

# Land administration Trends and issues in the Asia and Pacific

19–20 August 2008 – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The UN sponsored Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure (PCGIAP) together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Malaysian Government, the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) and the Centre for SDIs and Land Administration, University of Melbourne, were organized a two day seminar from 19-20 August 2008 as part of 14th annual meeting of PCGIAP in Kuala Lumpur to discuss land administration issues and possibility of establishing an annual forum under the UN in the Asia and Pacific region. The Seminar was Chaired by Prof Ian Williamson and co-chaired by Associate Professor Abbas Rajabifard.

Over 150 people from 30 countries and 5 international organisations attended the seminar. The objectives of the seminar were:

- To share land administration experiences in the Asia and Pacific region with a focus on access to land

and security of tenure, the role of land administration in supporting sustainable development, the promotion of effective land markets, poverty reduction, protection of vulnerable groups, e-land administration, land registration, cadastral surveying and mapping.

- To discuss the objectives and focus proposed by the Mongolian Round Table with a view to preparing a firm proposal to go to the appropriate UN agencies as well as the PCGIAP. It is planned to have a firm proposal and resolution to be put before the UN Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok in 2009.

The seminar was the result of a desire by many countries in the Asia and the Pacific region to have a forum to discuss and share land administration issues, best practice and experiences in a similar manner to the Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) for European countries organized by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

The focus of the seminar was developed

both by the PCGIAP and a successful international workshop organized by the Mongolian Government titled “Good land administration – its role in economic development” ([www.la-east.west.mn](http://www.la-east.west.mn)), that was also supported by UNDP, UNECE (WPLA), GSDI Association, the International Federation of Surveyors, the Asian Development Bank, German Technical Assistance (GTZ), Eurogeographics and the National Land Survey of Sweden. A Round Table meeting was also held in Mongolia with the above agencies and a number of countries in the region to develop a draft proposal for a regular meeting on Land Administration in the Asia and Pacific region.

As part of the seminar program, there were more than 20 presentations including invited presentations from FAO - Land Tenure Service and UNECE – WPLA and also selected countries from Asia-Pacific that presented. The seminar was conducted in six sessions including an opening session, three invited speaker sessions and a special session on data integration. Each session and presentation followed with a panel discussion. The countries presented were Australia, Cambodia, Fiji, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.

## Seminar Outcomes

The final session of the seminar and a follow-up meeting were used to discuss and finalise seminar outcomes, resolutions and the report to the PCGIAP. In summary, the following items are feedback from the Seminar:

- Mongolia, Iran, Cambodia, Fiji (on behalf of Pacific Island nations), Australia, Philippines and India



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expressed strong support from senior land administration officials for the concept of an annual land administration forum

- Iran has offered to host the next land administration forum in 2009 in May (prior to 18th UNRCC- AP Conference in Bangkok in October 2009).
- Australia speaking for FIG 2010 has offered to host a Pacific forum and an Asia and Pacific land administration forum.
- Australia through Western Australia offered to co-host a WALIS Forum with PCGIAP or host a land administration forum.
- Land Administration meetings or forums must be demand driven (provides value and helps solve problems), must pursue cost sharing, focus on specific problems or be thematic.
- Be committed to long term. Building a community takes time. Must be sustainable.
- Be opportunistic and look for

individual funding opportunities

- Collaboration not competition.
- A forum must be linked to the UN in some way.

From the issues and challenges presented by speakers and feedback from the Seminar to support the establishment of an annual forum in Asia-Pacific region, the seminar discussed and agreed on the following three resolutions and further agreed to forward this to the PCGIAP meeting for consideration.

Following are the resolutions as modified and agreed during the PCGIAP plenary on the 22nd August, 2008.

### Resolutions

1. Rename WG3 “Land Administration” with a mandate to consider land administration (land policy, land registration, cadastre, land markets) issues, spatially enabling government and their joint role in supporting sustainable development in the context of SDI.

2. PCGIAP supports an annual land administration forum and related activities focusing on land administration issues, challenges and implementation in the Asia and Pacific region.

3. WG3 will facilitate the annual land administration forum and any other related activities and will liaise with the respective agencies in the Asia and Pacific region through WG3 in the pursuit of this objective

Further information about the Seminar (background document, aims and objectives, seminar outcomes, etc.) and other related materials can be found at the dedicated seminar website [http://www.geom.unimelb.edu.au/research/SDI\\_research/Integrated/](http://www.geom.unimelb.edu.au/research/SDI_research/Integrated/) or through the PCGIAP-WG3 web page ([www.pcgiap.org](http://www.pcgiap.org)).

–Associate Professor Abbas Rajabifard  
Seminar Co-Chair and PCGIAP-WG3  
Vice-Chair ([abbas.r@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:abbas.r@unimelb.edu.au))

## Future Cities India 2020 Competition Finals

The Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India and Bentley Systems, Incorporated has launched the 2008-2009 Future Cities India 2020 competition finals. Currently in its third year, the competition encourages students to help prepare India’s cities for the year 2020 by providing design solutions to real-world infrastructure challenges. This year’s competition challenge focuses on Indian Railways’ recently announced plans to redevelop 22 of its centuries-old railway stations into world-class facilities. Students must create a conceptual design plan to upgrade the New Delhi Railway station, the first facility on Indian Railways’ redevelopment schedule. The program, which is open to all students attending schools in New Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), is sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Bentley Systems. Additional co-sponsors this year include McGraw-Hill Education and The American Center. Scott Lofgren, global director of Bentley’s BE Careers Network, said, “Infrastructure sustains our world and serves as the interface between people and

our planet. It provides the critically important facilities, services, and installations needed for the functioning of our society and the well-being of its people. Each team in the 2008-2009 Future Cities India 2020 competition must address three requirements for designing the conceptual solution:

- Use the existing land and infrastructure to best advantage,
- Accommodate internal access zones, with separate parking zones at Paharganj and Ajmeri Gate terminals,
- Use environmentally responsible materials.

During a preliminary competition held last week, a panel of distinguished judges that included Dr. Purnima Parida of the Central Road Research Institute, Ms. Meenakshi Singh of the National Capital Region Planning Board, Mr. Anuj Maitrey of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited, and Mr. Kapil Mangla of Nirman Architects & Interior Designers, selected the following 15 student teams to participate in the Future Cities India 2020 competition finals: Team 1 KV Tagore Garden, Team 1

Manav Bharti International School, Team 1 Modern School Vasant Vishar, Team 1 APJ School Sheikh Sarai, Team 2 APJ School Sheikh Sarai, Team 1 APJ School SAKET, Team 1 Oxford School, Team 1 Convent of Jesus & Mary School, Team 1 APJ School Noida, Team 1 APJ School Pitampura, Team 1 Vasant Valley School, Team 1 Father Agnel School, Team 1 APJ School Faridabad, Team 1 AIS SEC 43 Gurgaon, and Team 1 AIS Saket. Winners of the finals competition will be awarded scholarships and trophies, and the teachers and technical professionals who serve as counselors and mentors will receive awards and recognition.



For more information about the Future Cities India 2020 competition, visit [www.futurecitiesindia2020.co.in](http://www.futurecitiesindia2020.co.in).