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Distinguished guests, dear friends,

We celebrated this workshop at our historical place having a long-term relationship with the work items of FIG commission 3. Johannes Gutenberg, Mainz's probably most celebrated native son, the German goldsmith and printer living in the 15th century is credited with being the first European to use movable type printing, and the global inventor of the mechanical printing press. Recognizing his truly epochal invention of combining movable printing types, oil-based ink and a wooden printing press similar to the screw wine presses into a practical system he is considered to be one of the forefathers of modern information technology.



The aim of this workshop was 'to study the economic, social and environmental impact of rapid urban growth, unplanned in many countries, and use international knowledge and experience on how surveyors may assist real estate markets, good governance, environmental management and planning initiatives by providing reliable Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs)'. Gutenberg created substantial added value by combining tools and technologies available at his time into a new system, which, in the long run, changed the world. Nowadays, many mature tools to support sustainable development are available, but have to be combined into an integrated system to enable effective management.

More than 50 participants coming from around 20 different countries made their highly valuable contributions to this workshop by presenting more than 40 papers which described feasible strategies to overcome current problems, case studies of best-practice solutions, results of background research and so forth. Extensive fruitful discussions within and outside the 10 technical workshop sessions pooled the single components together to create the complete pattern.

Social events added to the wellbeing of participants and to the spirit of the workshop. The conference dinner following a wine tasting event at the monastery of Eberbach, which is known as the filming location of the famous film 'The name of the rose' based on a novel written by Umberto Eco should especially be mentioned.

May this now closed FIG Commission 3 workshop 'Spatial Information for Sustainable Management of Urban Areas' be found a building block of solutions for the burning issues of our world.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hartmut Müller".

Hartmut Müller
Chair of Local Organizing Committee