

Special Events during the FIG Working Week in Christchurch, New Zealand



The FIG 2016 Working Week will be held from 2-6 May 2016 in Christchurch, New Zealand. This event is an exciting week-long conference that brings together the international community of surveying, spatial and cadastral professionals. The theme of the 2016 FIG Working Week is 'Recovery from Disaster'. Many inhabitants throughout the world face various kinds of disasters, such as flooding, storms, tsunamis, drought and the after-effects of conflict, etc. Surveying and land professionals are key in making an important contribution to improve, simplify and shorten the disaster mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase.

During the first plenary session the mayor of Christchurch and high-level governmental representatives will present 'The Christchurch Story': Christchurch's response to the 2011 earthquake. Focus is on lessons learnt from the Canterbury Earthquake Sequence. The second plenary concentrates on surveyors' responses to the Disaster Management and Recovery Framework. Long-term experiences will be shared from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and the subsequent impact on – and the challenges ahead for – the surveying and geospatial professional in disaster response, recovery and resilience will be discussed. This session includes perspectives from The World Bank and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information

Management (UN-GGIM). The third plenary is themed 'The Public, the Private and the People's Response for Disaster Management and Recovery in the Surveying Profession'. New technologies are on the agenda.

A series of special events will be organised in cooperation with the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN). Notable issues include the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land fisheries and forests and fit-for-purpose approaches in land administration. This year's Academic Members Forum will be organised in cooperation with FAO.

The role and impact of land professionals in responding to climate change and security of tenure in small island developing states has been on the FIG agenda for many years. During the FIG Working Week in May 2016 this subject will once again be the focus of attention at a pre-workshop on 30 April and 1 May 2016. The workshop is open to anyone who may be interested.

The International Institution of History for Surveying and Measurement, a permanent institution of FIG, is hosting a two-day symposium. Day One will focus on the boundaries of the South Pacific and answer the question 'Are the Islands Sinking?' and the second day will be based on the theme 'From Mercator to Cook to Silent Cinema: Surveyors of the World'.



Recovery from disaster

The 3rd FIG Young Surveyors Network Conference will be held prior to the Working Week, likewise on from 30 April to 1 May 2016. The theme is in alignment with the theme of the Working Week: 'Disaster Relief and Charity Activities'.

It is a long-standing FIG tradition to provide an international forum to affiliate members and invite director generals (and/or their deputies) to participate, meet and exchange experiences during the FIG Working Weeks and Congresses. FIG Corporate Platinum members – Bentley, Esri, Leica and Trimble – will each give their view on the latest professional and technical developments in a special session in the technical programme. ◀

More information
www.fig.net

Nepal Workshop: SDI Research on Disaster Risk Reduction



The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association held a one-day tutorial workshop entitled 'Sharing SDI Research on Disaster Risk Reduction' on 24 November 2015 in Kathmandu, Nepal [1]. The tutorial was organised jointly with the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) WGIV/4, in association with Kathmandu University (KU), Survey

Department (SD), Land Management Training Center (LMTC), University of Southern Queensland (USQ), University of Melbourne/CDMPS, Nepal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (NICS), and Nepal Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society (NRSPS) in the CV Raman Auditorium at the Kathmandu University Dhulikhel.

The tutorial was part of the overall programme of international workshops on "The Role of Land Professionals and Spatial Data Infrastructure in Disaster Risk Reduction in the Context of the Post-2015 Nepal Earthquake" [2], which was organised by the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Commission 2 (Professional Education) and ISPRS WG IV/4 (Geospatial Data) ▶



▲ Workshop participants at Kathmandu University: photograph taken using a UAV camera.

Infrastructure) from 25-27 November 2015. GSDI was a media partner for the event and is pleased to have contributed to the programme in the spirit of collaboration envisioned by the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS) [3].

Approximately 60 participants including early career researchers, students and mid-level professionals participated in the tutorial. Dr Dev Raj Paudyal, representative of GSDI Association's Individual Members and from the School of Civil Engineering and Surveying, University of Southern Queensland, Australia, was the facilitator of the workshop. Professor Bhola Thapa, registrar, KU, presented the welcome speech. There were two technical sessions followed by panel discussions. Mr Krishna Raj BC, executive director of Land Management Training Centre, Nepal, chaired the first technical session and Mr Madhusudan Adhikari, director general of Survey

Department of Nepal, chaired the second technical session. The panel discussion was chaired by Professor Ramesh Kumar Maskey, associate dean, School of Engineering, Kathmandu University. Finally, Dr Dev Raj Paudyal summarised the workshop outputs and Professor Ramesh Kumar Maskey closed the panel discussion session.

Professor Marguerite Madden, Director of the Center for Geospatial Research (CGR), Department of Geography, University of Georgia and second vice president of ISPRS, presented on 'Geospatial Technologies and People: Respond and Recover'. Professor Kevin McDougall, head of the School of Civil Engineering and Surveying, University of Southern Queensland, Australia, presented on 'Challenges and Opportunities in Utilising SDI and Crowdsourced Data during Disasters'. In addition, Dr Nama R. Budhathoki, executive director, Kathmandu Living Labs, presented on 'Digital Innovation for Social Good'.

On behalf of GSDI and the Centre for Disaster Management and Public Safety (CDMPS) at the University of Melbourne, Dr Katie Potts delivered a presentation on 'The Next Generation of Disaster Management'. Professor emeritus Armin Gruen, chair of Information Architecture, ETH Zurich, Switzerland, delivered a presentation on 'UAV Technology for Geospatial Data Acquisition'.

All presenters participated in a panel discussion on the topic of sharing SDI

research for disaster risk reduction. Ms Florencia Tuladhar fulfilled the role of master of ceremony in the event and Mr Subash Ghimire, assistant professor and coordinator of the geomatics engineering programme under DCGE, coordinated the event. Following the tutorial, Dr Potts also attended the main international workshop, where she chaired the SDI Development technical session. Dr Paudyal presented a technical paper, chaired the SDI development session and delivered concluding remarks during the closing ceremony. There were about 360 participants including four ministers and high-level dignitaries. The main objective of the conference was to exploit the international expertise on SDI and land administration to enhance and improve current disaster risk reduction efforts in Nepal and related environments. ◀

Summary by Dr Dev Raj Paudyal, GSDI board member for GSDI Individual Members.

Learn more about the GSDI Association and how to participate at www.gsdiassociation.org.

More information

- [1] www.workshopnepal2015.com.np/pre-event.html
- [2] www.workshopnepal2015.com.np/index.html
- [3] www.fig.net/jbgis/www.gsdi.org



Introducing Other Members of the New IAG Executive Committee



▲ Members of the IAG Executive Committee, 2015-2019.

The IAG Executive Committee (IAG-EC) comprises the IAG president, IAG vice president, secretary general, past IAG president, presidents of the four Commissions, Communications & Outreach Branch, and Inter-Commission Committee on Theory, chair of the Global Geodetic Observing System, three representatives of the Services, and two members-at-large. Following on from our introduction to some members of the IAG-EC in the previous edition of *GIM International* (January 2016), this article introduces the other members.

President of the Inter-Commission Committee on Theory: Pavel Novak

Pavel Novák received his MSc in 1989 from the Czech Technical University in Prague and he has held the position of professor at that university since 2007. Since gaining his PhD from the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, Canada, in 1999 his professional experience has included: TU Berlin (1991-1992), University of New Brunswick (1996-1999), University of Calgary (1999-2001), University of Stuttgart (2002-2004), University of West Bohemia (since 2004) and Astronomical