

Briefing Paper from Commission 8
FIG Regional Working Jakarta 3rd- 7th October 2004
Surveying the Future- Contributions to Economic, Environmental and Social Development

A successful regional week hosted by the Indonesian National co ordinating agency for surveys and mapping (Bakosurtanal) and co sponsored by the UN and its agencies FAO, UNEP and UN Habitat was held in Jakarta. Over 300 attended including over 100 Internationals from 33 countries.

The conference theme paralleled Commission 8 goals. Spatial development planning has a people focus being set at the junction between technology, people and place. It is a process that facilitates communicating the increasingly sophisticated technological tools into a language that people can understand, use and be heard.

Comm 8 technical sessions were characterised by cross commission discussions. We heard from practioners and academics dealing with:

- Community lifestyles (urban/ rural as well as western/ developing country)
- Capacity building (technological, infrastructure, participation)
- Crisis both pro active and reactive (disaster management), and
- Remediation.

The specialist commission 8 session (TS4), was held on the first day - Spatial planning and the community. Building on the opening speech made by President Prof Magel, the focus was on questioning what we could do to make the world a better place in the future. The synergy of our activities in planning development with the community is clear, with two presentations from Korea and Fiji. The latter contribution illustrated long-term community based activities as well as fully integrating environmental and development needs. With case study evidence the message was that talking must now move along the 'Road' to community implementation. Following on from this empirical presentation the next focussed on the theoretical. The Korean paper examined the linkage of community capacity assessment information to spatial asset mapping as a means to strengthen sustainable community socio economic development. It presented the early thinking of an approach which, it is hoped will be developed further.

Joint technical sessions were held with:

Comm 7, 8 & 10 (TS1)- Land administration and Informal Housing – the tenure and spatial planning link was ably presented by Hungary that recognised the complexities of registration within informal settlements, particularly when seeking to embrace spatial planning. This theme is also currently being considered by WG 8.3. Using as a case study Kibera slum, Nairobi, which is believed to be the largest populated informal settlement in Africa with circa 1.9 million residents, the scale of the problem of governance management of informal areas was demonstrated; it is hard enough when city development is formalised! Finally the customary land theme, existing in Indonesia, showed how economic purpose is incorporated into the cadastre code post colonisation.

Comm 7 & 8 (TS7) – Urban and Rural Land management- Highlighting Comm 8 input into rural planning. This session is of particular interest to both the UK as well as East European surveyors audience due to the impact of decreasing agriculture activities as leisure becomes more pronounced in the countryside.

The first paper, divided into two themes, was a very comprehensive delivery first of the development of rural land administration in the UK described thought provokingly in the context of Maslow's hierarchy of 7 needs (1943). Providing insights into organisational challenges facing the land manager, the experience of Foot and Mouth disease and the resulting wholesale closure of the countryside for ALL business, not just farming and demonstrating the interdependency on the wider business community. The next theme described another round of government administrative changes merging the functions of recreation, agriculture, environment and rural sectors together into a single agency, to be formalised in 2006. No doubt there will be more interesting lessons to learn from this!

The Australian presentation provided a fresh methodological approach to appraisal by the use of a forensic assessment matrix – to benchmark value, which allows site specific adjustments to be made. Following this a UK case study demonstrated lessons learnt from City housing development of three discrete areas in Sheffield illustrating the experiences how theory and practice diverge in respect of creating affordable housing and mixed social profiles and/ or balanced communities. Finally, two technical presentations, first from Hungary offered an explanation of the Geoinformation systems that should be developed for supporting planning work and decisions at all levels. Second, bringing the session back to Asia, the case study of land subsidence issues in Jakarta metropolitan area was highlighted with the emphasise that vertical data are essential in order to support spatial planning in the area in the present and future.

The high profile WG on Disaster and Risk management (WG 8.4) held an ambitious programme starting with a technical session TS16 followed by a case study session later that same afternoon (TS19) reminding the audience that Indonesia is placed in the 'ring of fire' a high disaster risk zone. In the presentations prevention and reactive needs were visualised both two and three dimensionally based on work in Europe but which has applicable principles to world disaster situations. Detailed issues were also raised in connection with flood disasters with an outline of a disaster risk management cycle model. Kenya presentation prompted the need for proactive preparation in Nairobi but highlighted the challenges of achieving this. The following day, an open meeting of the WG was held, which is working well and now has a web site, link via www.FIG.net.

Commission 8 activity concluded with an administrative meeting where new comers interested in the commission's activities were welcomed. We look forward to their continue involvement both in the current term, but also the next term.

Ideas and issues for the next working plan period were discussed and will be re initiated next year in Cairo. But a strong theme that emerged from this week is the growing awareness for different approaches to capacity building, a thought seeded by Prof Stig Enimark. Comm 8 input could be consider in the next working plan.

In conclusion, perhaps the overriding lesson learnt for our own commission this week is that in our deliberations to seek ways to balance the competing three pillars of sustainability, it is important to recognise the local context, but also understanding the lessons from around the world. Solutions will be based in the strength of multiple country ideas contributed by Comm 8 delegates as well as cross commission work.

All papers from this conference as well as those presented in Marrakech (Dec 03) and Athens (June 04) are available in a new web based library administered by FIG central office. It is known as the FIG Surveyors Reference Library and provides access to the full spread of knowledge presented.

Dr D Dumashie Chair Commission 8/ Oct 04.