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FIG and its 10 Commissions participate in a broad spectrum of activities that involve the international surveying and geospatial community. The FIG Report vol. II, no.2 is a report on the results of a joint workshop held by FIG Commission 3 (Spatial Information Management) UN/ECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) and UN/ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management (CHLM) held March 28-31, 2007, in Sounio, Greece.



Spatial information management toward legalizing informal urban development and informal settlements—Real estate market needs for good land administration and planning

The workshop focused on informal or unplanned development, a topic of major importance for several countries worldwide. The initiative for this topic originated in a vision identified in the current FIG Commission 3 work plan, announced at the FIG ACCO (Advisory Committee of Commission Officers) meeting, during the FIG Regional Conference in Accra, Ghana, in 2006.

An objective of the FIG Commission 3 work plan is cooperation with international sister organizations. Therefore, a proposal was made to the UN/ECE WPLA Bureau to include this activity as an extra function in its already planned workshop calendar for 2007. The WPLA Bureau, in turn, invited the participation of the UN/ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management.

The local organizers were the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG) and the Hellenic Association of Rural and Surveying Engineers (HARSE). The major sponsor was the Technical Chamber of Greece.

Experts and representatives of sister associations such as Dr. **Gabor Remetey-Fülöpp**, Head of the UN SDI Hungarian Coordination Office and Director of the European Umbrella Organization for Geographic Information (EUROGI) Working and Advisory Group on International Affairs and Secretary of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association, Ms. **Victoria Stanley** from the World Bank, Prof. **Sylvia Martinez** from the Commission for the Legal Empowerment of the Poor, Mr. **Fernando De la Puente Alfaro**, President of the European Land Registry Association, and Mr. **Enrico Campagnoli** from the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI), kindly responded to the invita-



tion made by the local organizers and offered to participate and support the workshop by presenting papers.

In total, 130 distinguished delegates from 42 countries registered to participate in the workshop. The countries represented were Albania (6), Armenia (1), Australia (1), Austria (3), Azerbaijan (4), Belarus (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Bulgaria (1), Canada (1), Croatia (3), Cyprus (4), Czech Republic (2), Denmark (3), France (1), Georgia (4), Germany (5), Greece (32), Iceland (2), Ireland (1), Hungary (1), Iceland (2), Ireland (1), Israel (1), Italy (4), Kosovo (3), Kyrgyz Republic (2), Lebanon (2), Latvia (2), Lithuania (2), the Netherlands (1), New Zealand (1), Nigeria (1), Norway (4), Poland (3), Romania (4), Russia (2), Serbia Montenegro (2), Slovak Republic (1), Spain (3), Sweden (2), Switzerland (3), Turkey (3), UK (3), USA (4).

In addition, twelve Greek officials participated, including several members of the Hellenic Parliament; the representative of the Minister for the



Dr. Gabor Remetey-Tülopp delivering a keynote address

In the two Opening Sessions, welcoming addresses were offered by **Yannis Alavanos**, President of TCG, **Chronis Akritidis**, President of HARSE, Prof. **Stig Enemark**, FIG President, **Kaj Barlund**, UN/ECE CHLM Division Director, Dr. **Chryssy Potsiou**, FIG Commission 3 Chair, **Makis Apostolatos**, FIG Commission 3 Vice Chair of Administration, **Doris Andoni**, UN/ECE CHLM Chair, and **Peter Creuzer**, UN/ECE WPLA Chair.

Keynote speakers were Prof. Stig Enemark, FIG President, **Paul Kelly** Director Spatial Strategies Pty Ltd, and Gabor Remetey, Hungarian National Geographic Information Association (HUNAGI) Secretary General.

Robert W. Foster, FIG Honorary President, **Markku Villikka**, FIG Office Director, **Gerhard Muggenhuber** FIG Commission 3 past chair, **Helge Onsrud**, FIG Commission 3 and WPLA past chair, **Bengt Kjellson**, WPLA past chair, **Elena Szolgayová** past CHLM chair also participated in the workshop.



FIG president Stig Enemark, Dr. Chryssy Potsiou, and Honorary President Robert Foster

Environment Physical Planning and Public Works; the presidents of TCG, HARSE, and the Association of Greek Architects; local mayors; presidents of other professional associations; the President of the School of Rural and Surveyor Engineers of the National Technical University; and the General Secretary of the region of Attika.

The workshop consisted of eight technical sessions (TS), and one plenary session (PS):

- PS: Policy makers for planning and land administration
- TS 1: Technical aspects for informal urban development monitoring and planning control
- TS 2: Necessary tools for good land administration and planning
- TS 3: Informal urban development
- TS 4: Land policies for lower economies
- TS 5: Land tools for planning and property registration
- TS 6: Illegal urban development in the ECE
- TS 7: e Governance - participatory democracy
- TS 8: Urban planning and property registration

Fifty papers were presented in the eight technical sessions, and nine presentations were made in the plenary sessions. The technical program also included a roundtable discussion. The resolutions of the workshop will be available soon. All papers, resolutions, and discussions will be published

in the workshop's final proceedings, which will be published and distributed by the TCG, and on FIG Commission 3's web site.

According to FIG Commission 3 delegates' decisions and common understanding, all papers presented to FIG Commission 3 workshops are considered to be of great value and importance.

To satisfy specific requests, and to bring experts from the private and public sectors and the academic members to jointly address issues of major importance, Commission 3 initiated an optional double blind peer review process for presenters of papers at this workshop.

A number of FIG academic delegates provided peer review of papers as requested by authors. For this and future workshops of Commission 3, reviewers will not review their own papers or papers coming from their own countries; reviewers will be selected according to their expertise in the topic; and papers accepted for peer review shall be the result of original research and shall not have been published previously.

Twelve papers received successful peer review for this workshop. Other papers presented at the workshop may also include original research, information, and ideas, but their authors did not select the peer review process.

Dr. Chryssy Potsiou, Commission 3 Chair and Prof. Yerach Doytsher, Head of the peer review group, will serve as editors for the additional specific publications of the peer reviewed papers.

More information can be found on the conference website: www.psdadm.gr/fig_com3_wpla.htm Additional information about FIG Commission 3 can be found at: www.fig.net/commission3.