

Land Administration and Sustainable Development - Report of the FIG Commission 7 Workshop Held in Quebec City

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SUMMARY

The need for land administration, cadastral systems, and good governance has increased in the last decade. International organizations like the World Bank, FAO, UN-Habitat and FIG have helped to promote the importance of this type of sustainable development infrastructure.

These organisations have unanimously endorsed the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the importance of land administration in poverty reduction and economic development.

Many workshops, expert meetings and conferences have been organized to address land administration issues. A common objective has emerged: Promote access to land and registration of rights to contribute to poverty reduction and economic development.

The international geocommunity should define its role in achieving the MDGs and spell out the areas where they can make a significant contribution. Issues such as tenure security, pro-poor land management, and good governance in land administration are all key issues to be advocated in the process of reaching the goals. Measures such as capacity assessment, institutional development and human resource development, North-South cooperation and partnerships are all key tools. FIG has to continue to work closely with the UN agencies such as the World Bank, UN-Habitat and FAO in merging the efforts to contribute to reach the MDGs.

The Quebec Workshop on Land Administration was organized by FIG Commission 7 in collaboration with the Fédération des géomètres francophones as a pre-conference event for GeoConference Québec 2007 (www.Quebec2007.ca).

The objectives of this workshop were to work on the above mentioned recommendations and propose concrete actions to contribute to the 8th millennium goal. This paper presents the results of this important workshop of Commission 7.

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1. BACKGROUND

The need for land administration, cadastral systems, and good governance has increased in the last decade. International organizations like the World Bank, FAO, UN-Habitat and FIG have helped to promote the importance of this type of sustainable development infrastructure.

These organisations have unanimously endorsed the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the importance of land administration in poverty reduction and economic development. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) aim to:

1. Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty
2. Achieve Universal Primary Education
3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
4. Reduce Child Mortality
5. Improve Maternal Health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

In the past, many workshops, expert meetings and conferences have been organized to address land administration issues. As a result of these events, exchanges and discussions, in which the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) has been closely involved, mainly through Commission 7, its land administration arm, and a common objective has emerged:

Promote access to land and registration of rights to contribute to poverty reduction and economic development.

FIG has set its work plan 2006-2010 which is directly linked to the UN Millennium Development Goals, namely the 8th goal: develop a Global Partnership for Development.

The international geocommunity should define its role in achieving the MDGs and spell out the areas where they can make a significant contribution. Issues such as tenure security, pro-poor land management, and good governance in land administration are all key issues to be advocated in the process of reaching the goals. Measures such as capacity assessment, institutional development and human resource development, North-South cooperation and partnerships are all key tools. This geocommunity has to work closely with the UN agencies such as the World Bank, UN-Habitat and FAO in merging the efforts to contribute to reach the MDGs.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKSHOP

The Quebec Workshop on Land Administration was organized by the FIG Commission 7 (Working Group 7.2) in collaboration with the Fédération des géomètres francophones, as a pre-conference event for GeoConference Québec 2007 (www.Quebec2007.ca). To facilitate the communications, simultaneous interpretation in both French and English was available.

The objective of the workshop was to propose concrete actions to contribute in the establishment of a global partnership for development, the 8th Millennium Development Goal.

3. PARTICIPANTS

The Quebec Workshop on Land Administration and sustainable development gathered 50 participants from 22 countries, mainly officials responsible for land administration and cadastre, land surveyors, geomaticians, legal experts, academics and students involved in cooperation projects.

The following countries were represented:

Africa: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, D. R. Congo, Ivory-Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Senegal

North America: Canada, USA

Latin America: Peru

Asia: India, Sri Lanka

Europe: Belgium, Denmark, France, Sweden

Moreover, the following international organizations were represented:

- International Federation of Surveyors : Mr Stig Enemark, president
- Federation des géomètres francophones : Mr. Aziz Hilali and Mr Bernard Puepi, vice-presidents and Mrs Annick Jatou, treasurer
- United Nations (HABITAT) : Mr. Remy Sietchiping,
- World Bank : Mr Keith Bell, senior land policy specialist
- Organisation internationale de la Francophonie : Mr. Sory Ibrahim Diabate

4. THE WORKSHOP PROGRAM

4.1 Presentations

To start the workshop, speakers from international organisations presented various aspects related to land administration and sustainable development.

Session 1 – Point of view of international organisations:

- Remy Sietchiping, UN Habitat - Urbanization and the Continuum of Land Rights: Global Challenges and Opportunities;
- Keith Bell, World Bank - Responding to the Challenges of the Millennium Development Goals - World Bank Support for Land Administration;
- Stig Enemark, president FIG - FIG Policies in support of the Global Agenda.

Then, representatives from Asia, Africa and South America presented projects, issues and actions in the area of land administration.

Session 2 – Land administration experiences

- P.G.V. Abeyratne, Sabaragamuwa University Sri Lanka - The role of land surveyors in reconstruction after a natural disaster - the experience of Sri Lanka
- Robinson Tchamagni, Tribunal of Mbalmayo – The situation of land property in Cameroun – Obstacles, consequences et perspectives
- Azeddine El Omari, Agence Nationale de la Conservation foncière du Cadastre et de la Cartographie - Actions to secure land property in Morocco
- Ramon Enrique Saldivar, Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros of Peru – Reconstruction issues after the earthquake of August 15 2007

In the second part of the workshop, the participants gathered in small groups and tried to answer the following questions:

- How the international geocommunity can help to develop a Global Partnership for Development:
- to improve secure land tenure?
 - Can we start something at a human level, locally?
 - What are the needs?
- to better respond to the need for reconstruction and resettlement after a natural disaster?
 - What role should we play?
 - How could we better organize our intervention?
- to develop capacity building?
 - What are the needs?
 - What kind of action should we start?

This working period was followed by a plenary session in which a rapporteur of each group had to summarize the discussions of his group.

4.2 Summary of the Answers

How the international geocommunity can help:

- To develop a Global Partnership for Development to improve secure land tenure?
- The political will is absolutely necessary to improve the security of land rights.

To get it, the geocommunity and more specifically land surveyors have to learn how to talk to politicians. We have to demonstrate the social and economic benefits of a good land infrastructure.

- We should encourage North-South and South-South cooperation to develop win-win exchanges at a human level.
- Develop public/private partnerships
- Inform the population about the importance of land rights infrastructure.
- Develop training programs.
- Develop systems and laws that can manage customary and informal rights.
- Land rights have to be public and the systems transparent.
- Immediate needs to develop organizational capacity, for professional training and inform beneficiaries (the population).
- We have to find a way to improve and transform existing systems (land registry and cadastre) rather than throw it in the garbage.
- The security of land rights is essential when there is a conflict. African courts are submerged with land problems, namely caused by the weakness of geodetic infrastructure.
- Develop and implement solutions adapted to each country.

- better respond to the need for reconstruction and resettlement after a natural disaster?

- We should encourage the authorities to implement and secure cadastral system and land registry in the area presenting a risk of natural disaster. This land infrastructure is of high importance to facilitate reconstruction and resettlement after such a disaster.
- There is a need to develop emergency plans (who is doing what?) using the power of geomatics and the expertise of land surveyors.
- We have to develop a better knowledge of risks at a global level and then be more aware to prevent the consequences of natural disasters.
- The geocommunity may also help in the establishment of refugees camps.
- The geocommunity must have access to legal land spatial data in case of natural disaster, hopefully in standardized formats.
- We have to develop the capacity of professionals and create strong professional associations at national and international level. This can contribute to establish and activate cooperation based on a strong network.

- to develop capacity building:
- The main need is technical and professional training. An African school is missing. It is essential to create such a regional school to develop knowledge and competencies.
- In many developing countries, professional order/association has to be created or reinforced. African countries need help to create organised professional structures ensuring professional ethic.

- We have to develop relationships between land surveyors and geomaticians to have a stronger influence.
- We should implicate local communities in decision process
- We have to find ways to promote and facilitate the involvement of voluntary land surveyors or students cooperation to participate in capacity building
- Land surveyors have the qualifications to train politicians in good land governance
- Improve geocommunity organisations in developing countries

5. CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES

The FIG/FGF Quebec Workshop on Land Administration and Sustainable Development was a great success in term of participation with 50 participants coming from more than 20 countries. But the real success was about the representation of developing and emerging countries: half of the delegates coming from 15 countries of Africa, Asia or Latin America were able to attend. One of the objectives of the workshop was to listen to the needs of people coming from developing countries. With no doubt, it was reached and in a so constructive and interesting way.

The outcomes of this fruitful workshop will be very useful for both the Fédération des géomètres francophones and the International Federation of Surveyors and will, for sure, influence their work plans in the following years.

The organizers wish to thank GeoConference Quebec 2007 for the logistic support and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for the financial support in the participation of many delegates.

REFERENCES

All the documents presented are available on GeoConference Website : www.Quebec2007.ca

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Daniel Roberge graduated from Laval University in Québec City. He also holds a Graduated Studies Diploma in International Administration from the École nationale d'administration publique (National School of Public Administration).

He has written several publications and papers on the cadastre, land reform and land management, and has been involved for several years in the work of Commissions 3 and 7 of the FIG. He is the Canadian delegate on Commission 7.

Daniel Roberge is currently director of the Office of the Surveyor General of Québec, and was previously in charge of the project to implement the new cadastre as part of the program to reform the Québec cadastre.

He is a member of the Ordre des arpenteurs-géomètres du Québec and vice-chair of the Champlain Branch of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics. He was co-chair of GéoConference Québec 2007 (www.quebec2007.ca).

Søren Fauerholm Christensen has a M. Sc. in geodesy, cadastral science and planning, University of Aalborg, Denmark. He is licensed to conduct cadastral surveys in Denmark and in Namibia. He is member of the Danish Association of Chartered Surveyors and appointed member of FIG Commission 7.

Søren Fauerholm Christensen is presently head of Department of Cadastre and Legal Service, National Survey and Cadastre, Denmark.

His international experience started of in Namibia where he was adviser to the Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation – Department of Surveying and Mapping – Namibia. In Namibia he was responsibilities for the design of a land registration system for urban informal settlements and development of the national survey organisation

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