

**Report to the 29th General Assembly
FIG Congress in Munich, October 2006**

FIG Commission 8 – Spatial Planning and Development

Report of Activities 2002-2006

1. General

As I complete my tenure, I am pleased to hand over a Commission that has greater geographical diversity in the active member base, together with a good solid foundation plan for further initiatives proposed over the next term.

During the period to 2003, the commission membership has been subject to political, business and social changes which has disrupted and constrained the progress of the commission activities. Consequently activities at the start of this work plan progressed in a haphazard way without clear leadership or direction, but this positively changed with the election of Dr Diane Dumashie as chairman in 2004.

From this date Commission 8 consolidated and built upon the small body of committed active members and focused in the remaining years on collaboration and connectivity. Fundamental to collaboration and connectivity is communication - seeking to increase communication between existing members and raising the profile of the commission by promoting networking opportunities.

How we have achieved this, is outlined in the rest of this report.

2. Achievements

The highlights of the term include:

- Building Bridges with African Region members, such as exploring opportunities with Institute of Kenyan Surveyors to hold a seminar in East African Region during the next term (subject to funding).
- Compiling a CD “Handing over the Baton”, detailing this Terms activities.
- Collaborating and submitting papers from Comm 8 delegates to the ISK journal for publication.
- Building for the future involvement of young professionals, by enabling four Post Graduate students to attend and present top class papers by assisting with registration fees.

2.1. Working Groups

By means of the work plan, Commission 8 stressed that we, as surveyors, share the responsibility for well-functioning cities. Each of the original four WG were tasked to focus on a particular part of the broad working area of Commission 8 and strive to be output oriented. Although our initial working groups had to be reduced, following unavoidable

circumstances arising with key people having to temporarily withdraw from FIG activities, two WG have remained active and produced results:

Working Group 8.3 – Informal Settlements

Formerly, with a focus on global urbanisation process in large cities, this was refocused to a specific topic and expanded to operate as a cross commission WG to identify special problems within informal settlements. It has been possible to work toward an output, by building upon liaison meetings with UN Habitat officers, drawing from case studies and issues raised in papers presented by member delegates at FIG Working and Regional weeks as well as at sister organisation conferences. A WG flyer, for publication, has been produced that sets out a draft position statement to form a working platform to take these issues further forward into the next FIG term.

Working Group 8.4 - Risk Management

This is a high profile group created in December 2003, and linked with UN agencies. It is an important area of focus, as it seeks to highlight the current and future need for research and action. It has successfully continued international cooperation between FIG, UN agencies like UN-Habitat, the International Association of Geodesy and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. The Commission has successfully achieved its aims and fully engaged at all working weeks and regional conferences; with presentations consisting of theory and practice. Communication has been a key comment with the maintenance of a web site, but it aims to present the final published report of its work at the FIG World Congress 2006.

Working group 8.1 and 8.2

As noted above, the final reports for the following working-group are not able to be presented:

- Urban Regeneration and Working Group (8.1), and
- Public Private Partnership (8.2).

2.2. Cooperation

The commission recognises the three pillars of ‘sustainable development’ i.e. balancing the competing development demands associated with economic, social and environmental aspirations; but we also need to adopt a holistic approach to problem solving. This suggests the need to work increasingly with disciplines across FIG’s Commissions, i.e. inter-commission communication, but also working to building strategic partnership alliances is fundamental to achieving commissions mutual goals; accordingly we have striven to foster these working relationships.

With a mandate in 2004, to collaborate, contact, consult and communicate with the membership and our partners, we have:

2.2.1 Communicated with members

Engaged by,

- Disseminating six newsletters, brokering liaison between members, opening up new channels,
- Increasing the number of Commission 8 technical sessions notably at each FIG meeting, to share experiences and learning from case studies, and enhance understanding and knowledge of spatial planning systems.

Held Meetings with,

- Nairobi Central Business District Association, Kenya
- Institution of Surveyors of Kenya (ISK) to explore the potential for a joint Comm 8 and ISK seminar in the next term.
- RICS/ Ghanaian Institute of Surveyors to explore the possibilities of developing and increasing member involvement in the next terms working groups relating to environmental and spatial development topics.

2.2.2 Cross working with Commissions

Our commission activities has a tendency to reflect the over all holistic project management role that land economics and land use skills demands. Clearly, within the Surveying family, there is only a relatively small, but important, amount of people who work exclusively within the specific technical skill base of the spatial use of land (planning, land development and management) as their primary focus. So, we recognise that our members will be drawn from individuals who consider Commission 8 as their secondary interest within the 10 FIG commissions.

This ideally places the commission to work effectively in cross commission activities. Whilst this represents a very good opportunity it will also be a challenge as we find new ways of working.

Commission 8 has successfully co-operated with other commissions by working with Commissions 3, 4 and 7. With agreement to try to work together in the next term, foundations have been laid to continue this working as well as planning for new areas for instance: with Commissions 9 and 10.

2.2.3 Connectivity With Sister organisations

Underlying the importance of working with our sister organisations we have

- Attended, and presented at CASLE Regional Conference, Promoting Sustainable Land Administration in Africa (Bagamoyo, Tanzania March 2006)
- Engaged, with and regular meetings with CASLE Board to discuss further involvement on cross opportunities, including attendance at future Annual General as well as Regional meetings.

2.2.4 Collaboration with UN

We have worked to fulfil our mission aim to increase dialogue with UN partners, and have actively sought to specifically maintain an ongoing dialogue with key players with UN

Habitat organisation. Building on the relationships embodied in the FIG co-operation networks.

We've been in contact in respect of:

- Habitats Forum held in Barcelona, August 2004- attended and reported.
- UN-Habitat Shelter Branch – regular meetings with team members relating to Working groups.
- UN-Habitat Global Campaigns on Urban Governance – participated in questionnaire response on issues relating to developing a new set of products to assist urban stakeholders in improving the quality of governance and security of tenure in cities and towns.
- UN-Habitat Land Governance – meetings with team members focussing on role of Planning input into Governance.

Dr. Diane Dumashie

Chair of FIG Commission 8

July 2006