

Thursday 15 April

Thanks to the Exhibitors

A special thanks to all our technical exhibitors. The FIG 2010 exhibition has been an outstanding success in promoting the advanced technology which defines our profession.

General Assembly

The General Assembly will meet again at 11am on Friday, 16 April in Parkside Ballroom B. Highlights will be the voting for the President and Vice Presidents of FIG 2011-2014 and the announcement of the successful host city for the FIG 2014 Congress.

The General Assembly will be followed by the Closing Ceremony and the Farewell Reception: watch out for a special treat from our Moroccan friends.

Reminder of the Gala Dinner

We hope everyone enjoys the special Gala Dinner at Dockside tonight. More than 650 people have booked for what is certain to be one of the highlights of the FIG2010 Congress.

Farewell, see you in Marrakech, Morocco

A special thank you to all participants in the FIG 2010 Congress, some of whom travelled many kilometres and over many hours to attend. The Organising Committee appreciates the effort you have made and wishes you a safe journey home.

Please remember to book early to attend the next FIG Working Week, in exotic Marrakech 18-22 May 2011 and the eternal city Rome, 6-11 May 2012.

The FIG 2010 Newsletter Issue 3, 15 April 2010

Brought to you by Interpoint, the Publisher of Position Magazine
 Editor: Lynn Elsey/Editor, Position Magazine and Spatial Business News
 Assistant Editor: Inga Tina/Assistant Editor, Position Magazine
 Design: Helen Abdullah
 Printing: Snap Printing
 Email: lynn@intermedia.com.au
 All rights reserved



FIG 2010 DAILY NEWSLETTER

XXIV FIG International Congress 2010

Facing the Challenges - Building the Capacity

11 - 16 April 2010 Sydney, Australia

The Big Challenges

Wednesday was another well attended plenary session with a focus on the big challenges of the 21st century: climate change, disaster management and land governance, and how they relate to our profession.

Daniel Fitzpatrick, Reader in Law at the Australian National University and UN land rights adviser for tsunami-affected Indonesia, spoke about the challenge of disaster management and the development of UN guidelines for addressing land issues after natural disasters. His main focus was the need for rapid response to securing land tenure in order to provide shelter and encourage house rebuilding post-disaster.

Fitzpatrick raised the issue of land records being lost or destroyed during a disaster, and the need to engage in community consultation when re-fixing boundaries and securing land tenure. He also discussed the issues faced by the land governing body responsible for securing land tenure.

The second speaker, Paul Munro-Faure, Chief of the Land Tenure and Management Unit of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), looked at the challenge of land governance. He discussed FAO's development of voluntary guidelines on responsible governance of tenure of land and natural resources. These guidelines are being developed in consultation with various governments and private organisations around the world and will provide a foundation for further action.

The final speaker, Mohamed El-Sioufi, Head of the Shelter Branch in UN-HABITAT, examined climate change and the development of sustainable cities. He provided an overview of the trend towards the urbanisation of our planet and the challenges facing urban areas, especially in the developing world.

All three speakers emphasised the need for international cooperation between government and private organisations to tackle these challenges in the coming century.

Technological Futures

A highlight of today's agenda is Plenary Session 4 on Technological Futures. The speakers include Mary O'Kane, the Chief Scientist for New South Wales and chair of Australia's Co-operative Research Centre for Spatial Information, who will concentrate on using research and development to advance the profession.

Ed Parsons, Google's Geospatial Technologist for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, will elaborate on an earlier Congress theme of spatially managing data, rather than managing spatial data, using Google as a specific example. The final speaker, Matt Higgins, FIG Vice-President, will focus on the role of positioning infrastructure in the future of the profession. He will analyse the state of play in global navigation satellite systems – including GPS, the Russian GLONASS system, Europe's Galileo system, China's Compass and Japan's regional system QZSS – and how these systems relate to current and potential applications in areas such as agriculture, mining and the environment.



Young Surveyors Brett Maissen,
 Cecilia Linden and Chris McAlister.

Responding to Haiti

Web 2.0 technologies will be the driving force behind future developments in geospatial technology for emergency response, according to ESRI's Brent Jones, speaking at yesterday's After Lunch Talk.

Jones' team worked with numerous disaster response organisations in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti in January. What Haiti clearly demonstrates for the geospatial industry is the immense power and importance of volunteered geographic information, said Jones. This citizen-sourced information, mobilised via a plethora of Web 2.0 technologies, is changing the way governments and professionals use information in emergency situations.

User-generated content played a critical role in relief efforts in Haiti. For example, OpenStreetMap users armed with little more than their cellphones were among those collecting intelligence in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, Jones said.

Another example is the Text 'Haiti' Campaign, which raised \$396 million in only two days using a text-based donation system. Twitter and Facebook were also incredibly important components of the response, according to Jones.

'All this data is being integrated in a Web 2.0 environment and is really changing the way we respond,' Jones said.

The challenge for GIS professionals is how to extract accurate geospatial data from this storm of information. ESRI is among the organisations already producing data and software for this purpose. Importantly, many of these tools are being made freely available to non-GIS professionals.

'What we're seeing is two worlds – professional and consumer – coming together. This is how we're going to respond to the next disaster,' Jones said.

'Everyone's going to be able to mash one of these things together with what they want, using these rich base maps. This is GIS for everyone.'

One advantage of mobilising citizen knowledge by making data freely available is that as this collective pool of intelligence becomes increasingly large, it also becomes simpler to use, Jones said.

'It's a method of standardisation that really is going to help deploy in an emergency situation faster.'



Government House Reception

Government House

FIG Member Association presidents, members of the FIG Council, commission chairs and other guests were treated to the hospitality of Governor of New South Wales, Marie Bashir AC CVO, at a reception at Government House on Tuesday night.

The visitors received a warm welcome from Bashir. FIG President Stig Eneemark responded by saying that he felt particularly 'at home' as he was adjacent to a portrait of Queen Alexandra of Denmark.

Following the formalities, the Governor invited the guests to wander through the house's expansive grounds and experience some of the best views of Sydney.

E-Planning Tour

The E-planning technical tour took place yesterday at the New South Wales Department of Lands, a historic sandstone building in Sydney's CBD.

John Hudson, NSW Planning Department's Director of Sustainable Systems, discussed various online tools available to NSW residents and developers, including the Spatial Information eXchange (SIX) viewer – a GIS database containing planning information – and BASIX (Building and Sustainability Index), an online assessment tool used to implement minimum sustainability (energy/water) targets for new housing.

The second half of the tour comprised a visit to the new Deutsche Bank building, an innovatively designed building equipped with a number of energy-efficient features.

Exhibition

The exhibition winds up today at 11am, which makes this morning the final chance for delegates to check out the innovative products and ideas in the hall.

The Trimble stand has been busy throughout the week. According to Trimble's Lin Lin Ho, there has been strong interest in a wide range of the company's products, from mapping to photogrammetry. She said that the Trimble team were enjoying answering questions and holding discussions with users.

Yesterday the company released the Trimble NetR9 Reference Receiver for GNSS infrastructure, Earth science and network applications – stop by the stand to get all the news.

Over at ESRI, Francisco Urbina said that there was definitely a strong international feel to the exhibition, with delegates discussing a wide array of needs and challenges. Urbina said that, as he worked on the stand during the week, he was finding that surveyors were looking for broader tools to help them deal with neighbourhoods of survey data and to help integrate document management systems.



Leica
Geosystems



Trimble

Small Island Developing States

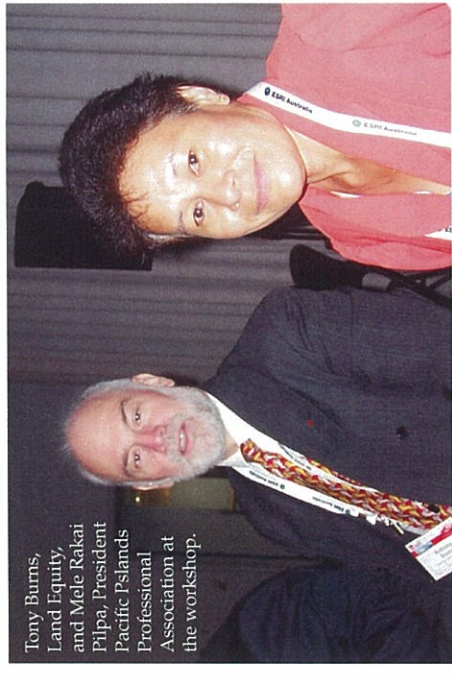
Representatives from Small Island Developing States are working together during this Congress to address the challenges involved in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The delegates are involved in a one and a half day workshop, which is the first of its kind during a FIG Congress. Building on the momentum of the Pacific Island Land Professionals Association (PILPA) established in 2008, the workshop aims to identify capacity gaps in the region through discussions about professional capacity in land administration; response to and risk management of climate change and natural disasters; impediments to access of land and resources; and considerations of good land governance and administration.

A final session on Thursday will investigate how regional land professionals can address these issues, and the capacity requirements and mechanisms needed to put these ideas into action.

The workshop will conclude with a FIG Declaration that sets an agenda for action and recommendations to encourage all Small Island Developing States to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The workshop has been made possible through the support of AusAID, the Food and Agricultural Organisation (UNFAO), NZAID and the Commonwealth Foundation, which has sponsored delegates from more than 12 Pacific, Caribbean and African nations. 'STDM can put more money in the pockets of the poor.'



Tony Burns, Land Equity, PILPA, President Pacific Islands Professional Association at the workshop.