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**The FIG Marrakech Declaration –
A vision and challenge to shape the future of Urban Rural Interrelationships**

Abstract

The Marrakech Declaration [FIG Publication 33] was the major outcome of the 2nd FIG Regional Conference “Urban-Rural Interrelationship for Sustainable Environment”, held in Marrakech, Morocco, December 2003. The Declaration was subsequently launched at two important events: the 2nd World Urban Forum in Barcelona, September, 2004 and the UN Habitat Inter-regional Conference on Strategies for Enhancing Rural-Urban Linkages Approach to Development and Promotion of Local Economic Development in Nairobi, October 2004. The Marrakech Declaration addresses a specific topic of global interest and importance and supports FIG’s aims as a Non Government Organisation (NGO) to contribute to the United Nation’s millennium goals of building a more sustainable, just and peaceful world.

The interrelationship between the Urban and Rural environments is one of the most important and complex issues that needs to be globally addressed today. The Marrakech Declaration is a significant document designed to define ways that professionals, governments and the public and private sectors can work together to address the complex and interrelated issues of Institutional and Governance Concepts; Infrastructure and Land & Natural Resources; together with Capacity Building and Change Management. The Declaration is intended to support politicians, senior managers, professional organizations and decision makers in their efforts to enable a balanced coexistence of a sustainable nature and a liveable habitat. The Declaration recognises that these issues can not be solved in isolation and the declaration is intended to contribute to the holistic vision required to bring about improvements in the urban-rural interrelationship.

This key note presentation will address the issues associated with the Marrakech Declaration and its implementation together with the vision for the future in solving the burning issues of urban-rural relationships.



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Short biographical notes

Rob studied Land Surveying at the Polytechnic of the South Bank, and is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the British Cartographic Society.

1977 - 1988 Project Manager - British Gas
Key role in the development and introduction of GIS technology.

1988 – 2006 Director – Business Information Management
Rob has been engaged on a wide variety of successful national and international projects in the management of land information and land registration, together with the associated technologies and business processes.

2006 - present Principal - MahGeo
Provision of independent consultancy to significant international projects.

Selection of current representation:

Chairman of RICS Faculties and Forums Board

Member of RICS International Governing Council

Past Chair of RICS Geomatics Faculty

UK Representative to Comité de Liaison des Géomètres Européens (CLGE)

Member of FIG Commission 3

Member of UK Government Geographic Information Panel