



International Federation of Surveyors  
Fédération Internationale des Géomètres  
Internationale Vereinigung der Vermessungsingenieure

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To : Delegates, Correspondents and Friends of FIG-Commission 7  
cc : FIG Office Copenhagen  
From : Paul van der Molen, Chair  
Subject : Newsletter December  
Date : December 3, 2002

Dear Friends!

We send you our sincere greetings and trust you all are well!

### 1. Annual Meeting 2002

The annual meeting of the Commission which took place November 4-9, 2002 in Pretoria (SA) was a successful event! There was an attendance of 28 participants from 23 countries. It has been a delight to be together with people dedicated to the cadastre and land management activity so much. We discussed in depth the situation in South Africa through presentations of Mr. Paul Marschall (President of the SA Council for Surveyors), Mr. Apie van den Berg (Chief Surveyor General of SA) and Mr. Jan Slothouber (Chief Registrar of Deeds of SA).

We discussed country profiles and cadastral templates, in order to bring some uniformity in the description and benchmarking of cadastral systems world wide. The results of the Country Reports 2002 are on the web <[www.swisstopo.ch/fig-wg71/core](http://www.swisstopo.ch/fig-wg71/core)>.

The cadastral template, as developed by our delegate Mr. Daniel Steudler, which also will be submitted to the Permanent Committee for GIS in Asia and the Pacific (PC GIAP), will be tested by seven of our delegates, to see if it is a useful exercise. We were informed on developments in standardisation, and core cadastral domains. Participants from Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Korea, Poland, Belgium, Greece and Zimbabwe presented the state of the art in their country. The working groups (under the leadership of Mr. András Osskó, Mikko Uimonen and Winfried Hawerk) discussed their topics, and made plans for the near future. The presentations and papers will be distributed in due course!

Apart from the serious business, the Commission enjoyed some nice hours together in an informal atmosphere.

We thank our delegates from South Africa (Mr. Apie van den Berg) and Zimbabwe (Mr. Sam Zhou) for their efforts to host the Commission in such an excellent way! See also <[www.fig.net](http://www.fig.net)> for the picture gallery.

### 2. Symposium on Land Redistribution

During the Annual Meeting in Pretoria, the Commission dedicated two days to a regional symposium concerning the 'how to do' question of Land Redistribution in Southern Africa. This symposium was supported by UN/FAO, Cadastre and Land Registry Agency (The Netherlands) and ITC (The Netherlands), Sokkia (South Africa), and Land Tenure Services Ltd. (South Africa).

About 80 people attended the symposium. Nearly all important players in the field were there; 24

speakers from 12 countries presented their view on the problem, amongst them representatives of Worldbank en UN/FAO. Not only the situation in South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Malawi were discussed, but also the land reform approaches in Central and Eastern Europe, Brasil and Bolivia.

The Commission thanks Mikko Uimonen, chair of Working Group 7.2, for taking the lead here. A first report is available at the Commission 7 homepage. The proceedings will be published as a booklet, and hopefully as a FIG Publication. See also <[www.oicrf.org](http://www.oicrf.org)>.

### 3. FIG Working Week Paris 2003

FIG holds its next working week in Paris, **April 13-17, 2003**, in the Ecole des Sciences Géographiques. At the occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the FIG, the Working Week will emphasise this year the modernity of the practice in the many fields of this old profession. Historical topics as well as papers dealing with the most advanced techniques will illustrate this feature.

Please find attached the call for papers. Abstracts should be submitted **before December 13**, at <[fig@fig.net](mailto:fig@fig.net)> (max. 150 words), clarifying the desired link to a session, as listed on <[www.fig.net/figtree/](http://www.fig.net/figtree/)>. After receipt of the abstracts, the FIG Office together with the Commission chairs will schedule the sessions.

Please notice that regarding the Commissions interests, themes are included as follows:

- best practice in land administration
- new professional tasks (3D, marine cadastres, public land rights etc.)
- poverty eradication and land policy

I encourage all of you to submit an abstract in due course!

### 4. Annual Meeting Commission 7 in 2003

Please make the following reservations in your agenda:

Wednesday September 17	arrival and reception
Thursday September 18	Commission 7 sessions
Friday September 19	Cadastral Congres
Saturday September 20	Cadastral Congres
Sunday September 21	Technical Excursion
Monday September 22	Commission 7 sessions
Tuesday September 23	Commission 7 sessions and closing

The Annual Meeting will take place in Krakow (Poland), Novotel Krakow Centre, and The University of Agriculture.

### 5. WPLA Athens May 2003

The UN/ECE/Working Party on Land Administration will organise a special meeting in Athens (Greece), 2003 May 28-30, to discuss the updating of the UN Land Administration Guidelines 1996 (see <[www.unece.org/env/hs/wpla](http://www.unece.org/env/hs/wpla)>). The WPLA would like to welcome participants from Commission 7 to present their opinion on the update of the Guidelines.

### 6. Symposium IT renewal May/June 2003

Working Group 7.3 (chair Winfried Hawerk) will take the lead in the organisation of a symposium on renewal of cadastral legacy systems, so called IT renewal. This will be a specialised seminar for (senior) information managers, who face the challenge of renewal of their IT architectures while 'the shop keeps open', which is the case in many cadastral organisations which have their systems in place for 10-20 years now and have to renew, for example to meet customers demands.

Most likely this symposium will take place in May/June 2003 in Enschede, at the International Institute for Geoinformation Sciences and Earth Observation ITC in Enschede (NL).

**7. Rectification**

The e-mail address of Kristin Karlsson as mentioned in the previous newsletter, is **NOT** Kirstin.Karlsson@lantm.lth.se, but -of course- Kristin.Karlsson@lantm.lth.se.

**8. New telephonenumber**

The telephone- and fax numbers of the Centre for Land Reform Policy in Ukraine are changed into +380 44 253 5301 and +380 44 253 4865.

**9. World Bank Workshops on Land Issues**

The papers, presentations, participant lists and photogalleries of the workshops in Budapest, Kampala, Pachuca, and Phnom Penh are on CD now! Please see <[www.worldbank.org/landpolicy/](http://www.worldbank.org/landpolicy/)>. Here you can also find the Policy Research Report (the document for decision making). There will run an electronic discussion from December 30 - January 10.

**10. PhD for Mr. Conrad Tang**

Our delegate from China/Hongkong, Mr. Conrad Tang, announced his successful PhD at the Annual Meeting. Congratulations on behalf of the Commission, Dr. Conrad Tang!

**11. Seasons Greetings!**

As there will be no newsletter before Christmas and New Year, we would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, with lots of activities in the field of land registry, cadastre, land administration and land management and, of course, a lot of personal happiness.

**Paul van der Molen, chair**

**Christiaan Lemmen, vice chair administration**

**Pauline van Elsland, secretariat**

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