

The 2001 FIG Commission 7 Annual Conference took place in Gävle, Sweden and was organised by the Swedish Association of Surveyors in association with Swedesurvey AB. Fifty representatives from twenty-eight countries attended the five-day conference

The conference was organised in conjunction with an International Symposium “Reforming and Benchmarking Cadastres - Measuring the Success” opened by DG Joakim Ollen, Lantmateriverket, and coincided with a meeting of UNECE Working Party on Land Administration.

Opening the Conference, Stig Jonsson, Deputy Director-General of the National Land Survey of Sweden, welcomed delegates and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to provide Swedish surveyors with the opportunity to involve themselves in wider international issues. He stressed the importance of Cadastre 2014 in defining future developments and commended FIG 7 on its successful record of collaboration with UN and other organisations.

Paul Munro-Faure (Chair) responded by assuring Mr Jonsson that the delegates were looking forward to seeing Swedish land management systems in operation and to the successful completion of a busy work programme. He added his personal welcome to delegates, old and new, emphasising the importance of continuity of attendance in pursuing the Commission’s business programme.

The main conference objectives were to take stock of progress achieved by the Commission's formal work-groups, to take development work forward and to define work programmes for the coming year.

1. Meeting Reports

Delegates reported that Commission 7 had been very active over the past year, contributing to a wide range of FIG and external organisations meetings.

2. Working Group Reports

The working group chairs updated delegates on progress since last year’s Hamburg meeting and a number of break-out sessions took place during the week in which work-in-progress was further developed and future work programmes agreed. The focus was on ensuring completion of committed work programmes by the end of the year and the identification of themes for the submission of papers for the Washington Congress in April 2002.

3. Reports from national delegates

Delegates from each country gave presentations updating conference on the current state of progress on projects and current/future issues within their own jurisdictions. These included:

- Establishment of cadastral databases
- Developments in digital graphic cadastres
- Integration of Cadastre and Title Information
- Developments in Service Provision
- Roles and Status of Surveyors within different jurisdictions
- Electronic conveyancing
- Management issues
- Land Consolidation
- Legislative changes
- Impacts of political situations

Paul van der Molen identified the following potential major issues for inclusion in the work programme:

- *Land administration in customary and informal areas.* - how to facilitate the implementation of land policy with a focus on customary areas and to support the formalisation of informal settlements
- *Avoiding land fragmentation* - how can we avoid land fragmentation through land consolidation
- *Institutional Conditions as a critical success factor* - which institutional context is beneficial for successful land administration activity
- *Efficiency and Effectiveness* - how can we measure land administration performance
- *Costs of land administration systems* - how can we provide low cost tools for land administration
- *Appropriate ICT support for modern land administration:*
 - how can we integrate advanced technology in land administration processes
 - how to establish land administration spatial data infrastructures
 - how to integrate 3D rights to land in land administration systems
 - how to extend cadastres towards the marine areas
 - electronic conveyancing
 - land administration standards
- *Capacity Building for land administration* - how can we contribute to capacity building for land administration

It was proposed that Commission 7 should address these issues through various activities including symposia and workshops, delivering lectures, papers and reports and co-operation with FIG Commissions and external organisations

The proposal contemplated the following working group structure:.

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| Working group 1: | Land administration in non statutory environment |
| Working group 2: | Avoiding land fragmentation through land consolidation |
| Working group 3: | Advances in modern land administration |

5. Technical tours

The formal conference business was complemented by a very successful programme of technical tours. These provided an opportunity for delegates to learn about a number of current and developing land management projects.

In Dalarna, Mats Backholm provided a detailed report on the current situation regarding Land Consolidation policy in Sweden and delegates were able to gauge the practical effect by speaking to land owners in a rural village development.

Visits to a cadastral authority office in Mora, and to the National Land Survey operation in Gavle, provided further opportunities to compare the practical application of land administration with policy and development issues in Sweden

6. Social Programme

In addition to the daily conference business, and in true Commission 7 tradition, there was also a busy social schedule. During the week delegates dined as guests of Swedesurvey Lantmateriat and the Municipality of Gavle and also very much enjoyed an evening of bonhomie and

week culminated in a very enjoyable boat trip and Commission 7 Dinner where delegates were able to enjoy traditional Swedish fare until the late hours.

Throughout the conference the outstanding organisation and warm hospitality afforded by Tommy Osterberg, Agneta Ericsson and Gerd Lindroos were very much appreciated by all who attended

BOB ASHWIN
Secretary FIG Commission 7
August 2001