

## **FIG Commission 3 Spatial Information Management Annual Meeting and Seminar**

### *Foreword*

In 1998 the General Assembly of FIG decided that Commission 3 in future should be responsible for Spatial Information Management.

FIG - Commission 3 with responsibility for Land Information Systems (LIS) became a reality in 1981. At that time it had become realistic to convert the existing administrative data into databases. This created the expectation that it would become possible to harmonize data, share data, to make data accessible, etc. through establishing of Land Information Systems

The technology developed further and further but the data collections did not change. Exchange and distribution of data and information changed with the available technologies, but issues concerning copyright, standards, pricing, access to data, etc was not yet clarified. Issues of great interest as well for surveyors as for the society in general.

In Commission 3 we were very much aware of this situation. At the same time a continued focus on LIS implied an increasing number of overlapping activities with the other FIG commissions. On the other hand it was evident as well to Commission 3 as to the FIG bureau that management of spatial data and information is going to be one of the core businesses for FIG in line with professional practise and education.

In 1998 in Brighton the General Assembly approved as well a new name as new Terms of Reference. The commission was named: **Commission 3, Spatial Information Management** and the field of responsibility were laid down in the following "Terms of Reference":

- Management of land, property and hydrographic information and the related processes, procedures and resources
- Spatial data - infrastructure, data models, standards, availability and legal aspects
- The impacts on business models, organisational structures and professional practice.
- Management of spatial information supporting sustainable development.

The technological dimension has been toned down in favour of management and organisational and legal problems.

The concept of Spatial Information Management is based on the idea that data, people, software and hardware interact, and that it is practicable to obtain synergy by co-ordinating changes and development. The concept covers several very different disciplines such as data and information, information technology, organisational issues and spatial data infrastructure.

Spatial Information Management is a key element in the processes which lead to users of spatial information, politicians, citizens and case attendants, having a better overview of both simple and complex problems and which give users the possibility to create comprehensible and thus acceptable solutions and/or compromises.

Spatial Information Management is a discipline urgent as well to the individual organisation, administration or enterprise, the micro level, as to society in general, the macro level. On the micro level there will be a

more technical approach. On the macro level as well national as international political and organisational issues will be highlighted.

The Commission is active through annual meetings, workshops and seminars and through working groups. At the moment the Commission has three working groups. The results are made available to professional and political community in form of proceedings and reports.

The Commission is totally dependent on the involvement of the delegates and the correspondents. Fortunately many put a lot of effort into the commission, which make us able to improve quality of our work. One result of all this effort is this meeting in Budapest.

Bringing people from different countries round the world together with colleagues from a host country, in this case Hungary, on the one hand gives us the possibility to share experiences and knowledge and on the other hand to create and maintain personal contacts and networks under the FIG umbrella.

On behalf of FIG and Commission 3 I want to express my thanks to the organizers of this seminar: the Hungarian Society of Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing, the Department of Lands and Mapping, the Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development, the Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing and the College of Surveying and Land Management on all the work they have put in this arrangement.

I am convinced this event will be one of the landmarks in the Commission 3 history.

Copenhagen, August 1999

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Chair FIG Commission 3