreed that the next congress will be held in 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

New publications launched

FIG launched eight new publications at its congress in Sydney this spring. The publications are:

- Land Governance in Support of the Millennium Development Goals: A New Agenda for Land Professionals
- Enhancing Surveying Education through e-Learning
- Institutional and Organisational Development: A Guide for Managers
- Rapid Urbanization and Mega Cities:

The Need for Spatial Information Management

- Cost Effective GNSS Positioning Techniques
- History of Surveying
- The Hanoi Declaration: Land Acquisition in Emerging Economies
- The Social Tenure Domain Model: A Pro-Poor Land Tool

All of the guides are available to view as pdfs on www.fig.net



Mutual recognition for HKIS and ICES

ICES president Ken Hall (pictured above left) presented a token of appreciation to Professor Chau Kwong Wing, president of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (right) at a ceremony on 7 April. The occasion marked the signing of a reciprocal recognition agreement between the two institutions.

HKIS has over 7,000 members working in building, quantity, land and property surveying in Hong Kong. The new agreement recognises the skills of ICES commercial management members and the QS division of HKIS.

NEC roadshow discounts

ICES members are entitled to a 20% discount on the NEC series of summer roadshows. The roadshows feature a comparison of NEC3 and JCT, followed by sessions on public sector projects and the use of project bank accounts, fair payment and z clauses.

The roadshow runs throughout June and July in Edinburgh, Birmingham, London, Manchester, Cardiff and Peterborough. The discounted rates for ICES members are £94 for a half day and £140 for a full day. Book via www.neccontract.com/events

SURCO chair takes masterclass

Andy Glover, chair of the institution's information business SURCO, will be speaking at a construction masterclass next month. The event, organised by the CIOB and Hill International, also features ICES past president David Carrick and a panel debate on the future of construction after the election chaired by Salford's Labour MP Hazel Blears.

The theme for the masterclass is managing delay and disruption in construction and will be held at Davenport Green Hall in Manchester on 1 July.

See www.hillintluk.com/Masterclass for details.

Infrastructure stock-take: Views wanted

The Office of Fair Trading has launched a stock-take of the UK's infrastructure ownership and control. The aims of the "short fact finding project" are twofold; to map who owns and controls sectors including ports, airports, car parks and energy and water networks, and to assess how that ownership affects consumers.

The forms of ownership being looked at include private equity, statutory corporations, infrastructure investment funds and limited companies. Heather Clayton, a senior director at the OFT, said: "Effective infrastructure is crucial to the performance and productivity of the UK economy, and the quality of life of UK consumers. There have been significant changes in ownership of infrastructure assets in both regulated and unregulated sectors of the economy over the past decade. We want to take this opportunity to step back and assess how these developments might have affected competition and consumers."

The OFT welcomes submissions on the issues undergoing a stock-take and asks for these and any supporting evidence to be sent by 11 June 2010 to InfrastructureOwnership@oft.gsi.gov.uk Results from the exercise will be released in the autumn.

Calling all Royal Engineers Surveyors

The Royal School of Military Engineering has announced that serving or past Royal Engineers Surveyors (ME(Svy Engr)) are eligible to upgrade their Class 1/HND to a BSc in construction through distance learning and part time study. Further details are available from Luke Raine on +44 (0)1634 822808 or luke.raine@hts.army.mod.uk





Europe's competition for satellite navigation and development, the Galileo Masters, has been launched for 2010.

This year's prize fund tops €100,000 with a top prize of €0,000 and a sponsored six-month incubation period for design development. There are several prize categories including a University Challenge prize for students which comprises patent consulting and 10 days work with the EC and European Space Agency funded KIS4SAT programme.

Last year's overall winner was José Caro Ramón who developed a positioning application to determine areas searched by rescue dogs taking into account the affect of wind speed and direction on the dogs' sense of smell.

The competition is free to enter and is open to individuals and companies. The deadline for entries is 31 July 2010. See www.galileo-masters.eu for details.