

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

**FIG Commission 8 – Spatial Planning and Development**

**Report of Activities 2008-2009**

**1. General**

The year 2008- 2009 again witnessed a change for commission 8 with Dr Dumashie elected to take up the ‘baton’ for the remainder of the term 2008- 2010.

Mid way into the current term, as chair, my focus will continue to be communication with the full range of communities associated with Commission 8; internally with you and your member associations, and externally with our strategic partners, but also to actively explore new opportunities for our commission members in a profession operating globally.

The hand over of the ‘baton’ presented a good opportunity for a mid term review of ‘How we work as a Commission’ with members feeding back from 2008 annual meeting led by the chair (minutes and questionnaire available on comm. 8 website). The Commission looks forward to progressing the new ways identified to explore, disseminate and share experiences and cutting edge practices including improving the newsletter production process.

Commission 8, with its involvement in the issues surrounding Planning and Urbanisation is often exploring planning and problem resolution of the question ‘where people wish to settle’. This means considering not only new development activities but also regenerating the built environment. Crucially the commission needs to translate its activities not only in established areas, but also those that are new and emerging. Increasingly our members are highlighting and debating the global issue of environmental resilience in human settlement activities.

Consequently, a clear cross cutting theme occurring in our focus is “*Man’s relationship with the environment*”. This theme, emerging strongly in the last term, has resulted in increasing numbers of technical sessions being developed at our working weeks. Dealing with such questions as: the surveyors role and developing our own capacity, the ability to communicate to the public at large, the importance of land and energy, but also how we may increase the technical know how of planning and development. These successful sessions could not be achieved without cross commission support, an indication of the holistic remit of today’s land professional.

Strong, regular support for commission 8 is seen at each of the WW and a high level of active participation at these weeks; evidenced by the number of papers submitted each year. The upcoming working week in Israel is no exception.

In the meantime, as outlined in our working plan, the areas of interest remain on:

- **Urbanisation**, be it concentrated in informal settlements and/ or Mega cities;
- **Disaster reduction**, be it coastal or inland, and disasters natural or man made;

- **Spatial planning**, be it on policy and practice in green field or brown field sites.

## 2. Working Group Activities

### Working Group 8.3 – Informal settlements: issues in Spatial land planning (Chair Dr Diane Dumashie)

Following on from the successful Working Group publication in June 2008, the working group has reformed and reviewed its next steps. Early in 2009 the group agreed to develop the proposal identified in its previous deliberations to consider “*The parallel issue of planning for infrastructure routes in peri-urban areas*”. Funding will be required to progress this work, so during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2009, the proposal will be submitted and discussed with interested sister organisations.

In view of the vice chairs promotion, a new vice chair is currently being identified.

### Working Group 8.4 - Urban Planning in Coastal Regions (Vice Chair Isaac Boateng)

Led by Commission 8, progress has been made to initiate a joint Commission output, involving Commissions 4, 5 and 8 respectively with a focus on coastal change, a joint working group effort to work toward an interdisciplinary output of the three disciplines: (i) spatial planning, (ii) geodetic surveying and (iii) marine administration to coastal development.

The overall goal will be a position statement to include:

- Provision of policy advice
- Summary case studies
- Suggestions for best practices
- Identifying information gaps requiring further research

This will be achieved by jointly designing, managing and participating in WW technical sessions, and to view, understand and record - the planning, administering and development in coastal zones in the face of climate change. This will led to a guide for practitioners.

## 3. Cooperation

Dr Diane Dumashie has continued to progress the working agenda by liaising with international agencies, NGOS’s and member organisations, as well as encouraging cross-commission involvement.

## 4. Cross working with other Commissions

As outlined above Commission 8 is involved in cross commission activity by

- Promoting cross technical sessions in a range of subjects notably Land consolidation and environment matters, and
- Leading on working group 8.4 on Coastal Regions,

## **5. Connectivity with Sister organisations**

Commission 8 continue to maintain strong relationship with other land professional groups, such as Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE). Building on the pervious terms success we are discussing ways for our member associations to be involved in the next African Regional Conference.

## **6. Collaboration with UN**

In addition, the commission chair and members have actively engaged with the GLTN secretariat, hosted by UN-HABITAT and located in LTPAS. Following on from Commission 8's member involvement in 2007 and then early 2008 on gender responsive evaluation criteria and gender-sensitive tool development process, an e-forum was run by the GLTN Secretariat, in collaboration with a number of GLTN partners, from 8 September – 15 October 2008 to build further consensus on these evaluation criteria. The chair was invited to assist in developing and subsequently taking a role of moderator within the e forum team .The results were shared at the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China in Nov 2008 (see [www.glt.net](http://www.glt.net) ).

Dr. Diane Dumashie  
Chair of FIG Commission 8

February 2009