

13 January 2020

FIG - International Federation of Surveyors

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Dear FIG Council

Re: RICS nomination for FIG honorary membership – Robin McLaren FRICS

RICS would like to take this opportunity to nominate Robin McLaren FRICS for FIG honorary membership. Robin has been a stalwart supporter of FIG within RICS for many years and a leading member of the RICS FIG delegation. Robin is a highly respected member of the UK geospatial profession, has served on various RICS professional group boards over the last decades and has been constant in his support for our rapidly evolving geospatial profession. It is hard to do justice to all the time and effort that Robin has put into encouraging young professionals, students, supporting universities (Glasgow Uni amongst others, where he was recently conferred with an honorary doctorate) and professional practice.

Robin's significant involvement in the development and promotion of the surveying profession at international level over many years underscores why RICS wishes FIG to consider him for honorary membership. This involvement is outlined in the supporting evidence.

http://fig.net/organisation/general_assembly/statutes_and_internal_rules/index.asp#honorary

We do hope that you view this application favourably and we can confirm that Robin would be keen to accept the award in person at FIG WW 2020 Amsterdam.

More in-depth details on Robins involvement with FIG is listing below, do contact me if you require any further information.

Your sincerely



James

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Supporting evidence –

Dr. Robin A. McLaren D.Sc. (Honorary), M.Sc.E., B.Sc. (Hons), FRICS, MBCS CITP

Since the late 1970s, Robin has been a pioneer in the geospatial information management and land administration domains.

Robin's involvement in FIG started in 1981 at the Montreux Congress when he was working for Wild Heerbrugg AG and then again at the Toronto Congress when he met the early shapers of Land Information Services. This enticed Robin to engage more fully with FIG. In 1986 Robin teamed up with Prof Peter Dale (FIG President 1996-98) to support UN land administration consulting assignments and Peter subsequently asked Robin to be the UK Delegate to FIG Commission 3 – Land Information Systems. Robin was continuously involved with FIG through until his retirement in 2018.

Robin worked with Jes Ryttersgaard to refocus Commission 3 on Spatial Information Management and helped FIG to understand the fundamental importance of geospatial information in supporting sustainable development. He led several Working Groups in Commission 3 and managed the research of the influential FIG Publication 31: Land Information Management for Sustainable Development of Cities – Best Practice Guidelines in City-wide Land Information Management, and Publication 48: Rapid Urbanization and Mega Cities: The Need for Spatial Information Management. Robin also co-authored the influential outcome of the joint FIG/World Bank conference 2009 on “Land Governance in Support of The Millennium Development Goals. A New Agenda for Land Professionals” (FIG Publication 45).

Following Robin's seminal paper at the 2010 FIG Sydney Congress, “Can the Innovative Use of Mobile Phones Support More Effective Land Administration Services?”, Robin's research interests latterly focused on crowdsourcing of land rights information and he moved to be UK Delegate to Commission 7 Cadastre and Land Management. He organised the Joint Workshop Com3/Com7 on “Crowdsourcing of Land Information” in Malta, 2015, that was influential in shaping how crowdsourced land administration information could rapidly increase security of tenure. Robin also supported Prof Stig Enemark to create the highly significant joint FIG / World Bank publication Fit for Purpose Land Administration (FIG Publication 60, 2014) and the following GLTN guiding principles for country implementation (2016).

Robin has published over 35 technical papers at FIG events over a 30-year period and has helped to effectively reshape the role of the land professionals within the context of new technology and the Internet era. Land professionals are delivering more social, economic and environmental benefits and the profile of the land professionals has been raised within society.