

**Report to the 31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly  
FIG Working Week in Stockholm, Sweden, June 2008**

**Report on the Co-operation with the United Nations and the World Bank**

**1. UN Liaison Committee – FIG Responses to the Millennium Development Goals**

The FIG Council established in Hong Kong in May 2007 the UN Liaison Committee – FIG Responses to the Millennium Development Goals to coordinate co-operation with the United Nations. This Committee is chaired by President Stig Enemark and its other members are: Vice President Paul van der Molen (co-operation with UN-Habitat and the Global Land Tools Network), Vice President Matt Higgins (co-operation with UN-OOSA), Dr. Chryssy Potsiou, Chair of Commission 3 (co-operation with UN ECE) and Mr. Helge Onsrud (Norway).

- Co-operation with UN-Habitat (Global Land Tools Network, Seminar in Stockholm in June 2008 and preparations for the 4th World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China P. R., 3-8 November 2008)
- Co-operation with UN FAO: contributions to major FIG events and Commission 7 and 9 events
- Preparations for the Joint FIG/World Bank high level symposium in Washington DC, USA late 2008 or early 2009
- Participation to the work of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG)

**2. Co-operation with UN-Habitat**

FIG's contribution to the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) is at the core of the Council's work plan for the next four years and would result in various imminent projects. President Enemark attended the Advisory Board of the GLTN that followed the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in May 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya. FIG is a permanent member of the Advisory Board of GLTN. The President will also attend the next meeting to be held in New York 7 May 2008. Projects and practical issues related to the GLTN are mainly taken care of by the Task Force on Developing Global Land Tools for Pro Poor Land Management, chaired by Vice President Paul van der Molen.

During the visit to Nairobi in May 2007 President Enemark met with Mrs. Anna K. Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat. At this meeting the close links between UN-Habitat and FIG were underlined and Mrs. Tibaijuka confirmed the UN-Habitat commitment and her own participation in the FIG Working Week in Stockholm and the UN-Habitat's partnership to the Joint FIG/UN-Habitat seminar on Slum Upgrading and the Importance of Financial Mechanisms to be held during the FIG Working Week in Stockholm, 16-18 June 2008.

President Enemark is chairing the Habitat Professionals Forum that is becoming the main partner of UN-Habitat representing all professionals. The Professionals Forum will organise a

Roundtable meeting at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China, 3-8 November 2008. The theme of this roundtable is “Managing Mega Cities” (<http://www.un-habitat.org/content.asp?typeid=19&catid=535&cid=5470#HabP>)

Christiaan Lemmen, Chair of WG 7.1 represented FIG at the UN-Habitat organised Expert Group Meeting for African Land Registrars in Nairobi, Kenya, 26–27 November 2007 and presented a paper Social Tenure Domain Model.

The UN-Habitat Land Tenure and Property Administration Section (LTPAS), Shelter Branch of UN Habitat (LTPAS) invited Dr. Diane Dumashie to co-host a Land Professionals Workshop on Gendering Land Tools, held in Bagamoyo, Tanzania in March 2008. Dr. Dumashie was invited to facilitate the workshop and report on the meeting activities. The full report is available on the GLTN website.

### **3. Co-operation with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

FAO has supported major FIG events during the latest years. In 2007 FAO has worked in close co-operation with Commissions 7 and 9. Co-operation with Commission 7 has a long standing history – FAO has also appointed Dr. Mika Törhönen as a liaison person to this co-operation.

In 2007 co-operation with Commission 9 started at practical level. FAO contributed both professionally and financially to the Commission 9 organised a seminar “Compulsory purchase and compensation in land acquisition and taking” which took place in conjunction with the Baltic Valuation Conference (organised by Commission 9 together with Commissions 7 and 8) in Helsinki, Finland 6–8 September 2007. The goal was to intensify discussions between valuation people, surveyors, real estate experts, financiers, urban planners, researchers, teachers and decision-makers, and to develop ideas for shaping the future. President Stig Enemark and Finnish Minister of Housing Jan Vapaavuori gave welcoming addresses. Much attention was given to the background and context of the FAO/World Bank Initiative on Compulsory Purchase and Compensation. President Enemark had also meeting with Dr. Paul Munro-Faure, Head of the Land Tenure Service, FAO to discuss the future co-operation between FIG and FAO.

At the Helsinki seminar it was suggested that an international committee of experts be established to advise countries on specific problems. The presentations and opinions presented during the workshop form a solid basis for future developments, in co-operation with FAO and the World Bank.

FAO organised an Expert Group Meeting on the project FLOSS Cadastre in Rome, 22–23 October 2007. The project free/libre open source software FLOSS, is in the cadastral field supported by the World Bank and FIG Commission 7 as part of WG 7.3 activities. FAO provided some funding to start the project. The main initiative comes from the Land Tenure Group of FAO, which has seen several projects fail in developing countries often due to the high software and license costs. FAO and World Bank representatives and invited experts participated the meeting, where FIG Commission 7 was represented by its Chair Andrés Osskó and Daniel Steudler, Chair of WG 7.3.

#### **4. Co-operation with the World Bank**

Co-operation with the World Bank has been active since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. At the Working Week in Hong Kong Keith Bell gave one of the keynote presentations on behalf of the Bank on “Good Governance in Land Administrations”. In addition there was a special joint session organised by the Bank and Commission 7 “Case Studies on Land Administration Projects in Asia and the Pacific”.

The World Bank also co-sponsored the Regional Conference in Costa Rica by organising a session “World Bank Projects in Latin America” with a presentation from Malcolm Childress from the Bank.

FIG and the World Bank are currently preparing the Joint World Bank/FIG High Level Conference on Land Administration to be held at the World Bank headquarters in Washington DC, USA end of 2008 or early 2009. The conference will present how FIG and the World Bank are working in parallel for achieving the MDGs. This will help the world better understand the important contribution of the global surveying community in providing the basic conditions for social, economic, and physical development. The conference will be structured around six key themes: (i) Building sustainable and well-governed land administration systems; (ii) Securing social tenure for the poorest; (iii) Making land markets work for all; (iv) Improving Access to land and shelter through land reform; (v) Improving rural-urban linkages and upgrading informal development; and (vi) Building the capacity and promoting institutional development. This high-profile meeting will be by invitation only.

In general, the FIG/WB collaboration is aimed at improving capacity building at all levels in the areas of land tenure, land value, land use and land development. This also includes implementation of appropriate technologies for data collection and mapping; building of spatial data infrastructures and comprehensive information systems; and facilitating increased and equal access to land for all, ensure good governance, and promote proper management of land-use and natural resources.

#### **5. United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN-OOSA) and the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG)**

Vice President Matt Higgins attended a meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) in Bangalore, India, 4–7 September 2007. The ICG has been formed as a result of recommendations of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS), as ratified by the General Assembly of the UN. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN OOSA) acts as the secretariat for the ICG. It should be noted that FIG has a MoU with UN OOSA. A feature of the overall ICG meeting was the first gathering of the so-called “Provider’s Forum”, which involves the providers of all of the major Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) sub-systems. The global user community for GNSS was also represented with major players from many application areas. At the end of the week the ICG compiled a Joint Statement from the meeting, which included a report from the Provider’s forum. That report has for the first time set out principles agreed amongst the providers about ensuring compatibility and interoperability between the various GNSS sub-systems. The next full meeting of the ICG will be held in December 2008 and hosted by the USA at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, California.

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