FIG Commissions 7 and 9 Annual Meeting 2017 and Conference, Cartagena, Colombia, December 2017

The FIG Commission 7 on Cadastre and Land Management and Commission 9 on Valuation and the Management of Real Estate Annual organised a joint annual meeting from 4 to 8 December 2017 in Cartagena, Colombia. This event hosted the Annual Meeting and Conference on Cadastre for Emergencies and Disasters ‘Challenges and opportunities for islands and coastlines’.

The cadastral system and land registry in Colombia is under renewal. A proper land administration is relevant in the context of the peace treaty between the Colombian government and FARC. Many issues in that context are land related and were a subject of discussion during the conference.

The main keynote was presented by Mr Jorge Muñoz, practice manager of the World Bank’s Global Land and Geospatial Unit. Mr Muñoz brought experiences and lessons learnt in land administration. First of all, fit-for-purpose approaches in land administration require support. Turnkey land information systems are not available. It is ideal to merge cadastre with registry under one entity. If this is not possible, there should be at least full integration of information systems. Goal of the Land 2030 Initiative is to enhance commitment of governments and partners to achieve ambitious global and regional targets to secure land rights by 2030, especially on women’s rights, fragility and forced migration. This includes an expansion of World Bank’s land portfolio, by US $760 million to US $1,432 million over the next 18 months. The World Bank welcomes increased collaboration with FIG members in multiple countries.

Upcoming GSDI Marine/Coastal SDI Workshops

The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association is engaged in a project investigating coastal/marine SDI best practices. The project conducts research into effectiveness of marine information geoportals and other aspects of delivering successful marine/coastal SDIs, including policy and governance challenges and successes. It is supported by funding from European Spatial Data Research (EuroSDR) and focuses closely on land-sea interactions, especially in regard to implementation of the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive and national and regional work on marine cadastres.

A coastal/marine SDI typically includes information on seabed bathymetry (elevation), geology, infrastructure (e.g.,