Review of FIG Workshops in Autumn 2015

Crowdsourcing of Land Information

Is crowdsourcing feasible for capturing evidence of land rights and can it help to rapidly shrink the security of tenure chasm? These were the central questions during a FIG (Commissions 3 and 7) workshop on Crowdsourcing of Land Information in Malta from 16-20 November 2015.

The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes new Sustainable Development Goals, with six of the goals having a significant land component mentioned in the targets. For example, Goal 1 calls for ending poverty in all its forms everywhere, and Target 4 states that by 2030 all men and women should have equal rights to ownership and control over land and other forms of property. These goals and targets will never be achieved without having good land governance and well-functioning, countrywide land administration systems in place. Conventional approaches in land administration have failed so far in developing countries, and there is a need for new and scalable approaches in land administration. The workshop showcased the innovative crowdsourcing approaches emerging as one of the potential solutions to reducing the global land tenure divide.

Although the crowdsourcing solutions presented at the workshop have not yet gone to scale, they have clearly demonstrated success in piloting environments. Examples include the USAID Mobile Application to Secure Tenure project in Tanzania, the Landapp pilots in Ghana and Indonesia to support smallholder farmers, and the

Kadaster/Esri/Trimble pilot in Columbia. The approach is certainly proven from a technical and ICT perspective: apps for the collection of land administrative data are available for mobiles with GPS, extensions are available for positioning with lightweight GNSS devices with sub-metre accuracy, and software tools are available to share the collected data in the cloud for transparent access and for maintenance purposes.

Services were presented where countries or communities can store and manage land data and organise access to that land data. Key issues were discussed around standards, certification for apps, formalisation of crowdsourced land rights, trusted intermediaries within communities and business models to sustain the crowdsourcing initiatives. There was agreement that 'legitimate land rights' and related spatial units can be integrated into formal land administration solutions in step-by-step approaches. It is possible to integrate crowdsourcing with the fit-for-purpose approach to land administration. However, the concept of crowdsourcing needs to gain society's trust to be ultimately accepted and adopted.

FIG-ISPRS Workshop: Role of Land Professionals and SDI in Disaster Risk Reduction

The programme of this workshop, held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 25-27 November 2015, covered the various aspects of spatial

Satellite image of Malta.

technologies and the role of spatial data infrastructure in the context of disaster risk reduction. It gave a rich picture of the Nepal post-2015 earthquake experiences and the lessons learned, including innovative and unique approaches and tools developed in this context. The keynote speakers were well chosen, adding high value by placing the Nepal experiences in a global and scientific context. Former FIG president Chee Hai Teo attended the workshop and addressed the audience during the plenary session on the last day.

Disaster risk reduction is a unique knowledge domain and has its own particular issues, own approaches and own technologies. To include disaster risk reduction in the curriculum of the surveyor and land professional means allocating enough quality time and thinking carefully about the set-up and content of the programme and the teaching approaches. There will be more on disaster risk reduction at the FIG Working Week in New Zealand in May 2016. For more information, see www.fig.net/fig2016. ◀

> **More information**
> www.fig.net

GSDI 15 World Conference Announced

The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association has been holding SDI conferences around the world since 1996. We are pleased to announce that the GSDI 15 World Conference will be held in Taipei, Taiwan (Rep. of China), from 28 November to 2 December 2016 at the Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center. The theme of GSDI 15 is

'Spatial Enablement in the Smart Homeland'. The conference will be co-hosted by GSDI and our Taiwan-based members, the Taiwan Association of Disaster Prevention Industry (TADPI) and Taiwan Geographic Information System Center (TGIC), with financial support from Ministry of the Interior of the government of Taiwan.

Dr David Coleman, president of GSDI, says: "Since 1996, 14 GSDI Conferences have brought together geospatial community leaders and persons of influence from government, industry and academia to highlight new developments, discuss emerging concerns and share lessons learned. GSDI 15 will continue a tradition of staying ahead of the ▶