



2023

Global Surveyors' Day Tuesday 21 March

Jean-Baptiste Joseph
Delambre (1749-1822)

Pierre François André
Méchain (1744-1804)



As every year since 2018, the **21 March** will be celebrated as **Global Surveyor Day 2023**. This tradition continues the European Surveyor's Day launched in 2012.

The purpose of this day is to give worldwide recognition to the pioneers, individuals and industry that have shaped the history of Earth measurement and continue to be the foundation of the surveying community.

This year, FGF, in collaboration with the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors (CLGE) and FIG, is honoured to coordinate the celebration which will take the form of an online event, organized in 2 sessions, the **first at 8:00 AM CET** (for audiences in the Asia-Pacific regions) and the **second at 8:00 PM CET** (for audiences in the Middle East and Near East, Africa, Europe, South America, and North America and the Caribbean regions). Participants in Paris (Conseil régional de l'Ordre des géomètres-experts de Paris, 1 rue de Chazelles, 75017 Paris, France) are requested to register without delay at f.lebourdais@geometre-expert.fr. They will receive further instructions in return.

FGF has nominated the 2 French mathematicians, astronomers and surveyors **Jean-Baptiste Joseph Delambre** and **Pierre François André Méchain**, inventors of the metric system, as the **Surveyor of the Year 2023**. A poster and a short publication (in English and French) will also be published for the occasion.

Preliminary programme – Tuesday 21 March 2023

08:00-08:10 / 20:00-20:10 Welcome address by Marc Vanderschueren, President of the FGF

Welcome by Diane Dumashie, FIG President

08:10-08:25 / 20:10-20:25 Presentation of the historical context and biography of Delambre & Méchain

by Michel Kasser (Switzerland), Geographic Engineer and University Professor, Honorary President of the Association francophone de topographie (AFT) and President of the Ingénieurs Géomètres de Suisse Occidentale (IGSO)

In the midst of a political and scientific revolution in France at the end of the 18th century, how did the Académie des Sciences choose Delambre and Méchain? Why the choice of the meridian? Why the name "meter"?

08:25-08:40 / 20:25-20:40	The story of the Delambre & Méchain expedition from Dunkirk to Barcelona by Bernard Flacelière (France), Vice-president of the Association francophone de topographie (AFT), editor-in-chief of the journal XYZ <i>On June 25, 1792, two astronomers, Jean-Baptiste Delambre and Pierre Méchain, left Paris. They were charged with measuring the length of the meridian between Dunkirk and Barcelona in order to establish a universal standard of measurement.</i>
08:40-08:55 / 20:40-20:55	Meridian of Delambre and Méchain : Principle, measurements, calculations and precisions by Françoise Duquenne (France), Engineer Geographer, President of the Association francophone de topographie (AFT) <i>What methods, calculations and instruments were used? What was the quality of the data obtained?</i>
08:55-09:05 / 20:55-21:05	From the digital chain to the dynamic chain By SAS Géofoncier <i>The reconstruction of the chain of triangles measured by Delambre and Méchain and dynamic presentation in the Géofoncier.fr portal. A tour of the chain and a pictorial and commented discovery of some remarkable or symbolic points.</i>
09:05-09:15 / 21:05-21:15	After the measurement: past and present resistance to the metric system by Bertrand Juompan (France), Surveyor <i>Some examples of old and recent disasters, due to the use of heterogeneous measurement systems.</i> <i>The metre is defined today by reference to the unit of time, whose definition, based on the caesium 133 atom, is currently being redefined. What about the unit of length?</i>
09:15-09:20 / 21:15-21:20	Beside every great man there is often a woman: Therese, Elizabeth and the Invisible Wise Women by Claire Galpin (France), Surveyor, specialist in land management
09:20-09:25 / 21:20-21:25	Other related projects: Green Meridian by Jean-François Dalbin (France), Surveyor, Honorary President of OGE-France, Treasurer of FGF
09:25-09:30 / 21:25-21:30	Questions & Answers
09:30-09:35 / 21:30-21:35	Closing speeches by: Vladimir Krupa, President of the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors (CLGE) Joseph Pascual, President of the Higher Council of the Order of Surveyors - France Françoise Duquenne, President of the Association francophone de topographie (AFT) Other VIP's from overseas for very brief comments