

**FIG Working WEEK- Hong Kong**  
**Commission 8**  
**Diane Dumashie**

***General***

Closing ceremony noted that 528 delegates had registered from 64 countries.

***Administrative Meetings***

Two administrative meetings highlighted

- i) introduction of peer review for academic papers, and
- ii) confirming the final working groups for the 4 year term including: mega cities, land use [planning (Sweden), informal settlements, coastal processes
- iii) Discussed the FIG four year plan noting the Presidents focus on high level MDG, and technical surveyors services.

In addition a Plenary announcement that working group 8.2 (Informal settlements) will contribute to UHN Habitat GLTN, in parallel with other commissions. Together with participation in Comm 9 two dialogues on improving slum conditions through innovative financing, was agreed as request have been made to contribute to the web site

[www.justinsustshelter.org](http://www.justinsustshelter.org)

***Paper sessions***

Working Group 8.4 (2002-06), built on the success of its publication on Disaster management (The Munich declaration) delivering a key note in a plenary paper. The link between spatial and economic planning and disasters is clear- the rapidly increasing population is the major factor of increasing vulnerability in our cities with resultant increase in densities. The RICS work through its Presidential Commission on Disaster Management complimented this Plenary with a paper presented later in a Comm 8 technical session.

Strategic Integration of surveying services reflects Comm 8 wide activity base, and subsequently overviewed in the distribution of sessions with many time- tabled as joint sessions (7) and two core sessions.

***Key elements***

The first two sessions each combined the financial and lease arrangements involved in economic development, the first relating to the western approach, the second to slum settlements and poverty alleviation. Session three recognising economics as a driver to surveying services demonstrated the link between land administration positively contributing to economic growth. Papers included: projecting how land markets may further develop (Mahony) identifying developer led strategies (Plimmer) and visionary (Msale).

Informal settlements, a key topic in comm. 8; was the focus in the fourth session. The session considered ways and means of access to land by Low income earners (Nigeria) and land use (China), but also the importance of facilitation, via the launch of an RICS short pamphlet, "How the surveying professional may contribute to assisting these settlements".

Two further sessions, illustrating the commissions diverse activity; the first on Coastal zone management, pertinent to the UK's current government's consideration of the implications of a Marine Bill, as well as SDI for land management. In respect of the latter topic, the final session linked SDI toward legalising Informal development.

Commission 8 core sessions looked at sustainability within the planning system with contrasting case studies from Sweden and Nigeria and urban regeneration in Germany.