

Rome, Italy

# FIG Working Week 2012

Each year FIG organizes a Working Week. This year it was held in Rome, Italy in the splendid surroundings of the Cavalieri Hotel on Monte Mario. Altogether 1500 participants came from 96 countries.

By Gottfried Konecny

The International Federation of Surveyors FIG (Federation Internationale des Geometres) was founded in 1878. It is now a recognized NGO of the United Nations, representing the surveying disciplines in 120 countries. Congresses are held every 4 years (the last was held in 2010 in Sydney, Australia, and the next is scheduled for Kuala Lumpur in 2014). Each year FIG organizes a Working Week. This year it was held in Rome, Italy in the splendid surroundings of the Cavalieri Hotel on Monte Mario. Altogether 1500 participants came from 96 countries.



At the Opening Ceremony on Monday, May 7 FIG President CheeHai Teo expressed, that FIG's aim now is directed beyond securing land tenure rights toward land development and the land market.

It is difficult to review the many papers presented in simultaneous sessions, except for some of the plenary meetings with novel ideas:

**Norbert Lautschner**, past director of Klima Haus, Italy stressed, that based on demographic and climate changes new goals have evolved for sustainable development, the search for new energy production.

**Karl-Friedrich Thöne**, DVW President, Germany expanded on this issue pointing out the need for better planning competence for the surveyor at a time, when land consumption per person changes demographically.

**Alexander Müller**, Assistant General Director of FAO reported on the completion and the passing of new "Voluntary Guidelines for Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security". The 34 page document can be downloaded from the FAO website: [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

Another interesting session was on the "Global Land Tool Network Agenda" (GLTNA). It was chaired by FIG President **CheeHau Teo**:

**Clarissa Augustinus** of UN Habitat, Nairobi spoke on the GLTNA strategies: In Sub-Saharan Africa 62% of the cities consist of slums, in South East Asia 43%. Only 30% have cadastral coverage. Only 2 to 3% of owners are female. A pro-poor strategy on a systematic large scale approach is needed, requiring governance, equity, subsidiarity and affordability. A conversion of the effort from land right to social tenure is required.

**Stig Enemark**, Past FIG President, Denmark stressed the role of professionals to advance the GLTN Agenda. While Malawi has 20 valuers, 26 planners, but only 12 surveyors, 100 professionals and 150 technicians are needed for the government and perhaps double that for the private sector. There is informal development even in Europe (Greece).

**Danilo Antonio**, Uganda, has reported on a pilot project, where Google Earth has been used for data capture, combined with digital house and document images.

**Keith Hofgartner of Trimble** showed examples of rapid mapping using UAV's

**Paul van der Molen**, Netherlands, in his paper „what is left of the ideas of Hernando de Soto“ started with critical remarks and his statement, that after 10 years implementation of de Soto's ideas we still have 3 billion people living on less than 2.4\$ per day, while 2.3 trillion \$ went to Africa from ODA funds for this purpose.

Dambisa Moyo's plea was to cut aid and leave it to the markets, while Clinton, Reagan, Thatcher and Albright endorsed De Soto's suggestions. Others expressed criticism in literature by suggesting simple solutions for complex problems.. Even in Peru, De Soto's home land, titling does not work. The biggest problem is the institutional infrastructure. This paper deserves more discussion.

**Ong See Lian**, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors discussed "Building Information Modelling". Computer graphics use in construction started with CAD in 2D. Now 3D is in use. This has led to Building Information Models (BIM). Their integration for use in entire cities (e.g. Singapore) is a challenge to the survey profession.

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