

Dear colleagues and friends,

Major social changes and rapid urbanization are the phenomena of our times. Although it can be seen as an indicator of economic growth, current urbanization rates have often caused several managerial problems which are related to informal development and the lack of basic services such as fresh water and energy supply, transportation, waste treatment and management, environmental pollution, and crime.



It is a challenge of our time to achieve good governance, efficient and transparent administration, and sustainable urban growth through reliable spatial data infrastructures. FIG Commission 3, with an acknowledgement of its responsibility to serve society, follows major social changes and has developed its four year work plan and has focused annual workshops accordingly.

In our 2007 scoping workshop in Sounio, we first addressed urgent social and accompanying technical and legal aspects related to emerging informal settlements as a result of rapid urban growth. Access to land, legal and social integration is a fundamental human right.

In our 2008 workshop in Valencia we added to our agenda the important subject of environmental protection. Regulations on private rights in the use of land in terms of air, soil, and water pollution must be accepted by all market participants. All must share the costs of the natural resources they consume.

In 2009 here in Mainz, with a global economy facing its worst recession in decades, new aspects related to a restricted credit-financed economic activity, and increased unemployment and a shortage of affordable housing are introduced into urban management.

FIG Commission 3 delegates, committed to the principles of cooperation and respect for each others' knowledge and experience, work together towards improving the tools for dealing with issues such as access to land, legal and social integration of urban poor, urban regeneration and services provision, cultural heritage protection, environmental monitoring, housing financing, and real estate markets operations.

I wish to thank all participants to our 2009 annual workshop, and in particular the FIG President Prof Stig Enemark and vice-President Prof Dalal Alnaggar, the German Association of Surveying DVW, Prof Hartmut Mueller and the organizing committee, Lantmäteriet, EARSeL, UN/ECE WPLA, the USA Appraisal Institute, all invited speakers, academics and researchers for their valuable contribution and support.

I also wish to thank Mr Makis Apostolatos, FIG Commission3 vice chair of Administration for his assistance in organizing these workshops.

Chryssy A Potsiou
FIG Commission 3 Chair