

**Report to the 33rd General Assembly
FIG Congress in Sydney, Australia 2010**

FIG Commission 8 – Spatial Planning and Development

Report of Activities 2009

1. General

2009 has been an active and collaborative year for Commission 8. During this report period the Commission has made significant strides to address land development and spatial planning issues confronting our profession both at the strategic level but also supporting the individual surveyor at the local level. We have achieved this by having a parallel emphasis on delivering technical platforms for our commission delegates in the member countries that we have visited and by championing poverty alleviation at the strategic global level.

The big global challenges have each been addressed by the Commission over the last year. Reflecting thoughts that the economic and spatial surveyors role contributes towards social justice, economic growth and environmental sustainability, demonstrated by our activities covering the themes:

Partnerships between People

Facilitating social partnerships at strategic level, i.e. the global commons is likely to be an increasing emphasis for the coming generations as new ways to organise society are found. Over the past 12 months, the commission's debates regularly highlights that Land Professionals do have the technical capacity to manage the emerging problems of the day, with solutions likely to be based through partnership.

Commission 8 activities demonstrably highlights that it is the surveyor responsibility to overcome the politics of resources; but also the politics of people. Surveyors as change agents can inform governance decision makers of the technical merits of a proposed way forward, but we also understand and communicate the balance of people's agendas.

Environmental Resilience

Given the increasing pressure of protecting our environment the contribution and focus arising from people and planning for environmental adaptations, as a multi-stage process, has enabled us to deliver strong technical sessions, underscored by the technical session here in Sydney. The message is clear that with so many instances of inefficient use of land and other resources, there is a need for action to change policy. Commission 8 emerging work in planning for energy resource and land gives an opportunity to take this forward into the next FIG term.

Societal balance

Land governance problems are clearly located at the intersection of the century's greatest development challenges, Urbanisation and Climate change. These issues and how they relate to People and Places are central issues for Commission 8. The discussions have often centred around economic development and spatial planning in a range of forums covering infrastructure, climate and disaster risk associated with urbanisation and informal settlements. In particular, a key component of the special session on SIDS to be held during the congress in Sydney, was coordinated by Commission 8 with significant help from delegates and member association in Fiji, New Zealand and Australia.

Finally, it is a great pleasure that Mr. Wafula Nabutola (Kenya) is appointed Chair Elect. He will be taking up the Chairman's role wef January 2011. A debate will progress the formation of new working groups in the Commission meeting at the Sydney Congress on Sunday 11th April 2010.

2. Working Groups

As anticipated the working group activity differs in emphasis in each year. This term has been no different with outputs delivered in a variety of ways.

Working Group 8.2 – Informal Settlements: Issues in Spatial Land Planning

Chair: Dr. Diane Dumashie (United Kingdom)

Following the re-election of Dr. Dumashie to chair of the commission, significant efforts were made to identify a new vice chair. But events overtook these efforts in part this is due to the time period remaining, but also due to the success of the activities of the working group over the last 6 years.

This group's work has positively resulted in a mandate from FIG Council to scale up its activities through the auspices of a Task force concentrating on Africa over the period 2011-14. An update on this Task force is presented at the General Assembly.

Working Group 8.4 – Urban Planning Coastal Regions

Chair: Isaac Boateng (United Kingdom)

Starting as a cross-commission this WG focus on coastal change is developing in several directions.

Foremost, it continues active dialogue with Commission 4 in the WG technical meetings. But also, a specific focus has emerged on the adaptation, planning of marine administration in coastal development. The inter-disciplinary approach is likely to be taken forward into the next FIG term, but this year the expected output is a publication.

Drawing from worldwide case studies contributed by members and some technical papers from Commission 8 delegates in the working weeks, the publication will focus on planning, administering and developing the coastal zones in the face of climate change and associated change in sea level. It also addresses 'land' challenges posed by issues in the coastal zone.

Other Working Groups

The richness of the case study information presented in the technical sessions often contributes to the WG agenda, and reflects our members' locality. The following WG's subjects have been supported by papers delivered this at the FIG Working week (Israel) in May 2009 and Regional Week (Vietnam) in October 2009.

- WG 8.1 – Planning Strategy for Urban Development and Regeneration
- WG 8.3 – Re-engineering of Mega Cities

3. Co-operation

The working agenda has been progressed by liaising with numerous international agencies, NGOs and member organisations as well as encouraging cross-Commission involvement. In particular commission 8 held its annual meetings at each FIG working week, and ensuring its deliberations are accessible to members by posting the minutes on the Commission's web site.

Cross-Working with Other Commissions

Commission 8 is involved in cross-Commission activities particularly during the working weeks and regional networking events including:

- Promoting cross-technical sessions in a range of subjects with Commissions 3, 4, 7 and 9.
- Active involvement in with Commissions 4 through working group 8.4.

Connectivity with Sister Organisations

Commission 8 continues to foster and hold strong relationships with other land professional groups such as the Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE). During this year, we have built on the previous successes.

Commission regional meeting was scheduled in February 2010, in tandem with the Ghana Institute of Surveyors. This seminar progresses the working group activities but also contributes to the up and coming African Taskforce; its first theme planning for infrastructure that focuses on environmental and planning issues

Collaboration with UN

Commission 8 has engaged with a range of UN Organisations including:

- Chair and members invited to attend and contribute to the FAO consultation meeting for the Private Sector on the Draft Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Land and Natural Resources. Mr. Kwame Tenadu (Ghana) and Dr. Diane Dumashie (UK) attended.
- Chair invited to attend and deliver a paper at the World Bank/ FIG seminar in March 2009 presenting one of the Commission's key themes Coastal Communities. This was an extremely successful event with an overview expected from FIG Council this year
- Chair and members have continued to actively engaged throughout the year with the GLTN Secretariat by working with the LTPAS section, and

- Vice chair participated in a Rights Workshop – an ingenious approach to gaining empirical evidence. A way to look at problems through case study and to achieve solutions.
- Chair reviewed and provided technical assistance to GLTN and its partner the Huairou Commission Grassroots organisation. The Huairou pilots were testing the Gender Land Tool Evaluation instrument in three countries (Ghana, Brazil and Nepal). The outcome will be debated at the World Urban Forum held in Rio (Brazil) in March 2010.

4. Future Activities

Looking at the year 2010, the commission's activity continues with networking and professional development across the globe in Ghana, Sydney, France and Kenya.

Dr. Diane Dumashie

Chair of FIG Commission 8

January 2010

Website: www.fig.net/commission8