

**Report to the 33rd General Assembly
FIG Working Week in Sydney, Australia, 11-16 April 2010**

Report on the Co-operation with the United Nations and the World Bank

1. UN Liaison Committee and Liaison Ambassador for United Nations

The FIG Council established in Hong Kong in May 2007 the UN Liaison Committee – FIG Responses to the Millennium Development Goals to coordinate co-operation with the United Nations. This Committee is chaired by President Stig Enemark and its other members are: Prof. Paul van der Molen (co-operation with FAO and UN-HABITAT, the Global Land Tools Network), Vice President Matt Higgins (co-operation with UN-OOSA), Dr. Chryssy Potsiou, Chair of Commission 3 (co-operation with UN ECE) and Mr. Helge Onsrud ,Norway (co-operation with the committee for Legal Empowerment of the Poor).

The Council appointed in February 2009 Prof. Paul van der Molen as FIG Liaison Ambassador for the United Nations in February to assist the President in UN related issues to the end of 2010. The President will continue to be in charge for reporting on the UN activities to the General Assembly and be responsible for the overall UN liaison policy.

2. Co-operation with UN-HABITAT

FIG's contribution to the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) is at the core of the Council's work plan and results in various imminent projects. President Enemark attended and chaired the Advisory Board of the GLTN in Nairobi 6 November 2009. The meeting was held in conjunction to the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) Partners' Meeting held 4-5 November 2009 at the UN-HABITAT Headquarters in Nairobi. The Partners' Meeting was structured around the theme: "Enriching Partnerships and Increasing Activities for Land Reform" and attracted around 60 partner organisations. The key issues of the IAB meeting, chaired this time by President Stig Enemark, included a comprehensive evaluation the overall GLTN activities in 2009 as well as discussions on the future strategies

The FIG projects with UN-HABITAT and GLTN are now mainly organised through individual agreements. FIG handled the review of the GLTN project on Social Tenure Domain Model. FIG also co-operated with GLTN on addressing the issue of informal developed that resulted in the publication "*Informal Urban Development in Europe. A case study from Albania and Greece*". The study is prepared by expert support from FIG (Dr. Chryssy Potsiou) and will be published by UN-HABITAT/GLTN. FIG has also provided expert support (Dr. Diane Dumashie) to developing the Gender Evaluation Criteria for Large-scale Land Tools and for assessing these criteria though pilot studies.

Most of tasks originally planned for the Task Force on Developing Global Land Tools for Pro Poor Land Management have been taken care of by the President through the GLTN International Advisory Board.

3. Co-operation with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO has supported major FIG events during the latest years. In 2008 the main joint activity was the Joint FIG/FAO/CNG Seminar on State and Public Land Management that was held in Verona, Italy. In 2009 the main project was a two-day Regional Consultation Meeting on the “*FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Other Natural Resources*” that FIG organised jointly with FAO Land Tenure and Management Unit (NRLA) in Hanoi during the FIG Regional Conference. FAO is also committed to support the Small Islands Development Seminar in Sydney during the FIG congress. Discussions on partnerships at future meetings are in progress especially in relation to FIG Working Week 2012 in Rome.

In January 2010 President Enemark attended the FAO Consultation Meeting, hosted by RICS, on the Guidelines for private sector in London, United Kingdom.

4. Co-operation with the World Bank

Co-operation with the World Bank has been active since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding that was launched at the FIG WW in Hong Kong in May 2007. FIG and the World Bank organised a Joint World Bank/FIG Conference “Land Governance in Support of the Millennium Development Goals: Responding to New Challenges” in Washington DC, USA, 9-10 March 2009 (www.fig.net/wb2009). The outcome from this conference is published as FIG statement in FIG publication series.

In general, the FIG/WB collaboration is aimed at improving capacity building at all levels in the areas of land tenure, land value, land use and land development. This also includes implementation of appropriate technologies for data collection and mapping; building of spatial data infrastructures and comprehensive information systems; and facilitating increased and equal access to land for all, ensure good governance, and promote proper management of land-use and natural resources.

5. United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN-OOSA) and the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG)

Vice President Matt Higgins represents FIG in the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG). The ICG has been formed as a result of recommendations of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS), as ratified by the General Assembly of the UN. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN OOSA) acts as the secretariat for the ICG. It should be noted that FIG has a MoU with UN OOSA. Matt Higgins has attended the 4th Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 14-18 September 2009.

Shafa Gadimova from the ICG Secretariat in UN OOSA, also gave a presentation on the work of the ICG at the FIG Regional Conference in Hanoi. Matt Higgins was also invited to give a keynote at a Multi-GNSS Workshop in Thailand in January 2010, which was convened by the Japanese Space Agency with support from the ICG.

6. Others

President Stig Enemark attended the 3rd UN Sponsored Land Administration Forum for the Asia and Pacific Region entitled “*Re-Engineering the Cadastre to Support E-Government*” in Tehran, Iran, 24-26 May 2009. The Forum was organised by the UN sponsored Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure (PCGIAP) together with Islamic Republic of Iran’s Deeds and Properties Registration Organization, the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) and the Centre for Spatial Data Infrastructures and Land Administration, University of Melbourne. The aim was to discuss land administration issues and the role of cadastre to support e-government in the Asia and Pacific region. The Seminar was Chaired by Prof Ian Williamson and co-chaired by Associate Professor Abbas Rajabifard, President of GSDI.

President Enemark attended and gave a keynote at the *Eighteenth United Nations Cartographic Conference for Asia & the Pacific (UNRCC-AP)* held in Bangkok 26-29 October 2009. The conference is convened every three years since 1955. The overall theme was “*Spatial Enablement and the Response to Climate Change and the Millennium Development Goals*”. The conference was organized by the UN Statistics Division in Bangkok at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and headed by Mr. Paul Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD). The conference provided a regional forum for approximately 200 participants (mostly heads of mapping agencies and land surveys and experts from Asia and the Pacific and other regions). The conference provides a unique platform for discussion and understanding of the regional needs, and for networking with national agencies and other NGO’s

A similar forum exists for the Americas (UNRCC-A) that convenes every four years with the last meeting held in New York, August 2009. These two forums are being brought together by establishing a forum on Global Geographic Information Management. Such a forum should play a leadership role in setting the agenda for further development of geographic information, and promote the use of geographical information to address key global challenges (poverty reduction, sustainable development climate change and disaster management) and, thus, raise the professional visibility. A first UN global conference on Geographic Information Management will be organised in 2011.

February 2010