

**Report to the 35th General Assembly
FIG Working Week 2012 in Rome, Italy**

FIG Commission 7 – Cadastre and Land Management

Report of Activities 2011-2012

1. Mission

- To provide a forum for enhancing and exchanging knowledge about cadastre, land administration and land management world wide;
- To encourage the development of pro poor land management and land administration;
- To promote the importance of development of sustainable land administration as infrastructure for sustainable development to underpin economic growth;
- To promote the application of innovative and advanced technology in cadastre, land administration;
- To promote awareness of the role of surveyors in land administration matters to the public and among stake holders.

2. Priorities

- Promote land rights infrastructures and good land governance to contribute to sustainable development
- Develop a better preparedness and response to natural disaster and climate change
- Develop a better cooperation between land surveyors to develop the capacity and improve governance in land administration
- Develop cadastral perspectives «Beyond Cadastre 2014»
- Co-operate with international organizations in land tenure issues

3. Organization and Working Groups

Commission Chair: Daniel Roberge
Administration and Communications

Vice-Chair: Claire Galpin

Assistant and YSN Representative: Jean-François Beaupré

Vice-Chair and Chair WG 7.1: Christiaan Lemmen

Vice-Chairs and Co-Chairs WG 7.2: David Mitchell and Jaap Zevenbergen

Vice-Chair and Chair WG 7.3: Gerda Schennach

Vice-Chair and Chair WG 7.4: Richard Grover

Special advisors: Daniel Steudler and Ian Williamson

4. Working group reports

Working Group 7.1 – Pro Poor Land Management

Chair: Christiaan Lemmen

During the break out sessions of WG 7.1 at the Annual Meeting of Commission 7 in Innsbruck, Austria, the issue of Alienation of Large Tracts of Land to Foreign Countries has been discussed. In any case land professionals have the duty to inform politicians and to give opinions and statements about possible approaches from a professional viewpoint. They need to provide the data for decision making. This means that realistic solutions need to be proposed and land professionals need to be aware of the RRR (Rights, Restrictions and Responsibilities) toolbox.

In many developing countries, there are problems related to transfers of land to foreigners causing many conflicts. Communication between identified main stakeholders is needed. Also, land professionals can help with their know-how. A set of Guidelines/Principles would be most supportive, namely for our African Colleagues. The possible contents of an eventual Declaration in this regard have been discussed. The chair of the WG will contact FAO to avoid overlaps in activities (see FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests). Innovations and advanced technology in cadastre and land-administration have been further investigated: digital pen, point cadastre, satellite images, etc.

The Land Administration Domain Model is at stage of Final Draft International Standard at ISO. The last voting round in ISO TC/211 is expected around July 2012. The LADM includes the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM). The STDM has been presented at several occasions in 2011. One presentation at the World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty has been prepared in co-operation with from UN Habitat. STDM is strongly supported by FIG and by UN organizations. The standard includes the administration of formal and customary rights integrated.

Working Group 7.2 – Disaster management and Climate change?

Co-Chairs: David Mitchell and Jaap Zevenbergen

The working group 7.2 has a joint project with the UN FAO that aims to develop online training materials on land tenure and Disaster Risk Management. For the first phase, which involves face-to-face training in the Pacific and also in the Caribbean, Daniel Roberge, Jaap Zevenbergen and David Mitchell participated to a meeting at FAO headquarters in Rome, last October, to discuss further implementation of the project and update the work plan.

UN FAO is funding and supporting the University of West Indies to run face-to-face training in the Caribbean in June. Funding has also been secured from AusAID under the Public Sector Linkages Program to undertake face-to-face training in July at the University of the South Pacific for 25 participants from Pacific Island Countries. Both these training activities will include the development of audiovisual materials that will form part of the online training resources developed in phase two of the project.

During the upcoming Working Week in Rome in May Commission 7 is working with UN FAO to run a workshop on Land Tenure and Disaster Risk Management at FAO headquarters. This will involve presentations from FAO and also from FIG and is designed for land and disaster management professionals.

Related to the Working Group 7.2 activities is the FIG Climate Change Task Force which will meet at the Rome Working Week. David Mitchell is a member of this Task Force.

Working Group 7.3 - Cadastral perspectives

Chair: Gerda Schennach

Based on the results of the discussions and outcomes of activities since the establishment of the WG 7.3 in the year 2010 several actions following the Work plan have been agreed:

- The joint Seminar with FIG Commission 3 on 3D Cadastre, held in Delft in November 2011, has been attended by members of WG 7.3. Outcomes of the Seminar will be implemented into those activities of WG 7.3, which are related to this topic.
- Members of the WG 7.3 have agreed to produce a brochure defining visions and recommendations for cadastre in future by the end of term in 2014.
- WG 7.3 will also contribute to the update of 3D Cadastres questionnaire and collaborate in the improvement of the FIG Cadastral template, considering social media and investigating about state of play of e-government procedures for cadastre.

The highlight of the 2011 activities of WG 7.3 was the preparation and organisation of the very successful International Symposium “Cadastre 2.0” which took place immediately after the Annual Meeting 2011 of Commission 7 and which has attracted land professionals and opinion leaders from all parts of the world being involved into long-term visions of cadastre and land management systems.

The proceedings of the Symposium “Cadastre 2.0” have been edited. More information available on the FIG Commission 7 website.

As already defined in the Work Plan, WG 7.3 evaluated the outcome of the International Symposium “Cadastre 2.0” and decided upon topics to be included into further considerations. Topics to be addressed in the context of cadastre perspectives are:

- involvement of social media into cadastral procedures
- influence of IT on cadastre in general
- data capture besides existing models
- voluntary participation in e-government procedures
- social networks for environment data
- best practice models to be further developed
- multifunctional cadastre as a successor of multipurpose cadastre
- multidimensional cadastre, as a topic of joint interest with FIG Commission 3
- quality level, social media and web 2.0 applications
- technical framework to guarantee flexibility for future development

Finally, FIG WG 7.3 keeps and will further develop links with other FIG Commissions and with associations from outside FIG dealing with similar topics, namely PCC, UN-ECE/WPLA, GSDI, CLGE and others.

Working Group 7.4 – Cadastral and land management and reforms

Chair: Richard Grover

The working group 7.4 has carried out a study of the management of state and public sector land across a number of countries. A paper by Richard Grover and Elikkos Ellia, entitled *The Management of State and Public Sector Land*, set out the initial conclusions from this study, was presented during the Working Week in Marrakech in May 2011. It drew on contributions from 26 members of Commission 7. The responses to this research came predominantly from Europe but identified a wide variety of issues in the management of state land. These vary between different parts of the world. Whereas in the high income economies of Western Europe, North America and Australasia, the main issue facing governments is how to improve the efficiency with which state assets are managed. By contrast in Africa the most pressing issue is probably the relationship between the state, which is often the legal owner of the land, and customary occupiers. The aim now of the research is to improve the international coverage of the data on state land management so that there is a greater representation of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and fuller understanding of the issues that they face.

The intention over the coming year is to move from research and analysis towards producing material to assist state land managers. The expected adoption of Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Land Tenure by FAO provides a timely opportunity to do this since these are expected to contain some key principles about the management of state land and the relationships between the state and others with an interest in the land. It is recognised that the different problems faced in the various parts of the world make it desirable to place a regional emphasis on this guidance.

A seminar is being planned on State Land Management in Transitional countries for later this year with the intention to use the seminar as the basis from which to produce guidance material for surveyors and other professionals working with state land in these economies.

Administration and Communications

Vice-Chair: Claire Galpin

Assistant: Jean-François Beaupré

Commission 7 wants to reach land professionals from under represented regions. In this aim, we have published last year 2 newsletters in three languages (English, Spanish and French). Also, we will try to have more frequent communications with our delegates, correspondents and collaborators to better inform them about our work, activities and publications.

Also, actions have been taken last year to make the Commission 7 website more user-friendly and accessible. However, reviews have been postponed after the changes to the FIG website scheduled for 2013. The opportunity to film presentations and make them available on the web is also envisaged.

New media allow a great accessibility. By exploiting internet possibilities, dissemination beyond the delegates circle is possible. By this way, it is easy to work around the accessibility issues related to the member status and to the travels.

Commission 7 is also now present on Facebook and LinkedIn. It is a very good way for delegates and colleagues to take part of our discussions, share information and be informed about our activities and publications. We will continue developing our presence in social media, namely to improve communication among members and democratize our work.

Young Surveyor Network's Representative

Jean-François Beaupré

The idea of introducing a Young Surveyors representative among Commission 7 officers was proposed and put forward in Marrakech last May. His task is essentially to inform young professionals about Commission 7 works and activities and to identify the opportunities of exchange between the Commission 7 and the FIG Young Surveyor Network (YSN).

Young professionals bring a fresh look at the discussions, but the relevance of their intervention is dependent on their knowledge of the subjects and their issues. Their presence will ensure the Commission 7 continuity.

However, the presence of young professionals is difficult to achieve and sustain. Young professionals are confronted with problems of accessibility. Indeed, most young professionals have difficult access to the FIG activities related to national representation issues. For more, the complexity and the importance of the work of the Commission 7 is another factor impeding access to young professionals. Finally, their presence to the Commission 7 activities involves travelling which is a drag on the involvement of young professionals.

One of the responsibilities of the Young Surveyors representative is to make more accessible the Commission 7 to young professionals. In this perspective, the use of social Medias will be more developed in the future.

Finally, the First Young Surveyors Conference and the FIG Working Week in Rome in May 2012 will be opportunities to confirm the place of young professionals in the FIG Commissions.

5. Events

Commission 7 Annual Meeting and International Symposium, Innsbruck, Austria, 26 Sept. – 1 Oct. 2011

FIG Commission 7 held his annual meeting from Sept. 26th to 30th 2011 in the Innsbruck, Austria. This very successful event culminated with the high level International Symposium Cadastre 2.0. This meeting welcomed delegates from 30 countries. Without any doubt, issues related to land administration and cadastral perspectives are still of very high interest, namely in regard of citizens' involvement, crowd sourcing and social medias and to completion of cadastre and land registration in the developing world, this concerns about 75% of the 6 billion or so spatial units in use by humans on the planet.

In brief:

- The future of cadastre is high on the agenda of the FIG Commission 7.

- Many discussions about one hand the need for an AAA Cadastre (Accurate, Authoritative, and Assured) for the some advanced countries and on the other hand, the immediate need for low cost solutions to meet the challenge of population in developing countries. There are different opinions and solutions.
- Surveyor's role and contribution to land administration is under change from field surveys to information and quality management of spatial data and being supportive and leading in developments of national spatial data infrastructures with a broad application range. This can only be done in close co-operation with professionals from other disciplines. Reliability of data is the key contribution of our profession.
- There is an urgent need for knowledge and information on the latest developments in cadastre and land registry in many countries.

For more details: <https://sites.google.com/site/figsymposium2011/home-1>

Next annual meeting

The 2012 FIG Commission 7 Annual meeting will be in Argentina, just after the FIG Regional Conference in Uruguay end of November.

Daniel Roberge
Chair, FIG Commission 7

22 February 2012