



# Further Standardisation in Land Administration

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) has set up a Domain Group on Land Administration. OGC has long-standing liaisons with major players in the land administration domain, including the International Federation of Surveyors, the Technical Committee 211 of the ISO, the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, the World Wide Web Consortium, OASIS and the Global Land Tool Network. OGC always strives to use, build on and complement existing standards. However, while there are some standards describing elements of an administrative system, such as in the Land Administration Domain Model (LADM), there might be gaps in the way that they incorporate geospatial descriptions of land records and/or there might be inadequate rules for defining and describing the quality of the records. The LADM was initiated by FIG. During the World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty – to be held from 20-24 March 2017 in Washington DC, USA – the subject of standardisation in land administration will be a topic of discussion.

## ANNUAL AFRICA REGIONAL NETWORK (ARN) CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

From 17-18 November 2016, Vice President Diane Dumashie chaired the Africa FIG Regional Network (ARN) 2016 meeting and facilitated the training workshop. The



workshop was attended by 35 land professionals. The theme, 'Ensuring good land governance practices in the land profession and what you can do about it', appealed to those wishing to gain an understanding of the international land governance initiatives, specifically the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGTs). The workshop focus was to:

- Build future resilience into land professional practices to improve governance of tenure
- Understand the implementation opportunities referenced in the VGGTs

- Ensure that people benefit from secure and equitable tenure rights.
- The workshop was implemented with the traditional highly participatory design and fast pace that enabled the participants to gain an overview of, discover principles and practices, and then to design, develop and communicate key good governance messages, including by capturing their ideas in video clips.

**More information**  
[www.fig.net](http://www.fig.net)



# A Message from GSDI's New President

*As Dave Lovell takes over the baton from Dave Coleman as GSDI's president for the coming year, he reflects here on the opportunity.*

GSDI has existed for 20 years. During that time, the association has made nearly a quarter of a million US dollars available to support SDI developments with small grants. We have arranged conferences around the world in which knowledge and experience has been exchanged and inspiration and energy has been stimulated.

Over the years, a lot has been achieved in the development and deployment of spatial data infrastructures (SDIs), but while much has

been achieved, there is much more that needs to be done to realise the GSDI vision of 'a world where everyone can readily discover, access and apply geographic information to improve their daily lives'.

Many more small grants are needed to stimulate SDIs, from the bottom up, particularly in the developing nations, to complement and support the work of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and others working top-down. More opportunities for gatherings are needed where academics, industry and policymakers from different countries,

different domains and different communities interact to help drive SDIs forward.

It is the people who are developing technical capability – the people who are applying technical capability that we must harness for a common purpose of making everything location-enabled. Yet people organise themselves into natural communities – communities of surveyors, of programmers, of engineers, of medics, and so on. From this we can conclude that, while GSDI through its members and sponsors has delivered a lot in the past and will continue to do so in the future, we will deliver even more, even faster when we work in and with other communities of interest.