

**Report to the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly  
FIG Working Week in Eilat, Israel, May 2009**

**Report on the Co-operation with the United Nations and the World Bank**

**1. UN Liaison Committee and Liaison Ambassador for United Nations**

The FIG Council established in Hong Kong in May 2007 the UN Liaison Committee – FIG Responses to the Millennium Development Goals to coordinate co-operation with the United Nations. This Committee is chaired by President Stig Enemark and its other members are: Prof. Paul van der Molen (co-operation with UN-HABITAT and the Global Land Tools Network), Vice President Matt Higgins (co-operation with UN-OOSA), Dr. Chryssy Potsiou, Chair of Commission 3 (co-operation with UN ECE) and Mr. Helge Onsrud (Norway).

The Council appointed in February 2009 Prof. Paul van der Molen as FIG Liaison Ambassador for the United Nations in February to assist the President in UN related issues to the end of 2010. The President will continue to be in charge for reporting on the UN activities to the General Assembly and be responsible for the overall UN policy.

**2. Co-operation with UN-HABITAT**

FIG's contribution to the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) is at the core of the Council's work plan for the next four years and would result in various imminent projects. President Enemark attended the Advisory Board of the GLTN in conjunction to the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China in November 2008. FIG is a permanent member of the International Advisory Board of GLTN. After the change in the policy of UN-HABITAT the projects discussed with UN-HABITAT and GLTN are now mainly organised through individual agreements, but FIG is handling the review of the GLTN project on Social Tenure Domain Model. Most of tasks originally planned for the Task Force on Developing Global Land Tools for Pro Poor Land Management have been taken care of by the President through the International Advisory Board .

**3. Co-operation with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

FAO has supported major FIG events during the latest years. In 2008 the main joint activity was the Joint FIG/FAO/CNG Seminar on State and Public Land Management that was held in Verona, Italy, 9-10 September 2008. The seminar aimed to raise global awareness of problems associated with state/public land and its management, improve knowledge of good practices in this area, and encourage these to be addressed in new development initiatives. Introductions were made by Stig Enemark on work of FIG in this area and Mika Törhönen on work of FAO. A range of case studies were presented from various regions throughout the world in by experiences. State land management can be improved by technical means and by good governance in land administration. Guidelines in relation to this subject will be published in the very near future by FAO.

President Enemark attended also the Expert Group Meeting on Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and other Natural Resources at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 24–25 November 2008. FAO, and partners such as the World Bank, UN-HABITAT, IFAD (International Federation of Agricultural Development), and FIG have been working since 2005 on governance of land administration to raise awareness and produce guidelines. A good example of this is the publication FAO Land Tenure Studies no. 9 on *Good governance in land tenure and administration*, available on line at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/a1179e/a1179e00.pdf>. The aim of the meeting was to help FAO to finalise a discussion paper called *Towards Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and other Natural Resources*. This paper will lay the base for regional and civil society consultations in 2009, which will lead to the preparation of the First Draft Voluntary Guidelines at the end of 2009. There are plans to include the FIG Regional Conference in Hanoi into this process.

#### **4. Co-operation with the World Bank**

Co-operation with the World Bank has been active since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding that was launched at the FIG WW in Hong Kong in May 2007. FIG and the World Bank is currently organising a Joint World Bank/FIG Conference “Land Governance in Support of the Millennium Development Goals: Responding to New Challenges” in Washington DC, USA, 9-10 March 2009 ([www.fig.net/wb2009](http://www.fig.net/wb2009)). The conference will present how FIG and the World Bank are working in parallel for achieving the MDGs. This will help the world better understand the important contribution of the global surveying community in providing the basic conditions for social, economic, and environmental sustainability. The conference will be structured around six key themes: (i) Building sustainable and well-governed land administration systems; (ii) Securing social tenure for the poorest; (iii) Making land markets work for all; (iv) Improving Access to land and shelter through land reform; (v) Improving rural-urban linkages and upgrading informal development; and (vi) Building the capacity and promoting institutional development. This high-profile conference is by invitation only and will be attended by more than 200 international experts.

In general, the FIG/WB collaboration is aimed at improving capacity building at all levels in the areas of land tenure, land value, land use and land development. This also includes implementation of appropriate technologies for data collection and mapping; building of spatial data infrastructures and comprehensive information systems; and facilitating increased and equal access to land for all, ensure good governance, and promote proper management of land-use and natural resources.

#### **5. United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN-OOSA) and the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG)**

Vice President Matt Higgins attended the third meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), in Pasadena, California, USA, from 8 to 12 December 2008. The ICG has been 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. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN OOSA) acts as the secretariat for the ICG. It should be noted that FIG has a MoU with UN OOSA.

A major development for the surveying and geodesy community at ICG-3 was the formation of a Task Force on Geodetic References. The proposed membership of the Task Force means that for the first time ever, there will be a single forum where experts from the user community (including FIG and the International Association of Geodesy, IAG) can meet directly with experts from the GNSS providers who are responsible for:

- World Geodetic System 84 (WGS84) used for GPS;
- PZ-90.02 used for GLONASS;
- Galileo Terrestrial Reference Frame (GTRF) used for Galileo, and;
- China Geodetic System (CGS`2000) used for Compass.

February 2009