

6th FIG Regional Conference
**Coastal Areas and Land Administration
Building the Capacity**

San José, Costa Rica, 12–15 November 2007

Invitation and Call for Papers

ORGANISED BY



INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION OF
SURVEYORS
(FIG)



COLEGIO FEDERADO
DE INGENIEROS Y
DE ARQUITECTOS
DE COSTA RICA
(CFIA)



COLEGIO
DE INGENIEROS
TOPOGRAFOS
DE COSTA RICA
(CIT)



INVITATION

Dear colleague,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the 6th FIG Regional Conference in San José, Costa Rica 12–15 November 2007. This will be the first time that the FIG Regional Conference will be held in Latin America. We think that Costa Rica offers best possible venue for such an important event. The theme of this regional event has been selected so that it focuses in the hot topics in the region which are capacity building, land administration and environmental issues, especially the use and future of coastal regions. Based on the outcome of the conference “**Coastal Areas and Land Administration – Building the Capacity**” FIG will also prepare an FIG publication “**Methodologies for Pro-Poor Coastal Zone Management**”.

The 6th FIG Regional Conference is organized by the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and the Colegio Federado de Ingenieros y de Arquitectos de Costa Rica (CFIA)/ Colegio de Ingenieros Topógrafos de Costa Rica (CIT) which is the FIG member association in Costa Rica. As has been the case with the previous FIG regional conferences the conference in San José will be organized in co-operation with other international and regional organizations like the United Nations and its agencies as well as with international and regional spatial information societies. The conference is open to participants from all over the world however with the main focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. To help regional and local participation the conference will be held in English and Spanish. In all previous FIG regional conferences there have been participants from 30–50 countries representing all continents.

FIG is an international, non-governmental organisation whose purpose is to support international collaboration

for the progress of surveying in all fields and applications. FIG is the only international association representing all surveying disciplines. FIG has members in more than 110 countries and in the member associations there are about 300,000 individual members. In addition to 100 member associations FIG has academic and affiliate members and correspondents. More information: <http://www.fig.net>.

CFIA represents all engineers and architects in Costa Rica and has more than 11,000 members. CIT is a colegio under CFIA representing all surveyors and topographers in Costa Rica having about 1,400 members. CFIA has five colegios one being CIT. More information: www.cfia.or.cr and www.colegiotopografoscr.com.

The 6th FIG Regional Conference will, in particular, provide a unique opportunity to discuss the problems and achievements of surveying and land administration in Latin America.

The Conference will be held at the Ramada Plaza Heradura in San José which is a first-class hotel and leading conference centre in Costa Rica. The hotel offers excellent value for the money and the conference itself is very reasonably priced – even all social events are included in registration fees. The programme is carefully prepared to provide high-profile technical sessions and in addition a superb entertainment components which include social events and a technical / social tour to see Irazu Volcano, one of the most famous attractions in Costa Rica. The country also offers outstanding opportunities for pre- and post-conference tours.

We are very happy to welcome you to Costa Rica to this first FIG conference in Central America. We look forward to meeting you in November!

Ing. Olman Vargas Zeledon
Executive Director of CFIA

Ing. Juan Manuel Castro Alfaro
President of CFIA/CIT

Prof. Stig Enemark
President of FIG

THEME AND TOPICS

Coastal Areas and Land Administration – Building the Capacity has been selected to the theme of the 6th FIG Regional Conference. This theme that is very important for the Latin American region is divided in three sub-themes: coastal areas, land management and capacity building. One plenary session is dedicated to each of these main topics. The keynote speakers are selected from internationally well-known experts representing international and regional partners and FIG expertise.

The sub-themes are divided into following topics:

Coastal areas:

- Reference frameworks and GNSS for mapping and nautical charting
- Identifying the land/sea interface
- Tools for spatial information management
- Planning methodologies,
- Coastal development design
- EIA procedures
- Water resource management
- Integrated and pro-poor planning approaches
- Good governance, empowerment of local government
- Empowerment of the poor .

Land administration:

- Integration of topographic mapping, cadastre, and land registration
- Cadastral and land registration procedures
- Multipurpose cadastre
- Spatially enabled government

- Marine cadastre and land/marine interface
- Land valuation and taxation
- Pro-poor land management
- WB projects
- IDB projects
- UN-Habitat and FAO projects
- PAIGH perspective.

Capacity building:

- Educational standards and curricula development
- Accreditation, licensing, and mutual recognition
- Professional standards and ethics
- CPD programs
- Capacity building at social, institutional and individual level.

As outcome from the conference the organisers have decided to produce an FIG publication on “Methodologies for Pro-Poor Coastal Zone Management”.

Abstracts are requested on any of the above mentioned topics. All ten FIG commissions are committed to participate in this regional conference, however this time the topics are combined to reflect responses to the conference theme.

The conference will be held in English and Spanish with simultaneous translation. Abstracts are requested in English (and possible also in Spanish) while full papers can be provided in either English or Spanish. By request of the author the paper can be submitted through peer-review procedure or as normal conference paper.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

| Hour | Monday 12 November | Tuesday 13 November | Wednesday 14 November | Thursday 15 November |
|-------------|--|--|--|---|
| 08.00– | Registration | Registration | Registration | Technical and Social Tour (Irazu Volcano, Cachi Dam), and lunch at Casona del cafetal (Coffee tour) |
| 09.00–10.30 | Opening ceremony | Plenary session Exhibition | Plenary session Exhibition | |
| 10.30–11.00 | Coffee break | Coffee break | Coffee break | |
| 11.00–12.30 | Plenary session | Technical sessions and workshops Exhibition | Technical sessions and workshops Exhibition | |
| 12.30–14.00 | Exhibition – opening Lunch | Lunch | Lunch Exhibition – closing | |
| 14.00–15.30 | Technical sessions and workshops Exhibition | Technical sessions and workshops Exhibition | Technical sessions and workshops | |
| 15.30–16.00 | Coffee break | Coffee break | Coffee break | |
| 16.00–17.30 | Technical sessions and workshops Exhibition | Technical sessions and workshops Exhibition | Closing ceremony | |
| 19.00– | Welcome reception at the Pueblo Antiguo (Old Town) | Cultural Evening at the Ram Luna Restaurant | Farewell dinner at the Ramada Hotel | |

DATES AND FEES

Important dates are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 31 July 2007 | Deadline for abstract submission |
| 15 August 2007 | Notification to authors |
| 29 August 2007 | Deadline for full papers for peer-reviewing |
| 29 August 2007 | Deadline for early bird (discounted) registration |
| 30 September 2007 | Submission of full papers for publishing Deadline for speakers' registration |
| 12–15 November 2007 | Conference in San José, Costa Rica |

The full registration fees include conference attendance, proceedings (CD-ROM), lunches and 2 coffee breaks during the three conference days, welcome reception, cultural evening and farewell dinner and the technical tour on Thursday. A donation of 10 EUR to the FIG Foundation will be automatically added to your final invoice for the cultural evening. Additional social programme and tours will be charged separately.

Registration fee for the accompanying persons includes participation to the opening ceremony, coffee/tea after the opening session, welcome reception,

cultural evening, farewell dinner and the technical tour on Thursday and additionally an opportunity to register for other social events and tours. A donation of 10 EUR to the FIG Foundation will be automatically charged for the cultural evening. Speakers from developing countries are requested to contact the conference organisers, if they need support to participate. The opportunities for support are limited and do not normally cover travel costs.

Registration fees are as follows:

| Registration fees | Before 29 August 2007 | After 29 August 2007 |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Conference delegates</i> | | |
| – Delegates | € 300 | € 350 |
| – Daily participants | € 160 | € 160 |
| – Students, international | € 100 | € 100 |
| <i>Conference delegates from sub-region</i> | € 150 | € 150 |
| <i>Accompanying persons</i> | € 150 | € 150 |
| <i>Social programme</i> | | |
| – Welcome reception | included in fee | included in fee |
| – Cultural evening | included in fee | included in fee |
| – Farewell dinner | included in fee | included in fee |
| <i>Technical tour</i> | included in fee | included in fee |

VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION



The conference venue is **Ramada Plaza Herradura** hotel, which is a high-quality hotel and conference centre. It is located 5 minutes away from the Juan Santamaria airport and 15 minutes away from San Jose Downtown.

The Ramada Plaza Herradura has the biggest state-of-the-art Conference Centre in San Jose, with golf course and club facilities, 3 restaurants with 2 speciality restaurants (Japanese and Spanish-International), swimming pool, banquet and spa services and casino. It is the most well-known conference centre in San Jose.

Hotel rates including breakfast and taxes are under 100 USD per night.

Other hotels near-by will be recommended for low-budget participants.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME AND TECHNICAL TOURS



Conference social events include welcome reception at the Pueblo Antiguo (Old Town) which is an authentic recreation of turn-of-the-century Costa Rica. Professional actors transport you back to another era to reveal important moments of the national history of Costa Rica. Meet with colleagues over drinks and snacks.

The **Cultural evening** will be celebrated at the Ram Luna Restaurant which offers a joyful Costa Rican street festival with delicious and authentic dishes arranged into an extravagant and all-inclusive dinner buffet for a memorable evening named



“Tierra Tica”. The marimba orchestra brings the sound of Costa Rican festivals to your table as the dancers liven up the room with colourful costumes and cheerful

smiles. The fun is completed with giant dancing “Payasos” followed with the closing fireworks display. The lights of the Central Valley glow beneath the Ram Luna as the glow of the fireworks fades and the “Payasos” bid good night to their guests.

The **farewell dinner** will held at the Ramada Plaza Herradura – all social functions included in the registration fee.



The **joint technical / social tour** includes visit to Irazu Volcano and Cachi Dam with a lunch at Casona del Cafetal. We will visit Irazu which is the highest volcano in Costa Rica. There have been

at least 23 eruptions since 1723, the most recent from 1963 to 1965. The park that includes this volcano covers 2,300 hectares, its highest point being 3,432 meters above sea level. After the volcano we will visit Cachi Dam at the northeastern side of lake Lago de Cachi in Orosi Valley followed with a lunch and visit to a coffee farm.

SIGHTSEEING AND PRE/POST-TOURS

Additional sightseeing and pre/post-tour options include e.g.



Arenal Volcano and Tabacon Hotsprings –

This almost perfect shaped volcano was covered with vegetation before the big eruption in 1968. when the volcano erupted vio-

lently covering more than 7 sq. kilometers with lava. Since that moment the volcano has been erupting daily at different levels of activity. This is one of the greatest spectacles of a visit to Costa Rica. It is incredible to observe and hear an eruption by daylight or by night. Seeing the lava rocks glowing down the hill at night is something you will never forget. You will also visit Tabacon hot springs located at the foot of this magnificent volcano. The hot springs have one of the best volcano views and are surrounded by gardens and by a lush rainforest.



Carara National Park – This tour takes you through the superb Avocado Mountains to arrive at the Central Pacific lowlands. You will see beautiful countryside and mountain landscapes. Before arriving at the reserve, the tour will stop at the bridge over the Tarcoles River to see the crocodiles. After this you will have an easy hike around the Carara

Reserve for about 2 hours to see the interesting animals in this forest. If you are lucky, you may see toucans, monkeys, iguanas, coatimundis and sometimes the scarlet macaws! Carara is a very special site because it houses the second most important population of scarlet macaws in the country and also it protects a unique transition forest between dry tropical forest and a wet tropical forest.



San Jose City Tour – San Jose is the capital of Costa Rica, and although it has only a few excellent colonial buildings left, because of seismic activity, it is an expanding city with cultural activities. The tour will take you primarily downtown to

visit the prestigious National Theater. This building is the pride of San Jose and was declared a national monument in 1965. Costa Rica is proud of having designated economical resources and efforts to this cultural building, while other nations used most of their resources to enlarge the army or the police forces. It is decorated in a renaissance style with important paintings of famous Italian artists. The tour takes you also to the National Museum. This old fortress building houses the heritage of our country and has a large collection of Pre-Columbian pottery. After driving around San Jose and visiting some pleasant neighbourhoods of the city, you will visit the souvenir stores in Moravia.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Costa Rica is a democratically elected Republic that warmly welcomes visitors. Costa Ricans are friendly, jovial and try to make you feel at home. Compared with the rest of Latin America living standards are at desirable with a per capita income double that of the regional average. Like all Latin American countries, Costa Rica is predominantly Catholic, but other denominations are found throughout the country. Population is 3.5 million of which over 50% live in the Central Valley which comprises only 4% of the entire country. Spanish is the native language, but other languages such as English, French, Italian, and German are frequently spoken especially in tourist areas. Costa Rica is on Central Standard Time.

Almost ideal year-round, the climate is a moderate 20–25 degrees in the highlands, while the lowlands and coastal areas range from 20 to 30 degrees. Evenings in San Jose are free of humid heat. Rainy season ends by November.

Costa Rica is bordered to the north by Nicaragua and to the south by Panama. It has both a Pacific and Atlantic Coast. A series of volcanic chains runs from the Nicaraguan border in the Northwest to the Panamanian border in the southeast, splitting the country in two. In the center of these ranges is a high-altitude plain (Central Valley), with coastal lowlands on either side.

A valid passport is required to enter and visas are needed for certain nationalities – please check before traveling. For many European nations visa is not required for short visits.

Departure tax is 26 USD by air. The Costa Rican monetary unit is the Colon. The exchange rate is 1 EUR = 700 CRC and 1 USD = 520 CRC (April 2007), recommended to change the money in Costa Rica. Most major credit cards are accepted. ATM machines available.

Office hours are generally from 8:00 am to 4:30-5:00 pm with an hour for lunch between 12 noon and 1 pm. Electricity current is 110 volts, 60 Hertz. Telephone service is efficient.

Public health facilities in Costa Rica compare favorably with that of many developed countries and are numerous and dependable.

There is a 13% sales tax and an additional 3% tourist tax at hotels. A 10% service charge is generally added to all restaurants bills so act accordingly. Taxi drivers generally do not receive a tip.

CONTACTS

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CONFERENCE WEB SITE

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