

Welcome address from the Norwegian Environmental Ministry

KURT ELLINGSEN

Norwegian Environmental Ministry

Distinguished guests - ladies and gentlemen

It's a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to make a welcome address for your opening session. On behalf of the ministry of Environment, I find it satisfying that Norway can play an active part in the development of Geodesy, by hosting this Euref2000-symposium.

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for The Norwegian Mapping Authority. In Norway geomatic policy is nearly connected to policy for land use and regional and spatial planning. We think this is a good connection, which stimulates the development of both sides.

Norway has a long coastal line (20.000 km in and out the fjords) and the vicinity to huge ocean areas. Svalbard is also included in the Norwegian areas, as well as interests both in the Arctic and the Antarctic region. This lead to an interest of land administration, nature management, glacier movements, pollution control and tasks connected to GPS, surveying, mapping, remote sensing and Geodesy in general. Norway takes a certain responsibility for the managing of arctic areas including ecology, pollution assessments, sea ice coverage, exploration and ship routing. In covering such extended areas, often under extreme climatic conditions, the combination of satellites and geodesy are valuable tools to explore the areas and develop new technology and new knowledge.

The geodetic basis is reference for all navigation, surveying, mapping and other use of coordinates in the field. Satellite supported navigation and mapping put new demands to the geodetic basis. Full profit of these tools you first can have when all the users operate in the same geodetic basis as the satellites. Our vision is that Norway can have one common datum for all mapping, surveying and navigational purposes.

GPS attends to revolutionise navigation and coordinate positioning, especially by making this new technology available for new users.

Few years ago Norway passed an important first step for using GPS in a better way, by establishing a primary geodetic network, based on EUREF89. This network is the backbone for future mapping- and surveying Activities in Norway.

This primary network is third generation main network in Norway. The first generation took a hundred year to establish, with inaccuracies until one hundred meters. Second generation took 60 years, with inaccuracies until six meters. The third generation took three years to establish, with an accuracy of 3 mm. With the establishment of the last main network, we believe this network is a basis good enough for all practical purposes for a long time.

The Norwegian Mapping Authority has build SATREF as a service for true time differential GPS with accuracy 1-10 meters, suitable for navigational purposes. In co-operation with other Nordic countries we want to improve the service aiming centimetre accuracy.

In the specialised field of space-geodesy, international co-operation is required. The ministry of Environment supports that Norwegian specialists actively co-operate with other experts in Europe or outside Europe.

As a conclusion, I hope you can develop your science in the service for humankind, that you are able to explain your professional results to common people and connect them with other sciences.

At last, I wish you a pleasant stay here in Norway, and that you will have a professional development by meeting other experts.