

FIG Working Week Stockholm

Uniting the Generations

The FIG Working Week held at the Stockholm City Conference Centre in Sweden just before midsummer night was the biggest ever. Young surveyors were very much in evidence and mentoring sessions brought the generations together. FIG wants to mobilise the next generation of land professionals and continue to develop innovative and transitional solutions to address global inequality in land and property ownership and tenure.

By Markku Villikka, Denmark, Rob Mahoney, United Kingdom, and Christiaan Lemmen, Netherlands

Jointly hosted by the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and the centenary celebrating Swedish Association of Chartered Surveyors (Sveriges Lantmätareförening, SLF), the theme 'Integrating Generations' lined up with the overall FIG theme of Building the Capacity'. The conference and exhibition was supported by the National Land Survey of Sweden (Lantmäteriet) and Swedesurvey.

Opening Ceremony

FIG is a global assembly aimed at building bridges between ages, cultures and continents. Integrating the younger generation is key; they should not only give a new

look to FIG but also contribute to solving the issues of our time; surveying is the backbone of society. President Stig Enemark during the opening ceremony described how FIG had tied the ribbon between older generations and the one "that changed the world from analogue to digital and takes digital media for granted". But, he continued, "work needs to be done in many countries". And in his closing address he repeated, "We must mobilise the next generation of land professionals." Swedish Minister for the Environment Andreas Carlgen told the meeting how land and property underpinned the Swedish economy, and in developing countries legal em-

powerment of the poor was required to support property ownership; information systems were needed to circumvent a guessing game. "You (FIG) have such an important key role to play, to combat environmental threat, to combat poverty and slums, and to support the development of this globe and its cities." The focus of attention for FIG's ten Commissions showed how land professionals could contribute to solutions from a broad perspective.

UN-Habitat

FIG is strongly committed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the UN-Habitat agenda on the Global Land Tool Network. Dr Anna Tibaijuka, UN under-secretary-general and executive director of UN-Habitat in her invited keynote reminded people that the world was becoming more urban. Cities were not prepared for the new influx, and the challenge was to guide urbanisation. The urban poor would be able to contribute US\$20 billion annually to improving their own living conditions, leaving US\$5 billion to come from other sources, currently contributing just US\$2 billion. She drew attention to the fact that only 10% of land parcels were registered; in many areas, land rights of the poor are based on customary rights not legally recognised yet socially legitimate, and only 5% of registered land is owned by women. She noted that individual freehold titling was not always appropriate, for reasons including cost of adjudication, high technical standards, expensive registration and transfer fees, and literacy requirements. She observed that the development of new land tools, such as the FIG Land Administration Domain Model, allowed for the registration of customary forms of tenure and overlapping land rights and claims. Dr Tibaijuka announced a two-year agreement



Andreas Carlgren, Swedish Minister for the Environment, opens the proceedings; honorary president Carl-Olof Ternryd (left) and Cecilia Lindén, chair, young surveyors group.

