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Fédération Internationale des Géomètres
Internationale Vereinigung der Vermessungsingenieure

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Forthcoming Events

9th to 10th September, Verona, Italy
International Seminar on 'State and Public-Sector Land Management. Organised by FIG Commission 7 with Consiglio Nazionale Geometri.

23rd to 24th October, Bratislava, Slovakia
INGEO 2008 - 4th International Conference on Engineering Surveying Devoted to 70th Anniversary of the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. Co-organised by FIG Commission 6.

26th to 28th February 2009, Vienna, Austria
Workshop on Educational Management and Marketing. Organised by FIG Commission 2.

3rd to 8th May 2009, Eilat, Israel
FIG Working Week 2009

In the Aftermath

Land is a fundamental resource for recovery after disaster, providing a site for shelter, a resource for livelihoods and a place for access to services and infrastructure. Secure rights to land are essential to prevent land grabbing and allow reintegration of displaced persons. Land is therefore a matter that cuts across the relief, recovery and development phases of post-crisis programming. In 2005 the *Humanitarian Response Review* identified land and property issues as a major gap in the humanitarian response system. In 2007 the Early Recovery Cluster, led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), decided to prepare clear and simple guidelines to support national and international efforts to address land, tenure and property issues after natural disaster. In response, UN-Habitat and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO) are collaborating to prepare a set of guidelines and a toolkit.

FIG President Stig Enemark was invited to attend the FAO/UN-Habitat Expert Group Meeting convened to this end and held at the latter's Geneva office from 21st to 23rd April 2008. Paul Munro-Faure, chief of the FAO Land Tenure and Management Unit, and Clarissa Augustinus, chief of the UN-Habitat Land, Tenure and Property Administration initiated the meeting with the aim of:

- ensuring guidelines meet the needs of the humanitarian community in terms of structure and key issues identified
- critically reviewing proposed policy options and recommendations on sequencing interventions
- reviewing draft toolkit structure and proposed contents.

About forty invited experts from the UN Agencies, humanitarian organisations, and the land professions participated in the EGM. They discussed the issues based on guidelines drafted for FAO-UN-Habitat by Daniel Fitzpatrick of the Australian National University. The meeting was very productive. A key focus in the discussion groups was the facilitation of mutual understanding between humanitarian factions and land professionals in the early recovery process.

This process describes the traditional phase bridging emergency relief and future sustainable development; early recovery begins in the emergency relief phase, builds on humanitarian programming and takes advantage of opportunities for sustainable development. Consultants including David Stanfield, Grenville Barnes and Robert Home provided case-studies, and



(Left to right) Richard Trenchard, FAO, Clarissa Augustinus, UN-Habitat, and Stig Enemark, FIG.

Home also contributed to the discussions from a land-professional point of view. FIG is considering how best to contribute to addressing land issues after natural disasters. This may include a number of activities, ranging from policy development in co-operation with UN agencies to professional support in actual disaster situations in co-operation with other professional organisations.

Workshop Comm. 3

'Spatial Information for Sustainable Management of Urban Areas' is the theme of the annual meeting and Workshop of FIG Commission 3, Spatial Information Management, to take place in Germany in February 2009. The workshop aims at studying the economic, social and environmental impact of rapid urban growth, unplanned in many countries. It will use international knowledge and experience relating to how surveyors may assist in real-estate markets, good governance, environmental management, and planning initiatives by providing reliable Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI). The deadline for submission of abstracts is 6th October 2008. Paper submissions may be sent to gapos@tee.gr. 