Implementing the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA): New Workplan and Developments

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SUMMARY

The United Nations Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (EG-LAM) has put together a new workplan for 2023 to 2025 (UN-GGIM, 2022). The draft of the workplan has identified five focus areas: 1) Leadership and advocacy 2) Promote and encourage the implementation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA) (EG-LAM, 2020); 3) Integration of terrestrial, maritime, built, and cadastral domains; 4) Innovation in land administration and management to strengthen resilience and sustainability; 5) Engagement and collaboration. The Expert Group has developed the FELA to guide countries towards effective land administration. In align with the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) (UN-GGIM, 2018) as an overarching policy guide supporting the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for developing and developed countries, the FELA has stipulated 9 strategic pathways as guidance and reference for member states to achieve effective land administration at national and sub-national levels. The 9 pathways consist of I) Governance, Institutions and Accountability; II) Policy and Legal; III) Financial; IV) Data; V) Innovation; VI) Standards; VII) Partnerships; VIII) Capacity and Education; IX) Advocacy and Awareness. In the presentation, we will introduce and elaborate on the details of the 5 focus areas and will update on the development of the workplan. We will focus on Pathways IV, V and VI and will demonstrate how these 3 pathways will guide Focus Area (3) on integration of various domains and Focus Area (4) on innovations in land administration and management. We will use examples from Singapore as matter of convenience. It is important to note that the pathways can also be applied in other countries. The aim of the presentation is threefold. Firstly, it aims to solicit feedback from international professional organizations such as FIG to co-create the workplan together for the benefits of the global citizens to achieve effective land administration which is fundamental to economic growth and social development. Secondly, it is to advocate and promote the FELA, that is with its 9 strategic pathways, the presentation will demonstrate how effective land administration and management can be achieved at least in the Singapore context. Thirdly, we need collaborative efforts from everyone to achieve effective land administration. Through this presentation, when people get to know more about the Expert Group and FELA, it should be encouraged to collaborate to further anchor the FELA at national and sub-national levels.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Kean Huat SOON is Senior Principal Surveyor leading the Technology team at Survey and Geomatics Division of the Singapore Land Authority (SLA). He co-leads in several projects including Digital Underground, Cadastral Survey Management System, SiRENT and Vertical Land Motion Monitoring. He earned a Msc in Geography from Pennsylvania State University, a Msc in Geoinformatics and Bachelor of Surveying (Land) from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. Recently, he was appointed as a vice chair representing Singapore in WG 2 – Cadastre and Land Management under UN-GGIM-AP. Kean Huat's research interests include semantic interoperability, data modeling, cadastral information system and ontology.

Victor KHOO is the Director for Survey and Geomatics Division at the Singapore Land Authority (SLA). He received his PhD from the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. Victor had led several transformative initiatives such as the establishment of national positioning infrastructure, the digital transformation in cadastral survey workflow and the national 3D mapping programme. He also initiated the Digital Underground project to develop a holistic ecosystem for the mapping of underground utility networks. He is driving the digital twin development and collaborations for applied research. Recently, he has been appointed as Co-Chair of UN's Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (EG-LAM) and Vice-President of UN-GGIM-AP.

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