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FIG COMMISSION 7

Cadastre & Land Management

Brief report Working Week Cairo 16-21 April 2005 regarding Commission 7 issues

Paul van der Molen, chair Comm 7, personal impression

At the occasion of the joint week of FIG and GSDI, extra attention was paid to SDI and land administration. The scene was set by plenary session 2, where Paul Munro Faure (FAO), Clarissa Augustinus (HABITAT) and Dorine Burmanje (new CEO Dutch Cadastre) spoke about the need for SDI's (including information about tenure, value and use of land), as a prerequisite for both developing (with a focus on pro poor land management) and developed countries (with a focus on the improvement of the performance of the government).

These themes were further elaborated in TS1, where became clear that meeting these demands is not only a matter of creating infrastructural facilities as a legal and technical tool, but also as a matter of reorganization of the government's information infrastructure (Williamson, Tuladhar, van der Molen). Enemark and Parker also put emphasis on the role of land administration and capacity building, even that land administration people should take the lead in these developments.

Although land administration systems can be considered as a building block for SDI's, the systems should meet their functions in society. For example regarding the upgrading of informal settlements (TS19 with Comm 8) and the relation between the lack of land administration and social exclusion (Mia Flores), and through better cooperation with the private sector (Radwan), but also how the land market might be hampered if there is too much security of tenure (Cowap). Land markets will determine the agenda for future land administration research (Williamson). Ploeger proposed to introduce an euro-title to land as a response to the ideas about euro-hypothèques. Lemmen showed a direct relationship between the strategic objectives and the choice of IT tools, in the case of Serbia. Therefore technological aspects are important, and in e.g. TS11 there was much attention to cadastral modeling. Zevenbergen, Kholoud Saad, Johnson, and Lemmen illustrated the development of the core cadastral domain model, while also aspects of cadastral boundary surveying were dealt with in TS 39 with interesting presentations of Elfrick on how to manage GIS with only the dimensions of boundaries, Silayo on low cost technologies. Barry reported about the talking titler project, where videotapes are used as evidence for boundaries. Gabele and Vanderschueren gave a good overview about the developments in Belgium, where all these strategic and IT aspects are taken into account in a impressive reorganization and development. The multi use of land, which is a government policy in a growing amount of countries, requires possibly a 3D land registration and cadastre. Nice examples were provided by Ploeger (about USA), Eriksson (about Sweden), and Oskó (Hungary). Finally I would like to pay a compliment to our Egyptian colleagues, as they presented well appreciated papers during various sessions.