International Federation of Surveyors
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Commission 7

News Brief | September 2023

Dear FIG C7 delegates and friends,

"Where is my September 2023 News Brief?!" we hear you say! Well folks, here it is, albeit a touch late. Why? Well, we were all busy with the FIG Commission 7 Annual Meeting in Deventer, so we thought we'd give you a double edition, recapping everything that went on in the lovely Hanseatic city. This week we'll give you an overview of the event and a few highlights from some of the Working Groups. Next week (October edition), we'll cover more of the Working Groups, and some of the fun (and productive) activities that were engaged in (including the excellent C7 Dinner, kindly hosted by Trimble).
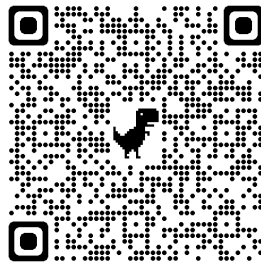
Digital Transformation for Responsible Land Administration
FIG Commission 7 & 2 Annual Meeting 2023
2-4 October 2023, Deventer

1. Overview

The FIG Commission 7 Annual Meeting ran from 2-4 October 2023, in Deventer, The Netherlands. It was the largest face-to-face C7 since the pandemic. It was a combined event with our good friends from Commission 2. In numbers:

- **3**-day technical program
- **16** sessions
- **4** keynote sessions
- **45** full or abstracted papers
- **113** attendees
- **27** countries represented
- **2** excursions / field visits
- **2** awesome co-organisers
- **4** excellent sponsors

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2. Opening Session

The event was kicked-off with opening addresses from **Ms. Diane Dumashie**, President FIG; **Mr. Frank Tierhoff**; Director, Kadaster Netherlands; and **Freek van der Meer**, Rector, ITC Faculty, University of Twente. Weaving a touch of history into their addresses, all three spoke of the importance of cadastre and land management in the Netherlands, but also the important role the Netherlands has played in the global

development of the cadastral and land management domains. The need to work together as a fellowship was highlighted as key. The long-standing and close bonds between the hosts, ITC and Kadaster, was shown as nice example. The global challenges of climate change response and SDGs achievement require collaboration and pragmatism: surveyors can deliver both. The opening addresses were followed by a great keynote from Chief Strategist at Kadaster, **Dr. Martin Salzmann**. An overview of the recent strategic changes occurring in Kadaster was provided, including the recent total operational redesign, to ensure the business was both data-driven and responsive to contemporary customer needs. The impact of decreasing citizen trust, cybersecurity concerns, and the digital divide were highlighted. There were many lessons here for other national cadastral and national mapping agencies.

3. Land Administration Education (Working Group 7.7)

Let's hear from some of the Working Groups. One of the key features of the event was unpacking the fusion between education and practice. Land Administration education is at the cross-roads. In more developed contexts, renewal is needed, as professional associations struggle to attract and train professionals. In emerging contexts, the challenge is lack of available resources and staff to do the training. One challenge is that education and training pathways vary greatly across countries. There is high fragmentation. This means less visibility for school leavers.

Working with C2, WG 7.7 is recommitting to develop a global guide for land administration curriculum and review the state of play of land administration curriculum globally – seeking to identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for global awareness and advocacy. Led by **A/Prof. Simon Hull** out of Capetown University, South Africa, with great from **Grazyna Wiejak-Roy**, and **Royal Mabakeng**, the C7/C2

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AM included a full session in the regular program, and a full 1-day program at the new building of the ITC Faculty, Enschede, for this WG. From Simon:

"We had a full session on day 2 (Tuesday) with 5 presentations squeezed into one hour. Presentations included discussions around accreditation, defining land administration, a global survey on land surveying education, cadastral and land administration in Nordic countries, and the launch of the abridged version of the GLTN structured knowledge base for responsible land administration by Stig Enemark."

"On day 3 (Wednesday) we travelled to the new ITC campus in Enschede where we presented a SWOT analysis on the structured knowledge base prepared by several working group members. A panel discussion followed as Jaap Zevenbergen, Stig Enemark and Royal Mabakeng responded to some of the points raised in the SWOT. Dimo Todorovski and Simon Hull concluded with presentations on how they have used modules 4 and 1 of the structured knowledge base in their teaching."

"Overall, this was a successful 'launch' of the LA Education working group and we look forward to more involvement and further engagements to come."

You can check-out the full workplan for Working Group 7.7 here:
https://www.fig.net/organisation/comm/7/workplan_23-26.asp#7.7

Want to get involved? Email Simon Hull simon.hull@uct.ac.za

4. Digital Transformation for Integrated Land Administration (Working Group 7.6)

What is W7.6 all about? Well, we always hear that sustainable land management demands integrated land tenure, cadastre, and land use planning – both the data and the processes (check out Stig Enemark's well known 'Land management paradigm'). But does this really happen in practice? At the same time, digital transformation reshapes our everyday lives and land administration processes.

Led by **Dr. Claudia Lindner**, WG 7.6 takes up the challenge and explores, if and how, digital transformation improves the integration of land management and administration. Working with C8, the team will

reimagine what 'integration' really means, discuss relevant practices within countries, and explore emerging tools/techniques. From Claudia:

"We're looking back on a really interesting session during the Annual Meeting in Deventer, with presentations from i) Spain, about the current landscape of land management and land administration in that country; ii) Nepal, on the development of a geoportal supporting the Nepal government to streamline data management; iii) Poland, where we had a discussion about the management of allotment gardens in Warsaw; and iv) the Netherlands, on the use of innovative technology to register solar parks in the Netherlands.

These are great early inputs into our planned publication on this topic of digital transformation and integrated land management. I invite all C7 members and friends to have a look at the event website to get more insights about the presentations.

If you didn't manage to be in Deventer, you still have the chance to share your thoughts on digital transformation and its potential for integrating land administration and land use planning. Have a quick look at the mentimeter which is still online until October 24th...don't hesitate, it only takes you 5min! Your input is highly appreciated and will help to shape future activities of WG 7.6 👉"

5. 11ᵗʰ International Workshop on LADM/3D Land Administration, Sweden

Ok, enough on the C7 Annual Meeting for now. We'll come back to that next time. Meanwhile, another C7 support event took place the following week: The 11ᵗʰ **3D LA/LADM International Workshop**, in Gävle, Sweden 11-13 October. The event drilled deep into the developments happening around the ISO LADM renewal, including 3D-ization of cadastres (also included in the LADM renewal). Be sure to check out the **Website:** http://www.gdmc.nl/3dcadastres/workshop2023/

6. Fully Funded Training from the G20 Global Land Initiative

Finally, our good friends at the G20 Global Land Initiative have kindly alerted us to a fully funded training program that the G20 GLI is offering to international participants on land restoration and the application of GIS/Remote sensing. Check out the details here:

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=BdnXQYuTiUa13UtyAnjvC6nk_UicT35Btk17ki8aNJx UQ0syR0ZFVEZRTjMwRUpSM1JLVUE2Ujg2My4u&web=1&wdLOR=cC124443D-1316-0A43-966C-C4F509E56A1D

Or, contact the excellent Iyenemi Kakulu on ikakulu@unccd.int