

Wednesday 14 April

What's on Today

- Don't miss Plenary Session 3: The Big Challenges, which will expand upon the 'Facing the Challenges' theme.
- Don't miss the After Lunch Talk: featuring Brent Jones from ESRI (USA) who will be speaking on the geospatial response to Haiti.

Reminders

- Limited space is still available on two of Thursday's Technical Tours:
- Professional Education of Surveyors and Spatialists, includes a guided tour of the University of New South Wales Satellite Navigation and Positioning Laboratory. Starts at 1300.
 - CORS Network: GNSS for Sydney and New South Wales, which involves a visit to the Network Data Centre for the NSW Department of Lands. Starts at 1300.

Looking for Information?

Contact one of our colourfully dressed team members – the people in the pink uniforms (Arinex), the red shirted Young Ambassadors or a Student Helper wearing a blue polo shirt – for directions or information.



The FIG 2010 Newsletter Issue 2, 14 April 2010

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FIG 2010 DAILY NEWSLETTER

XXIV FIG International Congress 2010

Facing the Challenges - Building the Capacity
 11 - 16 April 2010 Sydney, Australia

Plenary Session

Tuesday's plenary session on Spatially Enabled Society was well attended, with many delegates standing just to hear the three eminent speakers, Abbas Rajabifard, Santiago Borrero and Warwick Watkins.

The concept of a spatially enabled society supports the integration of spatial information in everyday life and in government decision making to improve quality of life and help government better connect its citizens.

Abbas Rajabifard, President of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association, focused on international issues of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), with the key message that we must manage information spatially, rather than manage spatial information. He described spatial enablement as improving the performance of government by providing better access to data information services.

Santiago Borrero, Secretary General of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), focused on SDI enablement in the Americas, highlighting the need for co-operation between organisations. He acknowledged the contribution of FIG President Stig Enemark but stressed that there is still much work to be done, the urgency of which was demonstrated by the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile.

Santiago also emphasised the need for strong links between politics and the numerous disciplines of the surveying profession to enable better land governance. He added that organisations such as FIG play a leading role in this respect.

Warwick Watkins applied key ideas from the previous two speakers to a local level, focusing on the state of spatial enabled government in New South Wales, Australia. The session ended with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between FIG, represented by Stig Enemark; GSDI Association represented by Santiago Borrero; Rajabifard and PAIGH, represented by Abbas Rajabifard. This agreement is expected to further strengthen the global co-operation of spatial science and related organisations.

A Word With ...



Cecilia Linden
 Land surveyor from Stockholm, Sweden
 Congress attendee

Why was coming to Sydney important for you?

To finish up the work I started with the Young Surveyors Network and to make sure the good work is continued.

What has been your best experience at the conference?

The welcome reception. There were 60 or 70 Young Surveyors walking in front of me as it finished, and knowing that they were here because of the work the Young Surveyors Network has done to date.

Why is the Young Surveyors Network so important?

To ensure FIG continues! We've come so far but there is a long way to go. Hopefully in the future each member organisation will have at least one Young Surveyor Delegate at every FIG event.



The Fourth Wave

The next wave of international property reform will be characterised by a renewed focus on the importance of institutions, according to John McLaughlin, Professor of Geomatics Engineering, University of New Brunswick. 'A whole new paradigm is beginning to come out,' McLaughlin said. 'It's looking at new ways of thinking about what we mean by development, what we mean by value and what we mean by the institutions supporting us.'

McLaughlin devoted much of his career to working with Hernando de Soto on property formalisation in Peru. His presentation to the FIG 2010 Congress on Tuesday offered a retrospective analysis of the past 60 years of international property reform.

Institution-building was a chief concern in the first post-war wave, says McLaughlin.

The second wave, which was based largely in South America, aimed to address major inequalities in land access.

The third wave, which began around 1985, was distinguished by widespread recognition of the importance of property rights, said McLaughlin.

'This chapter really began with people believing in the magical power of property to change lives,' he said.

Property was seen as a vital part of social development, McLaughlin said. It was a core element in social stability, access to credit, poverty reduction and incentives to improve the land.

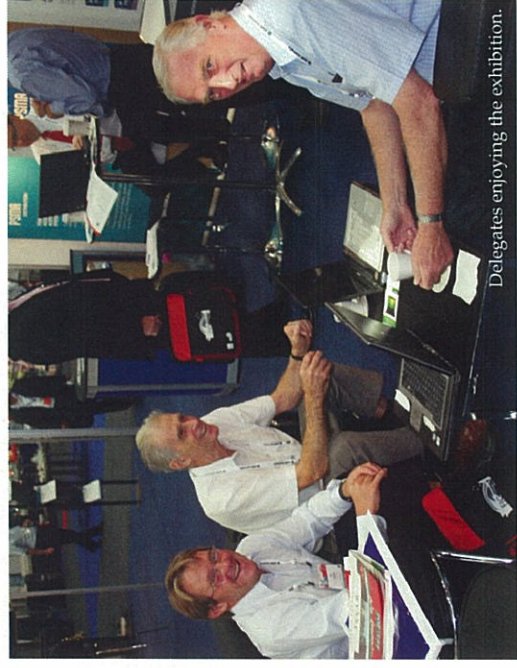
New technology helped to fuel what McLaughlin described as 'a social revolution' as it eventually became less complicated, cheaper and more widely available.

However, despite its many strengths, this chapter had deep limitations, said McLaughlin, and soon began to taste the limits of the role of property. Key areas of failure include women's access to property, transaction costs and indigenous property systems, he said.

The new wave of property reform – the fourth wave – will be more difficult to manage, McLaughlin said. It will be driven by the Millennium Development Goals, a rising middle class, and civil society and stronger environmental consciousness related to climate change and land degradation.

'I have no doubt that the heart of that new story is going to be about the need for strong, robust institutions.'

'Its time now to get on with a new agenda and get fresh ideas on the agenda.'



Delegates enjoying the exhibition.

Floating Feast

The FIG Foundation dinner, the 'Floating Feast', was held on Monday evening aboard Captain Cook Cruise's largest vessel. The 290 delegates onboard enjoyed a memorable cruise around Sydney Harbour.

The festivities commenced with John Hohol, FIG Foundation Director, introducing the event's sponsor, Trimble. Trimble was represented by Keith Hofgartner. The attendees enjoyed a delicious three-course meal matched with excellent Australian wines – with the dramatic backdrop of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House. Drinks were served on the top deck of the vessel, providing delegates with a magnificent view of the beautiful dusk and the lights around the Sydney Harbour.



Foundation Dinner

Exhibition

The Exhibition Hall continues to be a hive of activity, with a wide array of new products and services on hand. The Moroccan Stand, which includes information about FIG Working Week 2011, is a must visit for tea drinkers and cookie lovers.

Stop by Leica Geosystems' trade stand (located at the front of the trade Exhibition Hall) to check out their latest range of GNSS receivers and terrestrial laser scanners.

The graphical interface of the new Viva GNSS controller ensures navigating around the various applications is easy and even prompts users with diagrams, enabling intuitive use of the unit. Also on display is the new C10 terrestrial laser scanner, which features onboard memory (no need for an external laptop) and is similar in size to a total station. Bob Morton, Regional Geomatics Manager for the Indian, SE Asian, Australasian and Korean area, says Leica Geosystems' focus is providing powerful software with easy-to-use graphical interfaces and strong after sales support.

Representatives from Leica, a Titanium Sponsor of the Congress, and their local distributor CR Kennedy said they were pleased with the venue and their exhibit space. The trade stand will be open until Thursday.



Leica
Geosystems



Young Surveyors in action.

Empowering the Poor

A recording system that recognises unconventional relationships between people and land can play a vital role in alleviating poverty and empowering the poor, according to Clarissa Augustinus, from the UN-HABITAT Global Land Tool Network Secretariat.

The Social Tenure Domain Model, developed at the International Institute of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) in partnership with FIG and GLTN, focuses on land and property rights that are neither registered nor registerable.

The model has the ability to record all types of land rights, rights holders and land and property objects irrespective of the level of formality. It does this by relating personal identifiers, such as fingerprints or photographs, to a co-ordinate point inside a plot of land via a 'social tenure relation'. These relations can include informal land rights such as tenancy, occupancy, use rights or customary rights.

The system will improve security of tenure, reduce evictions and lower planning and servicing costs, Augustinus said at the FIG 2010 Social Tenure Domain Model session on Tuesday.

'STDM can put more money in the pockets of the poor.'