

**37th General Assembly of the International Federation of Surveyors**  
**16<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014, Kuala Lumpur**  
**FIG President's Report**

**1. Preamble**

FIG remains thankful to the membership for the on-going support and contribution in delivering its work plan. FIG essentially functions out of the goodwill, resources and contribution of our corps of volunteers all over the world. We recognise that these volunteers are supported by their member organizations in FIG as well as by their employers or the organizations they represent. These contributions continue to allow FIG in its quest to extend the utility and usefulness of surveying for the benefit of society, environment and economy and as a consequence, increasingly positioned in significance and relevance where our Profession is present.

*Introduction*

As a United Nations and the World Bank Group recognized non-governmental organization, we continue to collaborate and to ensure that the disciplines of surveying and all who practise them are relevant and meeting the needs of both the community and the market we are present. Our worldwide professional community measures and maps, estimates and costs, assesses and values, analyses and models, plans and manages the land and the seas, its natural resources and structures there upon for the effective planning and efficient administration of our natural and built environment.

This report covers, generally, the period between the 36<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Abuja, Nigeria last year until about the 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia this June. This report should be read together with papers and reports prepared and included in the 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Agenda.

*Announcements*

On a solemn note, we mourn the passing of a number of our illustrious supporters and contributors. Our condolences to the family of Honorary President Carl-Olof Ternryd (Sweden) who passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013 and Board Member of FIG's IIHSM and Past President of ICES, Alan Wright (United Kingdom) in June 2013.

We congratulate former FIG Director, Markku Villikka on his appointment as Honorary member of FIG at the 36<sup>th</sup> FIG General Assembly. For the record, the badge with silver oak leaves and Certificate of Appointment as Honorary member was presented to him in Helsinki, after the 2013 Working.

**2. Council Organized Events**

**2.1 2013 Working Week**

The 2013 FIG Working Week and the XXXVI General Assembly with the overall theme, Environment for Sustainability, was held in Abuja, Nigeria between 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Surv. Stephen Olubode Adeaga, President the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors presided over the local organizing committee that delivered this special, colourful and energetic Working Week. In his opening speech, President of Nigeria, Goodluck Ebele Azikiwe Jonathan stated that the theme is very appropriate and relevant for the current situation not only in Nigeria but also all over the world. His opening speech was delivered by the Minister of Works Nigeria, Honorable Arc. Mike Onolememen, who represented the

President of Nigeria.

More than 2000 Nigerians and almost 250 International participants enjoyed the Working Week held at the Nicon Luxury Hotel and the International Conference Center that was next door to the hotel. The exhibition took place at both sites. Nigerian participants and the local organizing committee certainly showed their friendliness and hospitality in what was the biggest ever Working Week in the history of FIG in terms of participation numbers. Many different activities took place during the energetic week. A number of joint/special sessions were organized in cooperation with institutional partners including the UN-Habitat/GLTN and the World Bank. There were also many well-attended technical sessions that were convened during the week. The exhibition attracted 34 International and Nigerian exhibitors.

Among the decisions of the XXXVI General Assembly, the confirmation that Mr. See Lian Ong of RICS, United Kingdom to the position of Commission 10 Chair-Elect and Ms. Eva-Maria Unger of OVG, Austria to the position of Young Surveyors Network Chair-Elect. It was suggested to the General Assembly that in the future, Chair-Elect of YSN should be selected together with the selection of Chair-Elects of Commissions.

## 2.2 Pacific Small Island Developing States Symposium

FIG convened the Pacific Small Island Developing States Symposium at Novotel Lami Bay Conference Centre in Suva, Fiji between 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The Symposium was hosted by the Fiji Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources and supported by FAO, UN-GGIM and UN-Habitat/GLTN. The local organizing committee comprised the Ministry, Fiji Institute of Surveyors (a member association of FIG) and the University of South Pacific (an academic member of FIG). 90 participants found their way to Suva to participate in the three day symposium from the following nations: Australia, Austria, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Germany, Israel, Kenya, Kiribati, Malaysia, Micronesia, New Zealand, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States and Vanuatu.

This Symposium has as its background, the seminar held during the XXIV FIG Congress, organized in cooperation with FAO to address the challenges Small Island Developing States are facing in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and with a special focus on the South Pacific Region. The seminar adopted the “Sydney Agenda for Action” that aimed at developing the capacity of our Profession to deal with these challenges.

The theme of this symposium was “Policies and Practices for Responsible Governance” with three thematic tracks -

- Improved governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests through the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure; [7]
- Improved geospatial information management through the strengthening of geodetic reference frame, national spatial information infrastructure, the creation, sharing and delivery of reliable geospatial information; [7]
- Securing access to land, land and property rights including the administering of customary rights and implementing a plurality of tenure system.

Crosscutting themes included capacity development, professional development and climate change. The outcome of the Symposium is the “Suva Statement on Spatially Responsible Governance” (Appendix 1).

## 3. Membership

At each General Assembly, new members are admitted or confirmed while others that have failed to

fulfil the obligations of membership in accordance with our Statutes and Bye-laws were removed. After the 2013 Working Week in Abuja, our membership stands at:

Member Associations	103	from 87 jurisdictions
Affiliate Members	41	
Academic Members	92	
Corporate Members	21	
Correspondents	3	

During this period, Council reviewed and accepted a number of applications and will recommend these to the 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly accordingly. Equally, Council has to act and will propose member associations, that are in arrears for three or more years for expulsion together with corporate, affiliate and academic members that were in arrears, after much effort to retain their membership. Council too has received notice of termination of membership.

A summary of the membership situation for the reporting period (as at 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014) is as follows

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	New Application/ Appointment	Resignation/ Termination	Proposed Expulsion
Member Associations	1	1	3
Affiliate Members	3	0	1
Academic Members	0	2	1
Corporate Members	3	1	0
Correspondents	0	0	0

Council recognized that, overall, our membership numbers continue to decline due to terminations and expulsions arising from unsettled arrears. At the same time, members continue to face challenges in sustaining its membership. Council continues to be conscious of the economic condition that members are operating under and in particular member's challenges with their national membership and budgets.

Council and FIG Office will continue to be prudent in its financial management and have propose that the level of subscription for member associations for 2016 be at the same level as 2015, the fourth year in succession where the level of subscription are kept at the same level. This has imposed constraints in the overall FIG administration and services delivery. In addition, Council has also agreed on two administrative measures related to the recovery of arrears and retention of existing memberships. The first involves efforts to recover arrears and encourage members association who are in arrears to sustain their membership, the second measure allow FIG Council to accommodate members who are facing internal civil strife and instability or external economic sanctions, where the member association has no possibility to transmit their membership subscription or could not be reliably contacted.

There remains a need to improve efforts to articulate and communicate the value and benefits of membership, the cascade progress achieve at the global levels to the operating levels, where our membership are present day-to-day.

#### **4. FIG Administration**

The current staffing of the FIG Office is as follows:

- Louise Friis-Hansen, FIG Manager, responsible for general management, developmental/ strategic tasks, oversight of administration, finances, events, membership matters (particularly in relation to corporate members), council/ commission matters, IT,

- communication and Foundation secretariat duties
- Hanne Elster and Claudia Stormoen, FIG Office and Events Coordinators responsible for membership administration, website maintenance, communication tasks, detailed planning and organisation of FIG events, and Foundation administration etc.
- Maria Bargholz, FIG bookkeeper (part time) responsible for bookkeeping and financial administration of events.

Markku Villikka's tenure as FIG Director ended on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013 and Julie Hyun Sook LEE's tenure as FIG Development Coordinator ended in February 2014. The Council is grateful to LX-KCSC for its invaluable support to the FIG Administration for the secondment of Julie to the FIG Office for a year.

Markku Villikka started working in the FIG Office from January 1999. Together with five councils, a number of staff and many volunteers, he has established the FIG office to what it is today. FIG events were developed and shaped to Congresses, Working Weeks and Regional Conferences. Our heartfelt appreciation and thanks to Markku not only for his years of service to FIG since the founding of FIG's Permanent Office in Copenhagen, but also his passion for the Profession.

## **5. Commissions and Networks**

FIG Members are urged to nominate and support capable national delegates and correspondents to the Commissions and Networks especially when FIG Commissions and Networks are preparing a new work plan for the ensuing term of office. The XXV FIG Congress will be an ideal occasion to introduce new delegates and correspondents to interact, contribute and participate in the work and activities of the Commissions and Networks. These efforts are vital to bring benefits and outputs from the Commissions and Networks to the local membership.

VP Rudolf Staiger, the Chair of ACCO will coordinate with the ten Commission Chairs as well as the two Networks that will be making their respective reports to the 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. In essence this will be the final report by current Chairs of FIG Commissions and Networks to the General Assembly.

## **6. Task Forces**

The Chairs of FIG Task Forces will make their respective reports to the 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and will be their last reporting as all three FIG Task Forces will bring their respective work plans to a close by the end of the year if not earlier.

Council acknowledges its gratitude to Dr Diane Dumashie (RICS, United Kingdom), Chair of the FIG Africa Task Force, Prof. Dr. John Hannah (NZIS, New Zealand), Chair of the FIG Task Force on Surveyors and Climate Change and Dr. Chryssy Potsiou (TCG/HARSE, Greece), Chair of the FIG Task Force on Housing and Property for their leadership and together with all the members of their Task Forces, for their contributions and efforts.

## **7. Engaging the Membership and Visits**

Council travels and visits were managed and focused on engaging the membership and delivering the Council's Work Plan. For the period covered by this report, FIG continues to engage the membership, primarily through the participation of events. Apart from the 2013 Working Week and the Pacific Small Island Developing States Symposium, events participated included -

*2013 South East Asian Survey Congress, 18 – 20 June 2013, Manila, The Philippines. This is a biennial*

regional event convened by the ASEAN Federation of Land Surveying and Geomatics. Participants at this event included those from within FIG's membership in the ASEAN, East and South Asia and Australasia regions. The 13<sup>th</sup> SEASC will be held in Singapore in 2015.

*2013 New Zealand Institute of Surveyors Conference, 28 – 31 August 2013, Dunedin, New Zealand.* The Conference was also in celebration of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NZIS as well as the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National School of Surveying, University of Otago. With the theme "Celebrating the Past - Redefining the Future", the Conference included an exhibition was held at St David's Lecture Theatre Complex, University of Otago. Prior to the Conference, there was the working visit to the proposed venue for the 2016 FIG Working Week, the CBS Canterbury Arena and Addlington Raceway and Events Centre. The meeting was necessary to consider the challenges and opportunities these facilities present. NZIS was founded in 1888 as a national body to preserve and develop the integrity and status of the profession of surveying in New Zealand with a National Office in Wellington, guided by an elected president and councilors. The Annual General Meeting that was held during the Conference saw Jeffrey Alan Needham taking over the Presidency of the Institute from Andrew Stirling.

*2013 SSSI Victoria Spatial Summit, 12 – 13 September, Melbourne, Australia.* The Summit has the theme "Catalyst for Innovation" and the President made a presentation that addressed the theme. A day prior to the Summit, FIG Commission 1 held a workshop at the same venue on "Redefining the Definition of Surveyor". While the President was in Melbourne, he held discussions with *Department of Infrastructure Engineering and Centre for SDIs and Land Administration, The University of Melbourne* and also the *School of Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences, RMIT University* where he participated in a seminar involving geospatial sciences students of the School in RMIT.

*5<sup>th</sup> FIG International Land Administration Domain Model Workshop, 24 – 25 September 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia* was held in conjunction with the annual International Symposium on Geoinformation, with is a regional event. The *Faculty of Geoinformation and Real Estate, University of Technology Malaysia* played host to these events at the University's Kuala Lumpur campus.

The FIG Office received a *visiting delegation from MAKLI, Finland* on 4 October 2013 led by its President, Jari Ahonen as well as Martti Pietikäinen, MAKLI's delegate to FIG. Members of the delegation came various parts of Finland, the visit, interaction and exchanges presented opportunities for FIG to better explain its activities and efforts to enhance the relevance of the Profession to its membership.

*19<sup>th</sup> InterGEO Trade Fair and Conference, 8 – 11 October 2013, Essen, Germany.* FIG Vice President represented the FIG Council at this annual event and this year, both Louise Friis-Hansen and Hanne Elster also participated. The event represented another opportunity for FIG to meet and interact with its Corporate Members.

*10<sup>th</sup> National Representative Assembly of the Chinese Society of Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography (GSGPC), 10 – 12 October 2013, Beijing, PR China.* This is a national event and FIG Vice President, Prof. Pengfei Cheng represented FIG Council, the first time FIG was invited to this national event and an opportunity for FIG to be more widely known inside PR China.

*1<sup>st</sup> FIG Young Surveyors European Meeting, 17 & 18 October 2013, Lisbon, Portugal* with the theme "together for tomorrow's challenges" brought together about 150 young surveyors from 32 countries that begin work towards a European Network of Young Surveyors to face the challenges. The event was organized by the *Ordem des Engenheiros, Portugal (Portuguese Order of Engineers)* and the *FIG Young Surveyors Network*, supported by *CLGE (represented by its President Jean-Yves Pirlot)* and *FIG Foundation (represented by its president John Hohol)*.

*2013 FGF General Assembly, FIG Commission 7 Annual Meeting and International Symposium on "Land*

*Policies and Land Governance*", 21 – 25 October 2013, Yaounde, Cameroon. During the week, there was also FIG/FGF Training Workshop in Land Administration that was supported by the Global Land Tool Network facilitated by UN-Habitat. The event was hosted by Ordre National des Geometres du Cameroun (OGEC) otherwise known as the National Order of Surveyors Cameroon.

Immediate after the conclusion of the biennial Global Land Tool Network 5<sup>th</sup> Partners Meeting in Den Haag, the President paid a visit to *Geo-Information Netherlands (GIN)* and the *Dutch Kadaster* in Apeldoorn before travelling to Enschede, The Netherlands to visit *University of Twente/ITC* (14 & 15 November 2013). This kind of visits continue to foster closer collaboration between FIG Memberships and FIG Work Plan and also allowed FIG to expressed its appreciation to the senior management of these organizations for the support and contribution to the Profession. Whilst at Enschede, President had the opportunity to meet and interact with post-graduates students.

*6th National Geospatial Symposium*, 17 – 18 March 2014, Putrajaya, Malaysia with the theme "Geospatial Drives National Vision". This was the first time FIG could accept an invitation to participate and address this event, a national event convened by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia where the primary audience came from the public sector.

FIG Foundation President, John Hohol represented FIG Council at the recent *CLGE General Assembly* held on 21-22, March 2014, Marbella, Spain. The next CLGE General Assembly is scheduled for 26 – 27 September 2014 in Reykjavik,.

*1st FIG Young Surveyors North American Meeting*, 14 & 15 April, 2014, San Diego, United States where Prof. Steven Frank, Chair of FIG Commission 2 (Professional Education) represented the Council. The National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), FIG's Member association in the United States hosted this event, but organized by young surveyors and was held during the NSPS Spring Meeting. NSPS subsequently created the position of NSPS Young Surveyors Coordinator and appointed Amanda Askren, who incidentally participated in the 1st FIG Young Surveyors European Network Meeting. The NSPS Board of Directors also appointed its Board Member, Frank Lenik, as the liaison between FIG Young Surveyors North American Network and NSPS.

FIG President visited the *Siberian State Academy of Geodesy*, Novosibirsk on 15 April 2014 and was shown around a number of the Academy's laboratory including that of cadastral engineering and terrestrial laser scanning. The President was also shown the Academy's Planetarium and later in the evening, visited a private cadastral engineering enterprise that employs SSGA's graduates based in Novosibirsk. Earlier in the day, the President met the Rector, Prof. Alexander Karpik and participated in a forum with the students of the Academy, fielding many questions.

*10<sup>th</sup> Interexpo GeoSiberia*, 16 – 18 April 2014, Novosibirsk, Russian Federation had as its theme "Geoinformation Technology Applications for Socio-Economic Benefits of Territorial Development". This annual event is organized by the Siberian State Academy of Geodesy and combines an international exhibition and scientific conference. This year's event also saw the organizer hosting the ISPRS Council Meeting and was also supported by ICA and DVW, Germany. It again represented another opportunity for FIG to engage and to collaborate with its membership in the Russian Federation and the region.

Vice Presidents also had on occasion, the opportunities to engage members (including FIG Affiliate, Academic and Corporate members) at various international, regional and national meetings and events including those organised by regional and linguistics groupings within FIG such as CLGE, ASEANFLAG and FGF and FIG Commissions, Networks and Task Forces. There were a number of occasions where Commission or Network Officers represented FIG and participated in these meetings and events.

## 8. Collaborative Activities with the World Bank

The Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty brings together representatives from governments, civil society, academia, the private sector and the development community to discuss issues of concern to practitioners and policymakers worldwide. The conference aims to foster dialogue and sharing of good practices by showcasing the diversity of reforms, approaches and experiences that are being implemented in the land sector around the world.

The Bank and FIG has had strong formal partnership since 2007. Over the past two years (2012 and 2013) FIG and the Bank have jointly organized successful spatial tracks for this annual Conference:

- 2012 – day long forum comprised of sessions held in parallel to the main conference followed by an evening round-table, with the focus on Spatially Enabling Government and Societies (SEGS).
- 2013 – nine specifically designated spatial parallel sessions and a post-conference “invitation only” Expert Group Meeting on the theme “Spatially Fit-for-Purpose”.

The 2014 Land and Poverty Conference was attended by over 1,200 participants with a program that spread, for the first time, over four days and FIG and the Bank jointly and successfully organized a day-long open Forum on “Spatial Innovation and Good Practices” on the fifth day. This year’s Conference had an overall focus on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda and the theme is ‘Integrating Land Governance into the Post-2015 Agenda: Harnessing Synergies for Implementation and Monitoring Impact.’ The 2014 conference focused on building a shared understanding of best practices in land governance by providing opportunities to strengthen collaboration between diverse experts. The Conference had seven thematic areas:

- Securing and protecting land rights from a gender perspective
- Managing urban landscapes
- Attracting responsible land-based investment for local benefits and common resource management
- Maximizing benefits from spatial data
- Strengthening country level institutions
- Fostering transparency in land ownership, use, and administration
- Research on key aspects of land governance

The one-day long Forum, immediately after the 2014 Land and Poverty Conference (March 24 - 27) on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014 within the Bank’s premises in Washington DC was open to all registered participants to the Conference. Prior notification of attendance was requested and over 130 responded. The Forum covered a number of themes focusing on the contribution of spatial technologies and practices to support the Post-2015 Development Agenda. These themes include data collection, data management, data access, data and information sharing, analysis and analytics, visualization and presentation and delivery systems and services particularly when considering the challenge in locating, connecting and delivering information with both geographic and temporal context from differing scales and sources to governments and societies.

The Forum witnessed the launch of the joint World Bank and FIG *Declaration on Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration* (Appendix 2) providing the framework on getting the right data and information, the right processes and technologies, all for the right purposes. This Declaration is part of the Joint FIG and World Bank Publication on Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration (FIG Publication Number 60) with Prof. Stig Enemark as the lead author and Dr. Keith C Bell (WB), Dr. Christiaan Lemmen and Robin McLaren as his co-authors.

The one-day Forum observed a move beyond land administration to pervasive spatial integration of society. The Forum observed that the Profession and its partners are at the forefront, channeling these developments for progressive global change. The Forum concluded that the barriers to closing

this gap are no longer technological, spatial technologies and practices are today pervasive, affordable and accessible, but rather of capacity, institutions and politics. It is now overdue to bring these worlds together. The partners and participants at the Forum have yet to make significant stride in political, institutional and capacity development at scale. This is needed if the Profession wants to contribute towards “Realizing the Future We Want for All”, the world of Post-2015 UN Development Agenda.

## **9. Collaborative activities with the United Nations**

FIG continues to recognize that our Profession must consider and contribute to the wider good, the needs within society, environment and economy on top of our professional competence and responsibilities in measurement, its related methodology and accuracy and that of technological sophistication.

### **9.1. Global Land Tool Network facilitated by UN-Habitat**

*Modernising Land Agencies Budgetary Approach: Costing and Financing of Land Administration Services in Developing Countries (CoFLAS)*

FIG with the support of Lantmäteriet (Sweden) and Kadaster International (The Netherlands) collaborated with Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and embarked on a process to develop a tool that can assist policy makers and those responsible for land administration to adopt appropriate technologies, methodologies and processes that will provide land administration services more efficiently, cost effectively and with options more appropriately tailored for incorporating all tenure types.

The first objective of the CoFLAS project is to develop a useful and practical tool whereby the costing and financing of land administration services in developing countries can be reformed or revitalized and modernized with a view to enabling the agencies to provide cost effective, efficient, sustainable and affordable services. The methodology, where appropriate and through incremental process, ought to lead to some kind of cost recovery, but without compromising quality of services provided and limiting access to services especially of the poor and vulnerable.

The second objective of the CoFLAS project is to organize and lead a process of peer reviewing and validation of the tool development process through the convening of meetings of experts. To date, two such meetings have been convened. The first was hosted by Kadaster International in Rotterdam, Netherlands May 16-17, 2013 and brought together the global experiences of land administration reform professionals to understand the information that needs to be gathered within this process. Lantmäteriet hosted the second meeting in Gävle, Sweden, 14 - 15, October 2013. This second meeting updated all stakeholders on the status of the CoFLAS tool development exercise and obtained further expert guidance on the way forward.

It must be appreciated that there are significant economic and social benefits for ensuring an inclusive land administration system. The challenges that this tool will try to grapple with are finding optimal solutions whereby these new realities and multiple trends can be accommodated with a view to making land agencies relevant to the time and the public they serve. The development of this tool, mindful of the social fabric of land tenure, will concentrate investigations on the various costs and methods of land administration service delivery and alternative means of financing such services. The tool will not provide countries with single solution, but instead will describe a range or ranges of options that can be appropriately adopted according to the laws, policies, institutional arrangements of the jurisdiction, the capacity and ability to enhance as required. The aim of this tool is to guide decision makers through an appropriate and incremental process towards improving efficiencies with good practices and budgetary options, but without compromising the quality of services

provided, nor limiting access to services especially for the poor and vulnerable.

### *Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM)*

FIG undertook a peer review of the STDM Phase II with a group of recognized academics, researchers and practitioners from FIG's membership base. Reviewers affirmed the five crucial elements of the STDM - its flexibility, simplicity, affordability, inclusivity and its advocacy for good governance. They believed STDM can help to improve the wellbeing of societies through better administration of land and its resources; this administration can be made more effective by improving the processes, collection and aggregation of associated land information. Within FIG, STDM is seen, and is thus reviewed as, a pro-poor, participatory and affordable land tool. It is an alternative and/or another option to "doing business" in the land sector and has the potential to provide security of tenure at scale due to its innovative approach.

The focus of the STDM has been and will continue to be "about relationships between people and land, independently from the level of formalization, or legal standing of those relationships".

STDM is focused on people - all people and all types of "people-to-land" relationships. It began as an initiative to support pro-poor land administration, specifically in countries with very little cadastral coverage, in urban areas with informal settlements or in rural areas with customary tenures. It is also meant for post-conflict areas. STDM is also relevant in situations where a land rights infrastructure already exists; it supports and supplements existing approaches to enhance existing land administration and management.

FIG must remain a committed partner to the STDM and, together with GLTN and other GLTN partners, the responsibility to ensure STDM remains true to its founding concept and ideals. FIG should contribute to its continuing development, enhancement and use as an effective pro-poor, participatory and affordable land tool. FIG also has a responsibility to actively create awareness and promote the usefulness and use of STDM as a tool among its membership and its sphere of influence.

In discharging these responsibilities, a one-day workshop on "Introduction to STDM: A pro-poor land information system" was held to an audience comprising primarily of officers from public agencies in the land sector on 23 September 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. University of Technology Malaysia, Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia and the Association of Authorised Land Surveyors Malaysia hosted this workshop. FIG Young Surveyors Network and GLTN Secretariat delivered it.

At the XXV FIG Congress, a second "STDM Training-the-Trainers Workshop" will be convened in collaboration with GLTN in Kuala Lumpur, 13 - 16 June 2014 and targeting young professionals/surveyors from both FIG membership base and international civil societies primarily from the Asia Pacific region. A further such workshop is being planned, targeting young professionals from international, regional and local civil societies in Africa in the last quarter of 2014. These collaborative training activities are to be delivered by FIG Young Surveyors Network and GLTN Secretariat.

### *Continuum of Land Rights and Increasing Urban Tenure Security*

The continuum of land rights is a key GLTN concept that underpins many of GLTN approaches and tools. There is the growing acceptance of the continuum of land rights and of alternative forms of tenure, all part of a fundamental paradigm shift in the global understanding and approaches to land. Arising from this growing acceptance of the legitimacy of a range of land rights and alternative forms of secure tenure, GLTN undertook a research project titled "Increasing Urban Tenure Security: Investigating the continuum of land rights in practice in selected sites in Southern Africa" in partnership with another GLTN Partner, Urban LandMark

As part of this research, an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on “The Continuum of Land Rights: Reviewing the concept and investigating the evidence in selected sites in Southern Africa” was convened (9 - 11 October 2013, Johannesburg, South Africa). The EGM brought together GLTN Secretariat, GLTN partners, FIG being one, international and local experts and implementers, to review the continuum of land rights, with specific reference to the research in five Southern African countries. One of the findings, relating to a move into country-level work, is the development of a new tool, a ‘Continuum Assessment Framework’, which could assist in the research and documentation of the context specific application of the ‘Continuum of Land Rights’.

#### *Valuation of Unregistered Land and Properties (VaLURL)*

The key objective of this new GLTN initiative is to research and then consider and develop approaches and alternatives to support the appraising or valuation of unregistered land and properties. As there exist general consensus that about 70% of land units/parcels are not formally registered in the developing world, this has adversely impacted occupiers and/or owners of these unregistered land and properties, not just in the access to proper valuation services but also access to basic services and infrastructure and an entry-point to the property and development ladder.

The initiative will lead to consultations on the development of a tool on valuation of unregistered land and properties, building on the earlier research carried out by RICS Research and GLTN titled “Valuation of Unregistered Lands”. The initiative will lead to the conceptualization and development of a new GLTN tool. FIG with the support from its membership including RICS will collaborate with GLTN to realise this needed tool.

#### *Global Land Tools Network 5<sup>th</sup> Partners Meeting*

The 5th edition of the GLTN partners' meeting was hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of The Netherlands at Den Haag, 11 – 14 November 2013. It had three main objectives:

- Strengthening partnerships and networking at global, regional and national levels.
- Promoting and rolling out tool development and implementation, capacity development and good learning practices at country level and in programmes.
- Expanding country level operations in a coordinated and strategic fashion.

President, incoming Chair of Young Surveyors and FIG Manager represented FIG.

## 9.2. United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management

Third Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, 24 – 27 July, 2013, Cambridge, United Kingdom hosted by Ordnance Survey United Kingdom and organized in collaboration with UNGGIM Secretariat.

The FIG President was joined and supported by Mr. Gordon Johnston, Vice Chair of FIG Commission 4 at this third session. The final report on ‘Future trends in geospatial information management: the five to ten year vision’ prepared by the United Kingdom in collaboration with the Working Group on Future Trends in Geospatial Information Management was endorsed. The Committee agreed that the document is a “living document” and will need to be regularly revisited, reviewed and revised. FIG prepared and submitted a background document that was referred to when the Committee of Experts considered “Critical issues relating to the integration of land and marine geospatial information”. This background paper was jointly authored by FIG President, Mikael Lilje (FIG Commission 5) and Jerry Mills (FIG Commission 4)

The paper reiterated that to integrate land and marine geospatial information, FIG saw the need to: build and use common standards and frameworks to ensure interoperability; enhance institutional

arrangements and stakeholder collaborations; and improve returns on investment through better coordination, use and reuse of data, information and systems and to enhance innovation and productivity. Building infrastructure for the gathering, validation, compilation and dissemination of geospatial information is as important to countries as the building of roads, telecommunications networks, and the provision of other basic services. This is a critical aspect of the national and global information infrastructure. However, it is increasingly recognized that the major barriers and impediments to building geospatial information infrastructures will not be technical ones, but rather institutional and organizational, including the ability to motivate countries to collaborate with one another.

#### *Working Group on Development of a Statement of Shared Principles for the Management of Geospatial Information*

The establishment of a working group was requested by the UN-GGIM at its third Session in its decision 3/108, “development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information”. The overall objective of this “Working Group on Development of a Statement of Shared Principles”, FIG being a member, is to prepare a preliminary proposal for a set of shared principles on the management of geospatial information. The proposal should provide simple, but clear statements, principles/common values that would help to guide the behaviour of, and serve all national and global geospatial entities engaged in, the collection, production, management, and dissemination of geospatial information.

#### *Proposed United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Global Geodetic Reference Frame*

The objective of this United Nations Resolution is to ensure the sustainability and enhancement of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame by:

- a) Encouraging enhanced global cooperation in geodesy;
- b) Encouraging maintenance and enhancement of geodetic infrastructure;
- c) Encouraging free and open geodetic data access policies and reducing data security concerns;
- d) Motivating Member States to improve international engagement on geodetic matters;
- e) Facilitating improved intergovernmental coordination of geodetic activities, standards and infrastructure development; and
- f) Providing recognition that the contributions by Member States to the global geodetic infrastructure are to the benefit of all.

The aim of this Resolution is to mandate the development of a global geodetic roadmap that addresses key elements of Global Geodetic Reference Frame sustainability and enhancement including: the implementation of geodetic instrumentation and the associated data analysis and product generation, coordinated policies; common standards, methods and approaches; and options for sustainable investment including those made through strategic international partnerships.

#### *Chengdu Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management*

Chengdu Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, 15 – 17 October 2013, Chengdu, PR China continues a series of GGIM Forum hosted by the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping, and Geoinformation, Ministry of Land and Resources, People’s Republic of China. The Forum attracted participations from about 40 countries and also included those from international organizations and industry. Vice President, Prof. Pengfei Cheng represented FIG. Mr. Hongbo Wu, the UN Deputy Secretary General recognized the critical role of geospatial information in sustainable development and humanitarian assistance. He observed that UN-GGIM is responding to the multitude of challenges faced by humanity within our global society. The Forum in particular, encouraged efforts in the areas of risk management, disaster reduction and relief.

### 9.3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The FAO Technical and Awareness Raising Workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance, 13 – 15 August 2013, Bangkok, Thailand was organized by Energy, Climate and Tenure Division (NRC), @FAO. The Workshop is part of FAO's strategy to raise awareness on the Voluntary Guidelines and to discuss the implementation and use, particularly at the national and local levels. The regional focus of this Workshop is Asia. The final two edition of this series of regional Workshops was in Bogota, Columbia (16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013) and Sofia, Bulgaria where FIG had suggested our local membership there for FAO's consideration.

The Workshop aimed at supporting activities and actions to improve governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests with the following objectives-

- Present and discuss the contents and development of the Voluntary Guidelines;
- Discuss and analyse the use of the Voluntary Guidelines in a range of countries and contexts;
- Discuss and propose actions to implement the Voluntary Guidelines and to improve governance of tenure; and
- Link with existing initiatives to create networks at regional and national levels.

The Workshop provided the necessary multi-stakeholder dialogue, bringing together stakeholders (governments, civil society, academia and professionals) to share knowledge, information, experiences and practices on the responsible governance of tenure at the local and national levels. FIG was invited to support and participate in the Workshop and a presentation "The International Federation of Surveyors and the Voluntary Guidelines" was made on the first day of the Workshop.

### 9.4. United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas

The 10th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas was held from 19 – 23 August 2013 at the UN headquarters in New York with the theme "UN-GGIM and the Americas: Addressing global challenges through geospatial information". UNRCC-Americas provides a regional forum to address their common challenges and share experiences and expertise in the field of surveying and mapping, cartography, hydrography, remote sensing, land and geospatial information systems.

The Conference established three technical committees as well as elected the respective chairperson. The three committees are-

- a) UNRCC-A Technical Committee I  
United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management and the Americas: Strategic, Policy, Economic and Institutional Issues  
Chairperson: Mr. Ronaldo Ocampo Alcantar of Mexico
- b) UNRCC-A Technical Committee II  
Spatially Enabling Government Through Geospatial Data Collection, Management and Dissemination  
Chairperson: Mr. Luis Paulo Fortes of Brazil
- c) UNRCC-A Technical Committee III  
Best Practices and Applications, including Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management  
Chairperson: Mr. Ronald Jackson (Jamaica)

The technical conference covered various thematic tracks and FIG contributed with a presentation on Spatially Enabled Society, informing the Conference on its work on Spatially Enabled Government and Society. FIG observed an opportunity to link spatially enabling society with the Post-2015

Development Agenda the posed to the Conference a question, whether UN-GGIM will be the intergovernmental mechanism for the location and geography needed for “realizing the future we want for all”?

#### 9.5. United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

The eight meeting of the International Committee on GNSS (ICG-8), 10-14 November 2013, Dubai, UAE was attended by Mikael Lilje, Chair FIG Commission 5 who is also FIG's representative to UNOOSA and ICG. FIG is an Associate Member of the ICG, 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. UNOOSA also supported the IAG/ICG/FIG Technical Seminar on Reference Frame in Practice held in Manila, The Philippines in 2013.

#### 9.6. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

FIG was invited and will be participating in the meeting of international agencies working in land administration and land management convened by UNECE-WPLA Chair on 21 May 2014, Copenhagen, Denmark. FIG will then join in the Working Party on Land Administration Workshop with the theme “The Socioeconomic Potential of Land Administration Services” hosted by the Danish Geodata Agency and the Government of Denmark, 22 – 23 May 2014. At the Workshop, FIG is to represent GLTN and the Partners working on CoFLAS initiative, and to make a presentation on CoFLAS.

The theme for the workshop has been chosen for its relevance to countries in the UNECE region that are striving to provide effective and transparent land administration services, not only to support an effective property market but also as a basis for a range of land administration functions that can benefit society as a whole. The purpose of the workshop is to share experiences and present new and alternate uses of open and interoperable property data.

#### 9.7. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

UNESCAP working with UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Asia Pacific (UNHABITAT-ROAP) with the support of FAO, the World Bank and GLTN, is intending to embark on a regional land tenure initiative for Asia and the Pacific. It has to be appreciated that Asia and the Pacific as a region has geographical scope that stretches from Turkey in the west to the Pacific island nation of Kiribati in the east, and from the Russian Federation in the north to New Zealand in the south, the region is home to 4.1 billion people, or two thirds of the world's population. The region is diverse on all counts, to say the least.

A region-wide land tenure initiative is necessary to support the region's sustainable social, environmental and economic development, the aspirations and the challenges. FIG has signaled its readiness to support such an initiative. FIG hopes to bring together a coalition of research, education and training institutions from amongst its academic membership base, especially those from the region, to support this initiative.

### **10. Cooperation with Regional Political Structures**

The European Parliament organized a high-level conference on “Property Rights: The missing key to eradicating poverty”, 9 April 2014, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium. FIG was invited to this high-level conference, to address on “Improving Land Governance in practice” and be part of the

panel discussion. Honorary President Stig Enemark and Jean-Yves Pirlot, CLGE and UBGE President, presented FIG. Nirj Deva MEP, Vice President of the Development Committee and Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development, jointly convened the conference.

The conference came about following the adoption, with a large majority, in the European Parliament Plenary of the report authored by Nirj Deva MEP - "The role of property rights, property ownership and wealth creation in eradicating poverty and fostering sustainable development in developing countries". The backdrop is the recognition that most of the key challenges of the 21st century - food scarcity, energy scarcity, water shortages, urban and population growth, environmental degradation, climate change, natural disasters and state fragility - are correlated with land governance issues, places property rights at the center of a development policy designed to empower people in developing countries to decide how to invest sustainably in their future.

## **11. Cooperation with Sister Organizations**

### *Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)*

After ten years serving as Secretary General of Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), Santiago Borrero from Colombia, stepped down from the post on 7 February 2014. PAIGH is a part of the Inter-American system coordinated by the Organization of American States (OAS). Rodrigo Barriga, Chile, has taken over the position as Secretary General. FIG has a MoU with PAIGH for collaborative activities that have a particular focus on Latin America.

### *International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM)*

After seven years in the position as Secretary General of International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM), Yoshikazu Fukushima retired including from the public service at the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI). The new Secretary General is Mr. Toru Nagayama who was appointed by Dr. Paul Cheung, Chair of ISCGM. Prof. Dr. Paul Cheung himself assumed the chair of ISCGM only last year. ISCGM, like FIG sits on the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS).

### *Joint Board for the Geospatial Information Societies (JB-GIS)*

The Joint Board for the Geospatial Information Societies (JB-GIS) at its annual meeting in Potsdam, Germany on 31 August 2013 reaffirmed Prof William Cartwright from International Cartographic Association as the Chair for a further period of one year. Vice President Rudolf Staiger represented FIG at this annual Joint Board meeting. It remains important for JBGIS to coordinate the busy events calendar each year to ensure that our Professional and scientific activities within our community complement and contribute to one another and are not in conflict.

### *Publication on "Value of Geoinformation for Disaster and Risk Management (VaLID)"*

FIG participated in the collaborative effort under the auspices of JBGIS and led by ISPRS First Vice President Orhan Altan in the preparation of the VaLID Publication that was launch on 3 September 2013, Vienna, Austria at UNOOSA. President Gert Steinkellner of OVG, Austria, represented FIG Council at the launch.

### *150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Association of Geodesy*

2013 marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IAG and this was celebrated at its 2013 Scientific Assembly, 1 – 6 September 2013, Potsdam, Germany. Vice President Rudolf Staiger represented FIG at the celebrations as well as the Scientific Assembly.

FIG once again collaborated with IAG in realising the “Reference Frames in Practice Workshop”, 21 – 22 June 2013, Manila, The Philippines. This workshop was delivered through FIG Commission 5 and hosted by the organizers of the 12<sup>th</sup> South East Asian Survey Congress with the support of ICG/UNOOSA.

#### *IPMS Coalition*

FIG is part of the International Property Measurement Standards Coalition (IPMSC), a group of professional and not-for-profit organizations from around the world that has decided to come together to develop an international standard for property measurement. The aim being to work together to develop a unified office property measurement standard that will ensure that property assets are measured in a consistent way, thus creating a more transparent marketplace, greater public trust, stronger investor confidence, and increased market stability. IPMS Coalition is expected to launch the International Property Measurement Standards for Office Building at the XXV FIG Congress.

FIG’s participation is delegated to FIG Commission 9: Valuation and Management of Real Estate, and is represented in the Coalition by its Chair, Frances Plimmer. Colleagues from ACCO and the Standards Network supported FIG Commission 9 in this work.

## **12. Concluding Remarks**

In many of its engagements and collaborative activities, the Profession is realizing that it can, perhaps, bring about change in our lifetime, realizing the transformative potential that our unique position, as the “intersection” between the spatial and the societal, creates. The realization is that “business-as-usual” will not lead us to this bold new world and spatial knowledge and practices, spatial sciences and technologies, with creativity and innovation may well be those elements within the transformation needed for bring about this change.

The Council records its appreciation and thanks to all Member Associations as well as all Corporate, Affiliate and Academic Members; National Delegates and Correspondents; Chairs of Commissions, their Vice Chairs and their delegates and correspondents; Chairs of Task Forces and their members; Chairs of Networks and their members; and last but not least the FIG Administration including the FIG Director, together with the many who are counted within FIG’s corps of volunteers, in one way or another contributed to another eventful and successful FIG year.

CheeHai TEO  
*President FIG*  
15<sup>th</sup> April 2014