



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 December 2007

Dear Delegates, Correspondents and Friends,

The year 2007 is closing to the end. It is time to inform you about Commission 7 activities and events in the second half of the year, also about coming events in 2008.

1. GeoConference Québec 2007 – October 2-5, 2007 and the Québec Workshop on Land Administration for Sustainable Development, Québec, Canada

FIG supported this conference. Commission 7 together with local organisers did their best to organize a successful workshop. Special thanks and congratulations are due to the Canadian delegate Daniel Roberge and Commission 7 Working group 2 chair Soeren Christensen.

President FIG Stig Enemark, Remy Sietchiping from UN Habitat and Keith Bell from the World Bank were invited speakers of the initial session.

The Workshop was organised by the FIG Commission 7 (Cadastre and Land Administration) in collaboration with the Fédération des géomètres francophones (FGF), as a pre-conference event for GeoConference Québec 2007.

The workshop attracted about 50 participants from 22 countries, half of them coming from developing or emerging countries, mainly officials responsible for land administration and cadastre, land surveyors, geomaticians, legal experts, academics and students involved in cooperation projects.

Please find the full report by Daniel Roberge on the event as an attachment (QuebecWs2007.doc) to the present newsletter and also on FIG Commission 7 website, together with the photos taken. You can visit website <http://www.quebec2007.ca> for further information.

2. Project "FLOSS Cadastre" – an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) in Rome, October 22-23, 2007

This project is being supported by the World Bank as well as FIG-Commission 7. The FAO provided some funding for getting the project started. In a first phase, a consultant has been mandated to establish a scoping paper, of which the intention was to explore the field and make a recommendation in how to approach the topic. This scoping paper is of very good quality and a valuable basis for continuation.

Please find below full report on the event by Daniel Steudler, Chair of Working Group 7.3 and also on the website of FIG Commission 7:

Project "FLOSS Cadastre"

"As discussed at the last annual meeting in Korea, Working Group 7.3 intends to explore the possibilities of "free/libre open-source software" (FLOSS) in the cadastral field. 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

involved. FAO (and myself) is convinced that a contribution in this area would be beneficial to many projects.

The first phase of the project has been concluded with an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) in Rome on 22/23 October with the following participants:

- FAO: Mika Törhönen, Paul Munro-Faure, Dave Palmer, Vladimir Evtimov
- World Bank: Gavin Adlington
- FIG-Commission 7: Andras Ossko, Daniel Steudler
- Bosnia-Herzegovina: Kemal Osmanovic, Michael Wagner
- Bavaria: Johannes Freund
- Consultants: Gertrude Pieper, Gottfried Konecny

The aim of the EGM was to recognize the results of the scoping paper and to discuss the next steps. In order to learn from other experiences, two other OSS projects within FAO have been presented at the meeting. One project was in the field of metadata, called "GeoNetwork opensource" (<http://geonetwork-opensource.org/>). A major lesson learnt in this project was that successful OSS projects need healthy user and development communities, and most crucial a core team/platform to make things happen.

The discussions at the EGM concluded that - in an initial phase - the project should aim for the development and provision of OSS tools for the following:

- Basic cadastral operations (geometrical software tools to consolidate and subdivide parcels);
- Data modelling tools for handling data models and establishing databases (the CCDM is considered to be a crucial basis).

The realization of any further tools or modules will then depend very much on how the user community accepts the initiative and how their needs will be expressed.

The second phase of the project now includes the carrying out three case studies, where OSS experiences in the cadastre will be investigated. The tentative countries are Bosnia-Herzegovina, Zanzibar, and the Kyrgyz Republic.

In parallel, the following actions are being undertaken:

- To look for funding for the third phase (to establish the core team/platform);
- To look for the cooperation with a university;
- To plan a workshop or conference where the project can be presented and discussed. The World Bank-FIG conference in November 2008 (Washington) seems to be an attractive venue for organising a workshop on the FLOSS Cadastre and Land Registration, while the annual meeting of FIG-Comm.7 in Verona, Italy in September 2008 could host a preparatory meeting.

3. 6th FIG Regional Conference, "Coastal Areas and Land Administration, Building the Capacity". San José, Costa Rica, November 12-15, 2007.

As the title of the conference seemed to be related to Commission 7 activities, I invited Commission 7 delegates for active contribution. (Unfortunately, I was not present, though I planned to go and everything was prepared, also I undertook some work in different sessions and a presentation too. Due to a mistake by my travel agency, I had to return to Budapest from Amsterdam. I apologize for any inconvenience caused by my unintentional absence.)

This was the first occasion that a regional conference is held in Latin America. Costa Rica was an obvious choice – located right in the centre of Central America. The theme of the conference was carefully chosen to address some of the key professional issues in this region and especially in the host country of Costa Rica.

FIG has worked closely with the host association CFIA being the Institution of Engineers and Architects in Costa Rica, and the CIT as a Collegio under CFIA being the Collegio de Ingenieros Topografos de Costa Rica. Also Minister of Housing, Fernando Zumbado was among the high-ranking participants of the event, which attracted about 250 professionals from several countries of the world. In line with the expectations, 65% of them arrived from Central America and the Caribbeans.

Representatives of the Commission 7 participated in organizing of six sessions (Coastal Zone Management; Workshop on Pro-Poor CZM: preparation of the FIG publication on the topic; Plenary Session II: Land Management; Good Governance in Land Development; Administering Marine Spaces; Plenary Session III: Capacity Building) altogether with 12 presentations. We also had planned four independent sessions to be held by Commission 7 (Land Administration; World Bank Projects in Latin America; Sustainability in Land Administration; Empowerment of the Poor. Unfortunately, two sessions: Land Administration and Empowerment of the Poor were cancelled. Finally altogether 7 presentations were held.

This conference highlighted the hot topics of the region: capacity building, land administration and environmental issues, especially the use and future of coastal regions. FIG president Stig Enemark held a closing presentation, summarizing the essence of these three main themes of the conference.

Based on the outcome of the conference, FIG will prepare a publication "Methodologies for Pro-Poor Coastal Zone Management", undertaken by the Commissions 3, 4, 7 and 8.

Both high professional standard of the presentations, the overall impression and job done by local organizers are to be appreciated.

More information and picture gallery on the FIG homepage: www.fig.net

4. Expert Group Meeting for African Land Registrars – Nairobi, Kenya, November 26-27, 2007 (report by Christiaan Lemmen)

The Meeting was organized at UN Habitat. A series of key questions was debated; e.g. which innovative arrangements other than allocation of individual property titles can be promoted, how can the existing continuum and recognition of customary rights be applied to implement incremental tenure upgrading. Amongst others, it was further discussed what particular techniques and procedures must be envisaged to record land rights and transactions in 'non cadastral' areas.

In relation to this, Christiaan Lemmen, chair of WG 7.1 on 'pro poor land management' presented the Social Tenure Domain Model. He also represented András Osskó, chair Comm. 7 in this meeting.

Resolutions of this meeting focused on services and operation of land registration and recordation systems, on gender equity, on managing disputes and conflicts over land, on land policies and on capacity building.

About 20 participants from Australia, Benin, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and UK joined the event.

Coming events, 2008

1. 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 before the FIG WW in Stockholm (14-19 June 2008).

The aim of the workshop is to bring professionals together engaged in e-learning and distance education in surveying, geoinformation sciences and land administration. The workshop is offering the participants the opportunity to present good practices and to share their experiences.

Deadlines:

Abstracts for presentations (2000-3000 words):	15 January, 2008
Abstracts for hands-on demonstrations (500-1000 words):	15 January
Notification of acceptance:	28 February
Early registration:	5 March
Full paper submission (max 10 pages):	15 April
Registration of authors of proceedings and CD-ROM:	15 April

Details in the attachment (Workshop2008v011107.doc), on the homepage of the ITC (www.itc.nl/fig_elearning2008) and FIG Commission 7 website.

2. FIG Working Week – Integrating Generations – Stockholm, Sweden, June 14-19, 2008.

There will be a joint UN Habitat-FIG Seminar as fully integrated part of the Working Week programme during the first two days. This includes contributions from commissions 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 on slum upgrading and innovative financial mechanism.

During our Annual Meeting, we discussed about the possible contribution to the seminar. Working gr. 1 chair Christiaan Lemmen and Tommy Österberg, member of the organising committee are responsible for co-ordinating Commission 7 contribution.

For the first time, FIG is introducing a peer-review system for the technical papers.

If you want your paper **peer reviewed**: submit full paper not later than **31 January 2008**.

If you don't: submit full paper not later than **31 March**

Submit **abstracts** in any case: not later than **31 January**

Abstracts first should be submitted **online** using the link

<http://www.fig.net/abstractdb/submit.asp?id=9>

Full papers: by e-mail to fig@fig.net observing the guidelines and templates for submission below.

Guidelines for authors:

- Template for preparing the papers (.dot-format)
- 29 February 2008: Notification to authors
- 14 March: Deadline for early (discounted) registration
<http://www.fig.net/fig2008/html/registration.php>
- 31 March: Deadline for submission of full papers for publishing
- 15 April: Deadline for normal registration
<http://www.fig.net/fig2008/html/registration.php>
- 16 April: Late registrations
<http://www.fig.net/fig2008/html/registration.php>
- 13-14 June 2008: Pre-Conference Workshop on History of Surveying and Measurement
- 14-19 June 2008: FIG Working Week

All speakers have to register by 15 April 2008:

(<http://www.fig.net/fig2008/html/registration.php> or using the registration form, which can be downloaded from the website filled in and faxed to the FIG Office at +45 3886 0252).

Please also book your **accommodation directly** with the hotels recommended by the organizers. Hotels and booking forms: www.fig.net/fig2008 - see "accommodation"

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

The Italian Association (Consiglio Nazionale Geometri) will host Commission 7 Annual Meeting in 2008. We discussed their proposal during the Annual meeting in Seoul and by now, we also agreed in date.

The planned structure of the event: three days meeting, one day open symposium and one day technical tour. During the technical tour, we will visit Venice studying "Mose Yards of Venice".

The hotel name and package price with all other additional information will hopefully follow in January 2008.

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

This symposium will be organized based on a FIG-FAO agreement and financially supported by FAO.

The seminar is being jointly organised by the Italian Association CNG and the FIG Commission 7. The date of the seminar is just before the Annual meeting in Verona. The topic is important and problematic in both developing and more developed countries, which effect economies.

I encourage everybody to include this event in his or her travel plan.

Further details and call for papers will be circulated soon.

Finally, let us use this opportunity to send you our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year: health, wealth, happiness and success in your job and private life too.

Best regards

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

Attachments:

- to Québec Workshop, October 2007
(*QuebecWs2007.pdf and PHOTOS-FIGComm7-FGFQuebecWorkshopOct2007.pdf.*);
- to Enschede Workshop 11-13 June 2008
(*Workshop2008v011107.pdf*)