

Dear Delegates, Correspondents and friends of FIG Commission 7!

At the end of this year which is as well the closing of my term of office as Chair of FIG Commission 7 I will take the opportunity to review about the past 4 years and to extend my sincere thanks to all of you.

One of the main events on the agenda of Commission 7 are the Annual Meetings and international Conferences/Workshops linked to these. Organising such events is sometimes challenging for facing constraints from budget or from personal resources and therefore requests an extraordinary personal engagement of the local organiser. Commission 7 Annual Meetings in the past term were very successful at providing interesting technical programmes and were well attended by an international or/and regional audience. The outreach was far beyond the Commission 7 community.

At this point I want to thank the local organisers and their supporting national institutions/associations behind for having made it possible to happen.

- 😊 **Randolph Camilleri** for having taken responsibility for the 2015 Annual Meeting and Joint Seminar together with Commission 3 in St. Julians/Malta
- 😊 **Virginia Manta** for her commitment to host the 2016 Annual Meeting in Coimbra/Portugal and for having organised a well recognised International Seminar in the surrounding of the meeting
- 😊 **Daniel Páez** for having provided an excellent venue and environment for the Annual Meeting 2017 in Cartagena/Colombia and for having organised a conference for professionals from the region
- 😊 **Leiv Bjarte Mjøs** for preparing a well attended Annual Meeting 2018 in Bergen/Norway and for bringing together colleagues from the Nordic countries in a technical Seminar at the University of Bergen

Each of the Annual Meetings had a focus on topics of one of the four Working Groups of Commission 7 and was strongly supported by the relevant Working Group Chair. However, the involvement of the WG Chairs was far beyond the Annual Meetings in numerous technical conferences and events, either in the role of a co-host or as core organisers of the technical programme. Working on reports, studies and on future developments was among others on the agenda of the WGs.

Special thanks to

- 😊 **Chrit Lemmen/NL** for working on outstanding achievements on the topics of WG 7.1 on Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration and to
- 😊 **Daniel Páez/COL** for taking care for Land Management in Climate Change and Pre- and Post Disaster Areas with his WG 7.2 and to
- 😊 **Robin McLaren/UK** for chairing WG 7.3 on Crowdsourcing of Land Rights and working intensively on findings for future developments on this and to
- 😊 **Gyula Iván/HU** for his engagement as Chair of WG 7.4 on Citizen Cadastre having in mind user needs and the role of the individual.

The Cadastral Template 2.0 has been on the radar of Commission 7 for a long time and has been continuously developed from a simple questionnaire since then to a valuable electronic service to-date. Content and functionality have come to a point that opens doors for different applications. Among others UN GGIM has taken the Cadastral Template 2.0 into its pool of information services thus encouraging more countries to join and giving more publicity.

A big thank to **Daniel Steudler/CH** and to **Abbas Rajabifard/AUS** for their long term engagement and for developing the service to a wider usable tool.

Peter von Oosterom/NL has been the driving force behind and the Chair of the joint FIG Commission 3 and 7 Working Group on 3D Cadastre. Thanks to Peter for his efforts to bring the two Commissions together to work on solutions and for taking care of several international Workshops on this.

Finally I want to thank **all of you** for your active contributions by attending FIG Working Weeks and Annual Meetings and by joining sessions in relevant events, taking part in discussions, bringing in your ideas and by presenting papers in FIG events and in events outside from FIG all around the globe spreading the message to a wider community. Your attendance facilitates the ongoing discussions on the improvements on Cadastre and Land Management and makes it possible at all to organise these kind of events and to elaborate on a peaceful future as far as may be based on secure land tenure, on trust and on transparency to citizen and decision makers.

The highlight in 2019 will be the FIG Working Week in Hanoi/Vietnam to be held on 22-26 April 2019. Information about registration and call for papers is available from <https://www.fig.net/fig2019>.

Happy to say that Daniel Páez, the incoming Chair of FIG Commission 7, will take over in few days time and will bring in new ideas and visions to the Commission. With your support the spirit of FIG will provide the global society with a solid fundament for secure and fair land tenure and land registration in all countries all over the world. Especially in these times of all kind of challenges on land and tenure, expertise which is built on professional skills and on independent assessment by professionals is of high relevance for a peaceful coexistence.

Being aware of this I wish all delegates, correspondents and friends of Commission 7 a peaceful Season and a happy New Year!

Looking forward to meeting all of you again in 2019.



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