

Concept note

Joint FAO/FIG Academic Forum on the VGGT

24 April, 11:00–12:30

Introduction

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) have through a LoA agreed to organize two joint sessions with core emphasis on supporting the implementation of the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* (VGGT) during the FIG Congress in Istanbul. The FIG Academic Forum is the platform within the FIG General Assembly where the Academic Members of FIG and other academicians gather to discuss about academic responsibilities and prepare actions.

During the FIG Working Week in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2016, the FIG Academic Members decided to form a working group ‘Exploring the VGGT in Practice’. The aim of the working group was to identify and strengthen the role of the surveying and land professional in the implementation of the VGGT.

The 2018 Academic Forum built upon the previous engagement. FAO presented an overview of the engagement of FAO with the academic sector at country level. Shared challenges were presented from the range of countries: Colombia, Georgia, Jamaica, Netherlands and Tanzania. They identified similar challenges are: limited awareness on the VGGT, knowledge of teachers, building/strengthening collaboration between governments and Academia and lack of financial resources.

The 2019 Academic Forum

FIG and the Vietnam Association of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (VGCR) will lead in carrying out the FIG Working Week 2019, which – under the overall theme of “Geospatial information for a smarter life and environmental resilience “ – will include the “Guidelines” and improved governance of tenure as one of the main thematic tracks. Under the FAO/FIG Letter of Agreement, the general objective is to disseminate the VGGTs, raise awareness, *develop capacity, engage professional, academic and teaching institutions, and develop partnerships between FAO staff and FIG surveyors towards improved governance and application of the VGGTs.*

This is one of two joint FAO/FIG sessions organized in cooperation with FAO Tenure staff to address the *experiences related to the implementation of the Guidelines’* and specific aspects of Solutions for Open Land Administration (SOLA) - Open Tenure (OT)¹s. The academic forum focuses on the role of the academic sector in the implementation and dissemination of the VGGTs through strengthened role of surveyors. A “strengthened role of surveyors” is a connecting entry

¹ SOLA-OT is a knowledge based decision making and widens means for data dissemination and access to land records. E-governance is an area of rapid innovation in developed economies, and emerging economies can leap-frog ahead in this area. Using SOLA-OT is a cost effective and sustainable way for improving tenure governance and changing surveyors' role.

point to address and discuss the role of academia, especially in mainstreaming the modern data capturing tools (Open Tenure) and fit-for-purpose ICT systems in support of Land Administration (SOLA), developed under the FAO VGGT programme, and targeting both university curricula and continuous professional development courses. Thus surveying students and graduates will be informed about available tools and how to use these tools, they will learn and get experiences.

The session will be held as a roundtable discussion focusing on existing available practices and case studies. By presenting some experiences, there will be the opportunity to show case and then to explore how university curricula and continuous professional development courses can strengthen the role of surveyors for enhanced application of the VGGT. As this is highly important for ensuring university curricula and continuous professional development courses promote a participatory approach, equitable gender inclusion, transparency and providing tenure security not only to the statutory but also to customary tenure rights. These are all directly related to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the contribution of securing tenure rights (through new surveying methods and VGGT implementation) to the 2030 development agenda.

Expected Outcome:

A better understanding on possible ways and opportunities to strengthen university curricula and continuous professional development courses in informing surveyors in their role related to VGGT principles compliance that may help to improve surveying standards and methodologies as part of the process to regularize tenure rights, in different context, particularly in contexts of customary tenure. In addition, it will help to identify good practices and lessons learnt for the use of such approaches.

Therefore the 2019 Academic Forum will explore the following questions through roundtable discussion on:

1. What are opportunities within university research, curricula, and continuous professional development courses to apply participatory and gender inclusive approach to securing tenure rights?
2. What are best practices on surveying and documenting different tenure rights (customary, statutory, communal, etc.) in the framework of the VGGT? In this context, would be discussed the Uganda case presented by Makerere University – using Open Tenure land demarcation, participatory approach to issuance of certificates of customary ownership (CCOs) and case study from Tanzania,
3. Best practices with simplified and improved survey procedures that are “fit-for-purpose”, and how surveyors could provide feedback to improve and simplify processes,
4. How to bridge the gap (including university research, curricula and continuous professional development courses can help) between what technologies offer and the reality with regard to the existing Cadastre Technical Standards and Specifications in their countries?
5. How State Cadastre institutions can support surveyors to be VGGT compliant by adjusting their technical standards and specifications, introducing mandatory (or at list encouraging) participatory and gender inclusive procedures for (sporadic and systematic) cadastral surveys?

Session Programme

Co-Chairs: David Mitchell TBC and Javier MolinaCruz TBC

Rapporteur: TBC

- 1) Using Open Tenure Land Demarcation, participatory approach, led by Makerere University to issue certificates of customary rights- case study from Uganda
- 2) Invited speaker 2: Invited to comment on “Case of Tanzania”
- 3) Study of results/research area on the adjudication procedures being applied in pro-poor land recordation activities by the various agencies. As we know, the objective of this study is to compile adjudication procedures for capturing both primary (ownership) and secondary (non-ownership) tenure forms (including overlapping interests) in order to identify the basic or essential design elements for a common guidance / framework, which could form the basis of a community based adjudication process in a pro-poor tenure recordation exercise
- 4) Tea Dabrundashvili: “Bridging the gap between the VGGTs and materials developed and reality to fit their particular requirements for strengthened role of surveyors: The role of technical guides, e-learning materials, and face-to-face training”
- 5) Invited speaker (for roundtable discussion): Invited to comment on “Can core curriculum such as the GLTN Knowledge Base on Responsible Land Administration help with capacity challenges”

- 6) Floor discussion on the 5 discussion questions listed above.

Format and timing (90 minutes)

Time	Topic/activity description	Role/ responsibility
11.00 – 11.05	Opening comments.	David Mitchell
11.05 – 11.15	Setting the stage	Javier MolinaCruz
11.15 – 11.25	Presentation 1	Makarere University of Uganda
11.25 – 11.35	Presentation 2	Tanzania case
11.35 – 11.45	Presentation 3	Study of results research area by Twente University
11.45 - 11.55	Presentation 4	Tea Dabrundashvili
12.00 - 12:25	Facilitated floor discussion	David Mitchell
12.25 - 12:30	Closing remarks	David Mitchell