

# CADASTRE IN A DIGITAL WORLD – NORDIC & GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Bergen, Norway 24 – 28 September 2018

## Summary of International Seminar

### Global Context of Surveyor

- Global agenda is primarily about poverty alleviation and many of the SDGs will not be achieved without global solutions to insecurity of tenure and associated improvements in land governance, land management and land administration. Surveyors are in the middle of this challenge.
- Surveyors need to know how they are connected and support the SDGs.
- FFP Land Administration is at the heart of surveyors' response to the global agenda and security of tenure must increase from 30% to 80% by 2030.
- Building a sustainable future is about good land governance.
- However, this requires much better coordination amongst the UN agencies, AID organisations and NGOs to deliver solutions at scale.

### Developing Role of Surveyor

- What is the developing role of the surveyor in this brave new world?
- Are professionals ready and students trained to cope with these new challenges?
- I would say no.
- There is a need to redefine the role of the surveyor and associated training and skills required and make it more attractive to a new generation.
- We heard:
  - Role in SDGs
  - Community builders and problem solvers
  - Need to bring new professionals to the table, economists, data scientists.....
  - Keep relevant with policy makers
  - Make sense of challenges, build community to solve
  - Work in partnership (citizens, other professionals) – location intelligence
  - Move up the food chain
  - Responsible Land Administration – new curriculum (David Mitchell) – also need NSDI curriculum
  - Time for professionals to change – too long

### FIG

- The FIG engagement strategy needs to change. The current technical language is inappropriate for politicians and policy makers. FIG needs to engage more effectively with the UN agencies and global NGOs. Albanian WB project we used economists to convert our arguments into a language politicians / decision makers could understand.
- FIG needs a framework to connect to the SDGs and make a clear statement to members and partners.
- There are many professional associations operating in the geospatial domain – ISPRS, ICA, IAG... and they have remits that considerably overlap. I look at the increasing importance of satellite imagery, point clouds and believe that it would be good to combine with ISPRS. Is it time to reform and consolidate the professional associations?

## Foreign Aid in Land Sector

- The seminar highlighted the role and different approaches of Foreign Aid agencies in supporting land administration agencies worldwide. The legacy of these projects can unfortunately leave unsustainable projects behind. A good example is Rwanda following the implementation of FFP Land Administration project where the land records are no longer being maintained. These types of projects require new, innovative approaches to financing and capacity development.

## Geospatial Technology

- World Bank Guide - New Technology and Emerging Trends: The State of Play for Land Administration
- We heard about Digital Transformation that is an exciting and challenging journey – especially with exponential technological development.
- We are building a digital twin to reality – and they are quickly coming closer together.
- Harun Farocki, a German film-maker who made “Parallel I-IV” just before he died in 2014, predicted of online culture that “Reality will soon cease to be the standard by which to judge the imperfect image. Instead, the virtual image will become the standard by which to measure the imperfections of reality.”
- I’m feeling more comfortable about our underlying technology solutions. Rather than separate solutions on desktop... APIs and SADKs.... They are now Integrated and provide a complete solution within a service oriented architecture.
- This provides a powerful decision support environment with open and interoperable data.
- Alongside GIS professionals, a new group around location intelligence has emerged with simple tools on-line and in the cloud.
- Integration of GIS and BIM is gaining momentum as demonstrated by the Crossrail project in London.

## Nordic Land Registration and Cadastral Solutions

### Norway

- Really surprised by the poor quality of the cadastre in Norway. But is the status quo considered to be FFP? The land market still works.
- Why don’t the Norwegian politicians modernise the cadastral system? People like the status quo because it provides a monopoly for Municipalities?
- Once you start with a certain solution, it is very hard to introduce systemic change.
- Maybe need economists to build a business case for change.

### Sweden

- Over the last 3 decades We have always looked to Sweden as best practice in delivering land administration services. However, competition for resources across the public and private sectors and the arrival of the millennials in the workforce has created a capacity crisis.
- This has highlighted the issue of how we attract the new generation of millennials to our profession and how do we engage with them with their high mobility?

### Finland

- The Fins are not complacent and are closely monitoring the effectiveness of their solution and continuously adapting and improving. Land administration solutions need to constantly evolve and ensure that they deliver the needs of the end users.
- Need to ensure that land administration is interoperable with the ecosystems and networks across government agencies.

## Denmark

- Their investment in key or core registers is paying dividends.
- The relationship and roles between public and private sectors also appears to be effective.

## **FFP Land Administration**

- FFP Land Administration is at the heart of surveyors' response to the global agenda and is the only scalable solution to solve insecurity of tenure globally.
- Surveyors need to embrace and promote FFP land administration.
- Surveyors also need to create a new relationship and partnership with citizens to participate in delivering security of tenure.
- This a big change in mind-set for land professionals.

## **Top five takeaways:**

1. A capacity crisis is emerging across our profession. We need to rethink how we sell our profession and attract and retain millennials.
2. We need to be more effective at explaining and publicising our role and value add to society. – property social functions.
3. Need to more fully integrate our information into wider information infrastructures to support better decision making on land.
4. Mature and complete land administration solutions are not the end game – solutions need continuous review and improvement to ensure they meet the increasingly challenging needs of the end users.
5. FFP land administration is the scalable solution for reducing insecurity of tenure worldwide.

Robin McLaren  
September 2018