

**Report to the 28th General Assembly
FIG Working Week in Cairo, April 2005**

**Co-operation with the United Nations and Its Agencies
April 2003–May 2004**

1. General

The FIG has an active and long standing relationship with a wide range of United Nations agencies including the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the World Trade Organization (WTO), UNESCO, the World Bank and a range of regional United Nations organizations like the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (and its Working Party on Land Administration), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, as well as United Nations sponsored organizations such as the Permanent Committee for GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP), the Permanent Committee on SDI for the Americas (PC-IDEA). During the year a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs (UN OOSA) was signed in Vienna in December 2004.

2. UN Co-operation Network

The UN Co-operation Network has worked under the chairmanship of President Magel. The members of this network are Stig Enemark (Denmark), Gerhard Muggenhuber (Austria), Matt Higgins (Australia) and Willi Zimmermann (Germany/Cambodia).

3. Activities in 2004

2nd World Urban Forum, Barcelona, Spain, September 2004

FIG had good participation at the 2nd World Urban Forum in Barcelona in September 2004 where President Magel, Vice President Schroth, Diane Dumashie, Chair of Commission 8 and the Director represented FIG. The Marrakech Declaration was launched at this conference with good response. In addition FIG was represented in one of the dialogues. FIG had also good presentation in another parallel event which was organised by the Habitat Professionals Forum. At this session FIG was represented by President Magel and Timo Härmälä from Finland.

At the Steering Committee meeting of the Habitat Professionals Forum President Magel was elected as the new chair of the Forum following Dr. Irene Wiese – von Ofen who had chaired the Forum from the very beginning. It was also agreed that the secretariat of the Forum will be taken care by FIG.

Habitat Day 2004 in Nairobi and in Geneva

Rob Mahoney represented FIG at the celebrations of the Habitat Day 2004. The theme of the day was urban-rural inter-relationship and therefore the presentation of the Marrakech Declaration was well recognised.

Jürg Kauffman represented FIG on the same day in a special round table discussion in Geneva.

UN / FIG / PC IDEA Special Forum in Aguascalientes, Mexico, October 26-27, 2004

As a result of a resolution at the Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas held in January 2001 in New York, a Special Forum was hosted by the Government of Mexico through INEGI at their headquarters in Aguascalientes on 26 and 27 October 2004 with a theme of “*The Development of Land Information Policies in the Americas*”. The result of the conference is the Aguascalientes Statement and a report that has been published in the FIG publication series. The Forum was organised by John Parker and Stig Enemark.

Expert Group Meeting on Secure Land Tenure: New Legal Frameworks and Tools, UN-Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya, 10–12 November 2004

Many Commissions have also been active with the United Nations. As an example especially the Expert Group Meeting on Secure Land Tenure organised by Commission 7 in Nairobi in November should be mentioned. The description on commissions’ UN activities are included in their respective reports.

UN/USA International Meeting on the Use and Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS), United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, December 13-17, 2004

President Magel and Matt Higgins, Chair of Commission 5 attended UN/USA International Meeting on the Use and Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS), United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, December 13-17, 2004. During the meeting the MoU between FIG and UN OOSA was signed. Report of the meeting: http://www.fig.net/news/news_2004/vienna_dec_2004.htm . Matt Higgins is also the FIG representative in the UN Action Team.

Others

We are delighted to see that several UN agencies co-sponsored the 3rd FIG Regional Conference in Jakarta in October 2004. These include UNEP, FAO and UN-Habitat. The co-operation at this level seems to become a tradition but unfortunately the level of participation was this time lower than at the previous two conferences.

Keith Bell from the World Bank attended the Regional Conference in Jakarta becoming also the new focal point in the WB to FIG. At the conference also a new concept of introducing WB’s projects at the FIG events was introduced. A plan of a longer term co-operation is under preparation and will be completed during 2005.

5. Future activities

President Magel will participate to the 20th Session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council in May in Nairobi representing both FIG and the Habitat Professionals Forum as the chair of the Forum.

FIG will play a central role at the UN Regional Cartographic Conference for Americas in New York in June 2005. At this meeting the report and Aguascalientes Statement will be presented to the UN.

FIG is also planning to participate the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis in November 2005.

February 2005