

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FIG AND CIB

CIB has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Federation of Surveyors FIG.

This is the third Memorandum of a Strategic Partnership into which CIB has entered within a relatively short period.

FIG itself is a federation of national associations and is the only international body that represents all surveying disciplines. Almost 100 countries are represented in FIG.

Its technical work is led by 9 Commissions and ad hoc Commissions including those on Professional Education, Spatial Information Management and Valuation and the Management of Real Estate.

These Commissions prepare and conduct the programme for FIG's international congresses held every four years and annual working weeks seminars, workshops etc. which are held in the intervening years. The Congresses are notable events attracting several thousand participants from all over the world.

The signing actually took place in London on 7th January 1999 when discussions served to identify and agree on several areas of possible co-operation. A number of these are of a routine and ongoing nature. It was however felt that it would be helpful to cement the relationship between FIG and CIB by embarking on some joint project.



**[FIG President Professor Peter Dale (on left) and CIB Vice President Roger Courtney at the official signing ceremony in London on 7th January 1999. Also present but not in the picture was the CIB Secretary General, Wim Bakens.]**

Notes FIG President Professor Peter Dale :

Both FIG and CIB are concerned to support sustainable development and to contribute the expertise of their members to the solution of global problems. Both organisations are anxious to provide help in areas where there are limited resources available for development but where population pressures are high. Neither organisation has financial resources available to address these issues but both have access to their own networks of skilled and dedicated people. Both organisations are anxious to work in partnership with international organisations such as UN agencies or the World Bank.

FIG and CIB have in general complementary rather than competing skills. In setting up a joint project it would seem sensible to exploit FIG's access to skills in land management and the understanding of land rights. CIB has access to skills in housing and construction. Of all the problems facing the next century, urbanisation is perhaps the greatest. A variety of issues relating to urban expansion were identified in the UN environmental conference held in Rio in 1992 that gave rise to Agenda 21. Further issues were identified in the Global plan of Action that resulted from the Habitat II conference held in Istanbul in

1996. The documents from these two conferences spell out a number of areas where the joint expertise of FIG and CIB could have a significant impact.

### **A Brainstorming Meeting**

The next step in what promises to open up a new and rewarding Chapter in CIB's collaboration with partner organisations will be to mount a joint brainstorming meeting to be held at the premises of the UK Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors in London on 7th April 1999, attended by a small number of key experts nominated by each body. The aim will be to formulate a more precise definition of a joint project.

Participants will have studied Agenda 21 and the Global Plan of Action in preparation for an in-depth discussion as to what FIG and CIB can best do in partnership. A plan of action will then be prepared.

More information on FIG can be obtained from its Home Page at: <http://www.ddl.org/figtree/>

### **CAPTIONS**

FIG President Professor Peter Dale and CIB Vice President Roger Courtney at the official signing ceremony in London on 7th January 1999.

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