

NKG Opening speech, 6.9.2022 Copenhagen

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The past four years have been the most curious ones during my long career with the NKG. Especially the Pandemic has changed our ways to work, travel and have meetings. The previous General Assembly in Helsinki four years ago was almost the last one for many of us to meet each other in real life. Two and half years of postponed, delayed, or online meetings have greatly affected our community, personal relations, especially on the young generation researchers.

Therefore, it is welcome to have this meeting here in Copenhagen as a real physical meeting. The number of participants is close to those of past General Assemblies, showing that people are ready to come together after a long period of isolation and virtual connections.

Nevertheless, science and research have advanced during these years. New emerging techniques, like geodetic SAR, takes their first steps also in the NKG area. Dynamic reference frames, improvement of geodetic networks and general advancement of research are all such things where our joint effort within NKG is needed.

Four years ago in Helsinki, we formulated resolutions to support the development of Dynamic Reference Frames, the connection between the Nordic and International Height system, and long-term support for Fundamental Geodetic Stations. We have seen a lot of positive development, renewal and upgrade of NyAlesund, Onsala and Metsähovi geodetic stations, upgrading of other geodetic infrastructure, and most important of all, continuous co-operation within the NKG working groups.

One resolution in Helsinki was the task given to the NKG Presidium to prepare revised bylaws for discussion and adoption by the General Assembly of the NKG in 2022. The renewed bylaws are now available and

for adoption on Thursday. This will be one of the biggest changes in the history of NKG with three new member states in the NKG.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have participated in the work of NKG since the 1990s, and now they are becoming also formally full members of the NKG. This will strengthen the position of NKG as the authoritative actor in the Baltic Sea and Nordic areas. NKG connects both the National Mapping and Cadastre authorities and Universities to advance geodesy and related topics.

With these words, I very warmly welcome you to participate in the nineteenth General Assembly of the Nordic Geodetic Commission.

Before we continue in the program, let's spend a few moments remembering our colleagues who have passed away in the last four years.

Denmark

Jørgen Eeg 1940-2022

Finland

Juhani Kakkuri 1933-2022

Teuvo Parm 1937-2021

Norway

Bjørn Engen 1941 - 2022

John Sundsby 1939-2021

Sweden

Per Jarlemark 1962 - 2022

Thank you.