



International Federation of Surveyors
Fédération Internationale des Géomètres
Internationale Vereinigung der Vermessungsingenieure

FIG COMMISSION 7

Cadastre & Land Management

To : FIG Commission 7 Delegates, Correspondents and Friends
cc : FIG Office, Copenhagen
From : András Osskó, Chair

Subject : e-Newsletter October 2008

Dear Delegates, Correspondents and Friends,

It is unbelievable indeed that in the present calendar year, no newsletter has been produced yet. Namely, this period was especially hectic for us and full of all other tasks for the Commission 7. Accordingly, now you will have enough to read „all in one”.

So let us inform you about the events and activities of the first ten months of 2008 and about future events planned for the coming years within the competence of Commission 7 and in cooperation with other Commissions.

1. Mr. Daniel Roberge elected Commission 7 chair 2011-2014

There were two nominations by their associations to Commission 7 Chair for the period 2011-2014, Daniel Steudler delegate from Switzerland and Daniel Roberge delegate from Canada.

As a result of the voting during the Working week at the 31st General Assembly of FIG held in Stockholm this June, Daniel Roberge (Canada) with his 26 votes against 24 votes of Mr. Daniel Steudler (Switzerland) became the Commission Chair Elect for the period 2009-2010. The Chair Elects will automatically become chairs of the Commissions for the next term of office 01. 01. 2011 - 31. 12. 2014.

Congratulations to Daniel Roberge to his election and thank Daniel Steudler for his nomination.

2. Joint International Workshop Sharing Good Practices on E-Learning in Surveying, Geo-information Sciences and Land Administration – Enschede, The Netherlands, June 11-13, 2008.

Jointly organised by FIG Comm. 2, Comm. 7 and ITC (International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation), just preceding in time the FIG WW in Stockholm (14-19 June 2008).

The aim of the workshop was to bring together professionals engaged in e-learning and distance education in surveying, geoinformation sciences and land administration. The workshop offered the participants the opportunity to present good practices and share their experiences. Professor Richard Grover (Brookes University, Oxford, UK) gave an excellent summary of the event in his report delivered at the Verona FIG Commission 7 Annual Meeting. (See also GroverElearningEnschede.ppt, Sept 12, Verona 2008 on the FIG website.)

3. FIG Working Week “Integrating Generations” and the XXXI. General Assembly – Stockholm, Sweden, June 14-19, 2008.

The WW was hosted jointly by FIG and the Swedish Association of Chartered Surveyors (SLF) that celebrated its 100th Anniversary in this year. This included contributions from commissions 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 on slum upgrading and innovative financial mechanism. There was also a joint UN Habitat-FIG Seminar as fully integrated part of the Working Week programme, during the first two days.

On the FIG WW

The Working Week held in Stockholm, Sweden in 2008 was the biggest Working Week ever held. FIG wants to mobilise the new generation of land professionals and continue to develop innovative and transitional solutions to address global inequality in land and property ownership and tenure.

The FIG/UN/HABITAT Seminar's theme was: „Improving Slum Conditions through Innovative Financing”. There were three plenary sessions and over 90 technical sessions with about 350 presentations. 950 participants from 90 countries attended the events.

Cooperation with UN HABITAT

At the opening ceremony, the keynote address was given by Dr. Anna K. Tibaijuka UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN HABITAT. Only 10 percent of land parcels in the world are registered. In many areas, the poor's land rights are based on customary right that are not legally recognised and only 5 percent of registered land is in women's name. The development of new land tools, such as the FIG land administration Domain Model will allow registration of customary form of tenure and overlapping land right and claims.

Plenary Sessions

In the first plenary session, keynote address was given by Minister Calgren. He talked about the environment and climate and the role of property and land administration institution in society. The second speaker was Dr. Ashraf Ghani, Chairman of the Institute for State Effectiveness (Afghanistan). He spoke about the legal empowerment in a globalizing world. The Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor published its report: „Making the Law Work for Everyone”. The second plenary session „Land Administration and Finance System” was organised jointly with the FIG/UN/HABITAT Seminar.

Michael Mutter (UN HABITAT) was speaking about a Slum Upgrading Facility, Renu Sud Karnad (India) spoke about concepts of channelling financial flows for adequate and affordable housing, Dan Ericsson, State Secretary (Ministry of Finance, Sweden) explained the Swedish engagement in land administration and housing finance, Dr. Malcolm Childress, sr. land administration specialist (World Bank) brought the WB vision „Land Finance through Land Governance” to discussion.

About the 31st General Assembly

Two new Vice Presidents and new Commission Chairs Elect were elected for the period 01.01. 2009- 12. 31. 2010. Vice Presidents Paul van der Molen and Ken Allred will leave the Council at the end of 2008. Member associations have made four nominations: Mr. David Doyle, USA, Mr. Ian Greenway, UK, Mr. Daniel Roberge, Canada, and Mr. Theo CheeHai, Malaysia. The elected two new Vice Presidents: **Mr. Ian Greenway, UK and Mr. Theo CheeHai, Malaysia.**

Statistics of FIG WW

As usual Commission 7 was the major contributor to technical sessions. There were 7 full Commission 7 session with 29 speakers.

Commission 7 joint Sessions with other Commissions were the following: Comm1: 3 Sessions, 12 Speakers; Comm2: 1 Session, 5 Speakers; Comm3: 16 Sessions, 55 Speakers; Comm4: 1 Session, 7 Speakers; Comm5: 1 Session, 2 Speakers; Comm8: 13 Sessions, 49 Speakers; Comm9: 4 Sessions, 14 Speakers.

We are saying thank you to all Commission 7 delegates, speakers for their active contribution to the success of the events.

Technical Tours

National Land Survey and Swedesurvey (Gävle), Stockholm City Survey Department, Swedish Maritime Administration and Trimble (Danderyd).

Social Events

Welcome reception at Stockholm City Hall, FIG Foundation Dinner at Vasa Museum and Gala Dinner in Vintergarden at the Grand Hotel.

About ACCO Meeting

ACCO is the Advisory Committee of Commission Officials; Commission chairs and Council members meet periodically. Ms. Chryssy Potsiou has been ACCO representative for 2007-2008. ACCO had to elect or appoint its representative to the Council for term of office 1.1. 2009-31.12. 2010. There were two candidates : Chryssy Potsiou (Comm.3) and Rudolf Staiger (Comm.5). Each Commission has one vote in the election. **Chryssy Potsiou** was re-elected as the ACCO representative to the Council for 2009-2010. The decision was confirmed by the Council and endorsed by the General Assembly.

There was a meeting between FIG President and Director Generals of national mapping and cadastre agencies (30 chief executives attended) on 15 June 2008. The aim was to get national mapping and cadastre organizations to work in closer cooperation with FIG. After the meeting, there are now 28 affiliate members (9 of them adopted in Stockholm). The Council has put a target of getting 50 affiliate members by the end of 2010.

In Stockholm, 62 papers were offered for peer review. 39 peer reviewed papers were presented at the conference. Decision was taken in Stockholm to improve the FIG WW peer review process. The peer review process was used for the first time for an FIG WW or a congress in Stockholm.

Chryssy Potsiou coordinated the process and has prepared a report on the experiences. It is essential for the people from academic world to get permission to attend and also the only way to attract academics to the conferences.

Most important decisions on peer review (PR) procedure

The peer review process will not change the role of FIG or the basic concept of conferences, but it offers additional options to those that need academic merits.

A PR will be offered only for the FIG WW or congress and for specific Commission Workshops when required, but not for FIG regional conferences. The PR will be blind. Reviewers can be Drs and/or Profs. The current list of reviewers and the editorial board for each WW should be on the FIG website.

The PR procedure needs to be automated, since great number of papers may be submitted in the future.

Council members President Prof. Stig Enemark, Vice Presidents Prof. Paul van der Molen and Matt Higgins will supervise the work of the Editorial Board as it happened until now. Chief Editor and FIG Office will finalize the deadlines for Eilat WW.

Commission chairs need to increase their list of academic members and propose them for the review. Identify reliable academics from various regions as well.

Reviewers will be asked to document their decision clearly and in details. Reviewers will be asked to submit a very short CV and the keywords related to their scientific field.

Authors will be asked to submit the form with their corrections in order to speed up the checking of the revised papers by the editorial board.

Language aspects are also very important.

4. Commission 7 Annual Meeting 2008 – Verona, Italy, September 11 - 15, 2008

The Italian Association of Land Surveyors (*Consiglio Nazionale Geometri*) hosted Commission 7 Annual Meeting in 2008.

First of all we should express our gratitude to **Prof. Stig Enemark**, President FIG who – in spite of his several other activities and commitments – spent the whole series of events together with the participants both of the FIG/FAO Seminar, and Annual Meeting and the Open Symposium. He also prepared excellent and impressing keynote presentations – many thanks for that.

Three days Annual Meeting of the Commission 7 and one day Open Symposium with a topic that is mostly interesting both for local and foreign professionals: „Big Works for the Defence of the Territory”. Finally, a one day technical tour closed the programme, during which the participants had the opportunity to have a closer look at the spot of Mose Project of Venice, the huge construction they are realizing to protect the town and its lagoons against repeating floods.

The Italian organizers were „passionate” enough to give such a motto to the events organized in their beautiful and worthily famous town: „Verona is Passion”. (Later it turned out that land surveying had to be a kind of passion too, when we were listening to the convincing figures about members and fortune of the voluntary Social Security Institution of the Italian surveyors.) All the announcements, printed materials and also the last notice book and pen and badges had this motto in white on red, demonstrating emotions and enthusiasm. This impression stayed alive through all days of the events, characterising the always positive, friendly and helpful attitude of all local organizers in any aspect.

High-ranking Italian politicians welcomed the participants of the Annual Meeting, emphasizing the importance of land administration. In three days, there were delivered altogether 43 foreign and 7 Italian presentations. On the first day, FIG President Mr. Stig Enemark gave information on the current FIG policy challenged by the strengthening globalization.

Our hosts informed the audience in presentations about the current Italian situation of land surveying profession, education, practice and their role in the society, problems of measuring market value of Italian real estate, town-planning and the updating of the cadastre.

Participants of previous FIG events delivered their reports too. Also several presenters spoke about the ongoing initiatives and activities of FIG (Working Groups 1, 2 and 3, Social Tenure Domain Model, Cadastral Template, new geoinformation law, benefits of using new technologies, good solutions, case studies etc).

There were 13 country reports, with special emphasis on developing countries (Ghana, Kenya, Cambodia). The number of registered participants was 51 with some accompanying persons, from 24 countries, and several interested Italian professionals.

Commission 7 Annual meeting 2009 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Decision was taken by the delegates that the venue of the next Annual Meeting in 2009 will be Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (Many thanks to Mr. Teo CheeHai for his demonstration about his homeland.) The Meeting will preferably be organized in October 2009, before or after the Regional Conference to be held in Vietnam. More information will be circulated this year to prepare your travel plan for 2009.

Proposals for Commission 7 Annual meeting 2010

Concerning the Annual Meeting of 2010, no decision was born. Sydney (Australia) and Karlovy Vary (Czech Republic) are proposed. Australian delegate David Mitchell proposed the Annual meeting after the Sydney FIG Congress in April. Libor Tomandl, Czech delegate proposed the Annual meeting in September.

Please comment it and send your opinion!

Social programs of the Annual Meeting

Commission 7 Gala Dinner and a wine cellar tour. This latter one took place in Valpolicella wine-growing region. There was a visit and wine-tasting in the historical Villa Novare and later an extremely happy and cheerful typical dinner in the Osteria *Il Bugiardo*. Good food, good wines, singing Italian songs and international hits with the piano accordion of Mr. Bruno Razza (CNG Rome), following the group of Italian „born soloists“. We also had the opportunity to meet land surveyors of Verona Province at white tables.

Open Symposium „Big Works for the Defence of the Territory“

This event – as part of the Annual Meeting – seemed to be the most popular one among the Italian professionals. The one-day meeting was organised in Verona Fiere (a congress centre near Verona market place) to provide larger space for the interested public. The huge auditorium was full of professionals, an audience of about 400 persons.

It is the place to say another thank you to FIG President Prof. Stig Enemark for his remarkable introductory keynote presentation on environment and land administration in respect of rights, restrictions and responsibilities. Among several very interesting presentations, the most important and largest one was evidently that of Mr. Roberto Rosselli who gave very detailed information (illustrated by several slides, images and movies) on every aspect (hydrography, cartography, environmental protection, technical solution, financial background etc.) of the ongoing monumental construction work called Mose Project aiming at safeguarding Venice and its lagoon against high tides.

Technical tour to Venice

Also this was the theme of the Mose Tour next day, when the participants spent almost three hours on the water, studying selected spots of the huge work from a small ship. Special thanks are due to the organizers for this very interesting and excellent technical programme and professional guidance, and last but not least, for the elegant lunch on Lido and the free time we could spend in the miraculous Venice town centre.

5. International Seminar, Workshop on State and Public Land Management – September 9-10, 2008, Verona, Italy

Just before the Annual Meeting and Open Symposium, a two-day International Seminar was organized based on a FIG-FAO agreement and financially supported by FAO. FAO financed the participation of some eminent international lecturers and representatives of certain developing countries. 64 participants attended the Seminar from 26 countries with some accompanying persons, and last but not least, the interested Italian professionals.

The seminar was also jointly organised by the Italian Association CNG and the FIG Commission 7. This topic heavily affecting economies is important and problematic in both developing and more developed countries, therefore it was very useful for the international audience to see and hear various solutions and approaches of one other.

High-ranking Italian politicians and leading officials of FIG and FAO welcomed the audience of about 250 persons being present at the opening. In two days, we heard 25 presentations. Professor Richard Grover summarized the evaluation of the event. (See also GroverFIGFAOSemin Verona 2008.doc, Sept 10, Verona 2008 on the FIG website.)

6. FLOSS Cadastre Project (FAO, FIG WB)

Daniel Steudler gave a report about this ongoing project concerning open source software in Verona at the Annual Meeting. The scoping paper was prepared by Gertrude Pieper with an overview of OSS and recommendations. In October 2007, there was an Expert Group Meeting in Rome to discuss next steps, and there was a workshop in Dunedin, New Zealand, May 2008. Discussion at workshop showed that there would be a tremendous benefit when large national projects declare their software developments as open-source. Many others could potentially profit. The C&LR community should be more aware of high costs of software license fees and the potential of FLOSS. FLOSS needs to be based on open concepts standardized data modelling is essential (no matter what the data model is or what the modelling mechanism is). The big issue in Europe at the moment: fees. Discussions are currently more often about **open source data** rather than open source software. Private cadastral offices start to discover FLOSS possibilities while they grow tired

of license restrictions, limitations and costs. (See also SteudlerFLOSS.ppt in Verona material, Sept. 12. 2008 on the FIG website)

7. Standardization Land Administration Domain Model and ISO

Chrit Lemmen gave a report in Verona about the development of his proposal made in Washington in 2002 with Van Oosterom in this topic. There were meetings in Enschede, 2003 and Bamberg, 2004. Several publications appeared, involved many people, version 1.0 was published in Munich. New working item proposal submitted to ISO by FIG in January 2008. First meeting: Denmark, May 2008. Project Team: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, UK, USA. Version 2.0 was ready in July. Comments before 15 Sept. Second meeting organized in September, Delft, The Netherlands.

8. Coming Events, 2008-2010

Eilat, Israel, 3-8 May 2009 - Surveyors' Key Role in Accelerated Development: New Horizons across the Red Sea

Organizers: FIG and Association of Licensed Surveyors of Israel. They hope that FIG WW in Eilat will help to promote peace in the Middle East and all over the world. Surveyors have a key role in „Accelerated Development”.

Papers are requested according to the principal topics of FIG Commissions.

For further information on the website: www.fig.net/fig2009

7th FIG Regional Conference Hanoi, Vietnam: 19-22 October 2009

The regional conference will be focusing mainly on land administration, land governance and environmental issues, expecting contributions especially from Commission 7. The reason: FIG will cosponsor the South East Asia Survey Conference to be held in Bali, Indonesia in August 2009, focus of which will be in Commissions 4, 5 and 6.

9. If you are still lacking literature specialized in land administration... turn to **OICRF, a digital Land Administration library (www.oicrf.org)**

They collect and systematically file and index all documentation material relating to existing cadastres and land registration systems, conduct comparative studies of this material and publish the results, provide information and advice on all cadastres and land registration systems to all interested persons and institutions for the purposes of study or to help countries wishing to set up a cadastre or land registration system or improve an existing system, and maintain the documentation system on a daily basis.

OICRF maintains a digital library that currently contains approximately **6,000 publications**, which include things such as conference documents, magazine articles and reports on land administration. All of the available documents and the most recent publications can be accessed electronically at www.oicrf.org and downloaded in PDF format.

The website includes a function that enables users to search for publications and documents by 'Title' or 'Author' or on the basis of an 'Abstract' or 'Keyword'. A 'Language'-based search is also possible. Users can also trace documents linked to a certain event, such as papers linked to a specific conference or seminar.

The website is a popular resource. The number of downloads averages at 100 per day.

And that's all for the moment.

Best regards

András Osskó, Chair
Gyula Iván, Vice-Chair (Administration)
Maria Tóth (Secretariat)