



International Federation of Surveyors  
Fédération Internationale des Géomètres  
Internationale Vereinigung der Vermessungsingenieure

**FIG e-Newsletter**  
**August 2011**

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the FIG e-Newsletter, which brings you latest information about FIG and its activities. The information referred here is in full length available on the FIG web site. Thus the e-Newsletter is produced to inform you what has happened recently and what interesting things are going to take place in the near future. The FIG e-Newsletter is circulated monthly by e-mail. The referred articles are in English and written in a way that you are able to extract them to your national newsletters or circulate to your members and networks.

**NB!** FIG office has changed IT provider which now has the consequence that we have difficulties getting through by email to some of our FIG delegates and friends. Please make sure that the address **@fig.net is whitelisted** in your system (either your own or through an IT department/provider) so that you will receive emails from FIG in the future. We send emails from the following IP addresses: 193.239.98.61, 193.239.98.62, 193.239.98.63. Thank you very much.

### **UN Creates Expert Group to Consult on Managing Geospatial Information**



The **United Nations ECOSOC** made history on 27 July 2011 in Geneva by establishing a new intergovernmental body, the **UN Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management**, to bring together, for the first time at the global level, government experts from all member states to consult on the rapidly changing field of geospatial information.

FIG welcomes this initiative, and intends to contribute towards this global mechanism that aims at extending the benefits of geospatial information for the betterment of society, environment and economy.

Read more:

[http://fig.net/news/news\\_2011/un-ggim\\_annoucement\\_august\\_2011.pdf](http://fig.net/news/news_2011/un-ggim_annoucement_august_2011.pdf)

UN Press release:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39166&Cr=telecom&Cr1=>

### **Article of the Month – August 2011**

On the FIG web site we publish each month a paper called the Article of the Month. This is a high-level paper focusing on interesting topics to all surveyors. It can be picked up from an FIG conference or another event. The Article of the Month in August 2011 is written by **Frances Plimmer and William J McCluskey**, United Kingdom: **Sustainability and Property Taxation**. Property Taxation is one of the key topics on the agenda of FIG-Commission 9 for the next years. The authors are discussing sustainability in the context of property taxation. They consider that sustainability in property taxation should be considered from three perspectives – the sustainability of the tax object (land and buildings), the sustainability of the tax system itself and the sustainability of the uses to which the yield from property taxation are put. This paper was

successfully peer reviewed and presented at the FIG Working Week in Marrakech May 2011.  
[http://fig.net/pub/monthly\\_articles/august\\_2011/august\\_2011\\_plimmer\\_mccluskey.html](http://fig.net/pub/monthly_articles/august_2011/august_2011_plimmer_mccluskey.html)

### **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa - Africa Preparatory Meeting on Global Geospatial Information Management, 8 – 10 August, 2011, Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**



Delegates to the GGIM Africa Preparatory Meeting in front of the United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

With the establishment of United Nations Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management, the UN has made history. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) has taken the role to lead the initiative in Africa, so as to ensure that GGIM adequately reflects African issues and shape its direction and dimension to reflect Africa's interest. The Commission convened the GGIM Africa Preparatory Meeting to consult member states in Africa with a view to develop the continent's needs, prospects and vision for an overall Geoinformation Governance in Africa.

[http://fig.net/news/news\\_2011/ethiopia\\_ggim\\_aug\\_2011.htm](http://fig.net/news/news_2011/ethiopia_ggim_aug_2011.htm)

### **President CheeHai TEO interacts with the Ethiopian Professional Surveyors Association, 10 August, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**



Mr. **Zelalem Asemu**, Vice President of the Ethiopian Professional Surveyors Association

President **CheeHai Teo** discussed the current state of the profession in Ethiopia with Vice President Mr. **Zelalem Asemu** when he was in Addis Ababa attending the UN-ECA GGIM Africa Preparatory Meeting. The Association was admitted to FIG at the recent Working Week in Marrakech and faces challenges to further develop the profession in Ethiopia. Vice President Asemu has a wish to see the Association and the Profession strengthened and promoted through the development of appropriate standards of practice.

[http://fig.net/news/news\\_2011/ethiopia\\_ggim\\_aug\\_2011.htm](http://fig.net/news/news_2011/ethiopia_ggim_aug_2011.htm)

### **President TEO CheeHai visits China Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and Agents, 25 July 2011, Beijing, PR China**



President CIREA, **SONG ChunHua** and FIG President **TEO CheeHai**

The China Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and Agents is one of the two FIG member associations from PR China. Its national delegate, Prof. Dr. **Liao (廖俊平)** is an active member of FIG Commission 9 and was recently appointed as a Member of the FIG Task Force on Property and Housing. Among other things CIREA expressed a wish to connect and network with similar organizations within FIG particularly those with responsibilities in the area of property taxation, housing and real estate policies.

[http://fig.net/news/news\\_2011/china\\_cirea\\_july\\_2011.htm](http://fig.net/news/news_2011/china_cirea_july_2011.htm)

### **President CheeHai TEO Visits China Land Surveying and Planning Institute, 24-25 July 2011, Beijing, PR China**



FIG President **TEO CheeHai** visiting **CLSPI** and Mr **WANG Shiyuan**, Vice Minister of Land and Resources China

China Land Surveying and Planning Institute is a newly appointed Affiliate Member of FIG. The Institute acts as a “think tank” within the Ministry and areas of activities include land use planning, land survey and evaluation, cadastral management, land policy, remote sensing, land pricing and land information. President **Teo** also met with Vice Minister of Land and Resources Mr **WANG Shiyuan**, who expressed his support towards CLSPI’s membership in FIG and hoped that the membership will intensify efforts towards better policies, programs and practices within the area of land management and administration in China [http://fig.net/news/news\\_2011/china\\_clspi\\_july\\_2011.htm](http://fig.net/news/news_2011/china_clspi_july_2011.htm)

### **FIG President Teo attends the 17th Meeting of the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific 21- 22 July 2011, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**



The Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific, PCGIAP

The Permanent Committee was established pursuant to Resolution 16 of the 13th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Beijing 1994) and operates under the purview of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCC-AP). The Committee submitted its report and recommendations. FIG welcomes the resolutions that was adopted at the conclusion of the meeting in Ulaanbaatar

[www.fig.net/news/news\\_2011/mongolia\\_pcgiap\\_july\\_2011.htm](http://www.fig.net/news/news_2011/mongolia_pcgiap_july_2011.htm)

### **Courtesy call on the General Director of the Mongolian Administration of Land Affairs, Construction, Geodesy and Cartography, Mr GANKHUU Tsevelsodnom, 20 July 2011, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**



President **CheeHai Teo** with **Mr. Gankhuu** and **Mr. Bayarsaikhan**

ALACGAC is an Affiliate Member of FIG and the Mongolian Government implementing agency responsible for determining and implementing state policies of the Ministry of Road, Transportation, Construction and Urban Development. Among other things Mr. Gankhuu and President Teo discussed on the upcoming FIG Commission 5 and 6 Workshop on “Innovative Technologies for an efficient Geospatial Management of Earth” on 4– 8 September 2011 in Ulaanbaatar which the Administration is supporting.

[www.fig.net/news/news\\_2011/mongolia\\_alacgac\\_july\\_2011.htm](http://www.fig.net/news/news_2011/mongolia_alacgac_july_2011.htm)

### **President CheeHai TEO interacts with the Mongolian Association of Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography 20 July 2011, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**



President **Teo** and President **ENKHTUVSHIN Baatar**

President **Enkhtuvshin** and his fellow Board Members provided President **Teo** with a general overview of the profession, practice and industry in Mongolia, the current state of affairs within the Association as well as the issues and challenges. Some of the Profession's challenges in Mongolia include bringing about greater cohesiveness within the profession, establishing appropriate standards that will raise the level of practice within the industry, and the need for continuing professional development

[www.fig.net/news/news\\_2011/mongolia\\_mapgc\\_july\\_2011.htm](http://www.fig.net/news/news_2011/mongolia_mapgc_july_2011.htm)

### **Vice President Iain Greenway attends meeting of the joint board for the Geospatial Information Societies, Paris July 2011**



The joint board for the Geospatial Information Societies

The Joint Board is becoming more important with United Nations initiatives in geospatial information management – the UN wants to deal with the profession through one organisation. The Board members agreed to continue to try to coordinate the work of member organisations in building capacity in Africa, as well as in raising the profile of the power of geospatial information in disaster management. The members also prepared for the UN Global Geospatial Information Management event in Korea in September.

[http://fig.net/news/news\\_2011/paris\\_july\\_2011.htm](http://fig.net/news/news_2011/paris_july_2011.htm)

### **General Assembly for the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics Earth on Edge: Science for a Sustainable Planet 28 June –7 July, Melbourne, Australia**

Mikael Lilje (Chair of FIG Commission 5), Rob Sarib (Vice Chair of Administration), Graeme Blick (Working Group Chair of FIG WG 5.2) and Allison Kealy (Working Group Chair of FIG WG 5.5) attended the General Assembly for the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics Earth on Edge. The event attracted some 4500 delegates from numerous countries. The International Association of Geodesy (IAG) is one of the eight scientific associations comprising the IUGG, and is the association which has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with FIG Commission 5. Consequently, this combined report focuses on their observations at these proceedings.

[www.fig.net/commission5/reports/2011\\_07\\_iugg\\_iag\\_report.pdf](http://www.fig.net/commission5/reports/2011_07_iugg_iag_report.pdf)

### **FIG Working Week 2011 - Biggest FIG Working Week strengthens links between cultures - Marrakech, Morocco, 18-22 May 2011**



FIG Fanfare at the Opening Ceremony.

The FIG Working Week "Bridging the Gap between Cultures" and the XXXIV General Assembly was held in Marrakech, Morocco from 18 to 22 May 2011. The Working Week included also the 6th National Congress of the Ordre National des Ingénieurs Géomètres Topographes (ONIGT) that was the local host of the Working Week.

FIG 2011 turned out to be the biggest FIG Working Week ever both in the size of the exhibition and the number of participants. More than 1,500 participants from 90 countries attended. The technical programme comprised of more than 90 technical sessions, workshops and special forums. Total number of presented papers was almost 450. The Working Week was held at the fully packed Palais des Congrès in Marrakech.



**Moroccan ministers**, President **CheeHai Teo**, FIG and President **Aziz Hilali**, ONIGT after the opening.

Report from the Working Week:

<http://fig.net/news/fig2011/index.htm>

Report from the General Assembly:

[http://www.fig.net/news/news\\_2011/ga\\_marrakech\\_may\\_2011.htm](http://www.fig.net/news/news_2011/ga_marrakech_may_2011.htm)

Minutes of the General Assembly as .pdf file without appendices (21 pages): [http://www.fig.net/admin/ga/2011/ga\\_minutes\\_2011.pdf](http://www.fig.net/admin/ga/2011/ga_minutes_2011.pdf)

Minutes with appendices (118 pages - 9.75 MB).:

[http://www.fig.net/admin/ga/2011/ga\\_minutes\\_2011\\_full.pdf](http://www.fig.net/admin/ga/2011/ga_minutes_2011_full.pdf) Picture

Galleries from the Working Week:

[http://fig.net/news/fig2011/picture\\_gallery\\_01.htm](http://fig.net/news/fig2011/picture_gallery_01.htm)

List of participants: <http://fig.net/news/fig2011/participantlist.pdf>

Proceedings: <http://www.fig.net/pub/fig2011/index.htm>

Working Week web site - English <http://www.fig.net/fig2011>

Working Week web site - French/Arabic:

<http://www.onigt.ma/fig2011>



General Assembly in Morocco

## Latest FIG Publications and Newsletters

Commission 7 Newsletter, July 2011:

[http://fig.net/commission7/newsletters/2011\\_07\\_com7\\_newsletter.pdf](http://fig.net/commission7/newsletters/2011_07_com7_newsletter.pdf)

FIG Annual Review 2010:

[http://www.fig.net/annual\\_review/anrew10/areview2010.pdf](http://www.fig.net/annual_review/anrew10/areview2010.pdf)

The FIG Profile and the benefits of being a member 2011 - 2014. FIG leaflet in ..pdf-format:

<http://www.fig.net/general/profile.htm>

Publication on the Economic Benefits of Hydrography - FIG Publication No. 57

<http://www.fig.net/pub/figpub/pub57/figpub57.htm>

Commission 5 e-Newsletter - June 2011:

[http://www.fig.net/commission5/newsletters/comm5\\_june\\_2011\\_enewsletter..pdf](http://www.fig.net/commission5/newsletters/comm5_june_2011_enewsletter..pdf)

GIM International – Special FIG Edition

[http://www.fig.net/corporatemembers/corporate\\_benefits.htm](http://www.fig.net/corporatemembers/corporate_benefits.htm)

On-line edition:

[http://www.gim-international.com/news/id5799-GIM\\_International\\_FIG\\_Special.html](http://www.gim-international.com/news/id5799-GIM_International_FIG_Special.html)

**Job vacancies** (updated 15 August)

<http://www.fig.net/jobs/jobindex.htm>

**News from the world around FIG** (updated 15 June 2011)

[http://www.fig.net/news/news\\_shortstories.htm](http://www.fig.net/news/news_shortstories.htm)

**Personalia and visits** (last updated 9 June 2011)

<http://www.fig.net/personalia/index.htm>

## **Forthcoming events**

### **31 August - 2 September, Copenhagen, Denmark**

3rd International Colloquium - Scientific and Fundamental Aspects of the Galileo Programme, organised by The European Space Agency (ESA) and the Technical University of Denmark. Co-sponsored by FIG Commission 5.

Web site: <http://www.congrex.nl/11A12/>

### **4-8 September, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**



International Workshop on Innovative Technologies for an Efficient Geospatial Management of Earth Resources. Third International Workshop organised by Siberian State Academy of Geodesy and FIG Commissions 5 and 6.

Invitation: [http://www.fig.net/events/2011/mongolia\\_com5-6\\_sept\\_2011.pdf](http://www.fig.net/events/2011/mongolia_com5-6_sept_2011.pdf) (pdf)

### **14-16 September, Zurich, Switzerland**

UAV-g 2011 - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle in Geomatics. Technical sessions at ETH Zurich on September 14 and 16, and invitation to system providers, researchers and users to contribute with live demonstrations at Airfield Birrfeld on 15 September. Organised by ETH Zurich and co-sponsored by FIG Commission 5 and 6.

Web site: <http://www.uav-g.ethz.ch>

### **19-20 September, Skopje Macedonia**

International NSDI Conference: Impact of the NSDI in Society, Challenges for Establishment. Organised by Government of the Republic of Macedonia, Agency for Real Estate Cadastre and Faculty of Civil Engineering. Co-sponsored by FIG.

Invitation: [http://www.fig.net/events/2011/nsdi\\_macedonia\\_2011.pdf](http://www.fig.net/events/2011/nsdi_macedonia_2011.pdf) (pdf 449 kb)

Web site: [www.katastar.gov.mk/nsdi2011/](http://www.katastar.gov.mk/nsdi2011/)

### **22-24 September 2011, Brijuni, Croatia**

INGEO 2011. Organised by the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb and FIG Commission 6.

More information: [http://www.fig.net/events/2011/ingeo\\_2011.pdf](http://www.fig.net/events/2011/ingeo_2011.pdf)

Web Site: <http://web.svf.stuba.sk/kat/GDE/Ingeo2011/Ingeo.html>

### **25 September–1 October, Innsbruck, Austria**



FIG Commission 7 Annual Meeting 2011 and International Symposium "Cadastré 2.0" Organised by FIG Commission 7.

Web site: <https://sites.google.com/site/figsymposium2011/>

### **27-29 September 2011, Nürnberg, Germany**

INTERGEO, Conference and trade fair for geodesy, geo information and land management

Web site: <http://www.intergeo.de/en/englisch/index.php>

### **28-30 September, Iliđza, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Second Congress on Cadastré in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Organised by Geodetic Society of Herzeg-Bosnia (GSHB). Co-sponsored by FIG.

More information: [http://www.fig.net/events/2011/bosnia-herzegovina\\_congress\\_2011.pdf](http://www.fig.net/events/2011/bosnia-herzegovina_congress_2011.pdf)

### **3-15 October 2011, Athens, Greece**

The III International and Professional Training Course for Surveyors. Organised by The Consiglio Nazionale Geometri e Geometri Laureati

[http://fig.net/events/2011/greece\\_oct\\_201.pdf](http://fig.net/events/2011/greece_oct_201.pdf)

### **5 – 7 October 2011, Melbourne, Australia**

4th Land Administration Forum Collaborative Research Workshops and Ten Year Celebration for the CSDILA. Sponsored by UN Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP)-WG3 and Centre for SDIs and Land Administration (CSDILA). Co-sponsored by FIG

[http://fig.net/events/2011/2011\\_october\\_csdila.pdf](http://fig.net/events/2011/2011_october_csdila.pdf) (pdf 1,4 mb)

### **25-28 October 2011, Paris, France**



FIG Commission 3 Workshop - "The Empowerment of Local Authorities: Spatial Information and Spatial Planning Tools" and Commission 3 Annual Meeting.

Invitation (pdf):

[http://www.fig.net/commission3/events/comm3\\_paris\\_2011.pdf](http://www.fig.net/commission3/events/comm3_paris_2011.pdf)

Web site: <http://bit.ly/figcom3-paris2011>

### **2-4 November, Hong Kong, China**

Joint International Symposium on Deformation Monitoring (JIS-DM), including FIG Symposium on Deformation Measurements and Analysis, IAG Symposium on Geodesy for Geotechnical and Structural Engineering, and International Workshop on Spatial Information Technologies for Monitoring the Deformation of Large-Scale Man-Made Linear Features. Co-organised by IAG and FIG Commission 6

More information (pdf): [http://fig.net/events/2011/jis-dm\\_1st\\_announcement.pdf](http://fig.net/events/2011/jis-dm_1st_announcement.pdf)

Web site: <http://dma.lsgj.polyu.edu.hk/>

### **3-4 November, Sofia, Bulgaria**

The XXI International Symposium on Modern Technologies, Education and Professional Practice in Geodesy and Related Fields. Organised by The Union of Surveyors and Land Managers In Bulgaria

[http://fig.net/events/2011/bulgaria\\_modern\\_technologies\\_sofia\\_3-4\\_nov\\_2011.pdf](http://fig.net/events/2011/bulgaria_modern_technologies_sofia_3-4_nov_2011.pdf)

Web site: <http://geodesy-union.org/>

**16-18 November 2011, Delft, the Netherlands**

Second International FIG Workshop on 3D-Cadastrals. Organised by FIG Commission 7 Working Group and supported by EuroSDR.

Web site: <http://3dcadastres2011.nl/>

**21-23 November 2011, Vienna, Austria**

8th Symposium on Location-based Services. Organised by Vienna University of Technology. Co-sponsored by FIG Commission 5.

Web site: <http://www.lbs2011.org/>

**23-25 November, Warsaw, Poland**

3rd Cadastral Congress "Cadastral in the sustainable management of space". Organised by the Association of Polish Surveyors and Surveyor General of Poland, and co-sponsored by FIG.

Web site: <http://www.congress.sgp.geodezja.org.pl/>

**30 November - 2 December, Cape Town, South Africa**

FIG African Task Force Workshop. Organised by FIG African Task Force in cooperation with The South African Council for Professional and Technical Surveyors (PLATO) and Geomatics Department of the University of Cape Town.

Web Site: <http://fig.net/tf/africa/index.htm>

For **additional FIG and FIG Commission events** see always up-to-date information at: [www.fig.net/events/events.htm](http://www.fig.net/events/events.htm)

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