

**Speech of Chryssy Potsiou, FIG president, at joint session
3D Cadastres/3D Geoinfo, 20 October 2016, Athens, Greece**

Dear Colleagues and distinguished guests,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this important joint event, hosting the 11th 3D Geoinfo Conference and the 5th International FIG Workshop on 3D Cadastres with the Indoor 3D Workshop.

I wish to congratulate the planners and the organizers of this event for bringing together so many important experts in the same place. This is a big success.

The focus of this workshop is upon research and technological developments, on issues related to 3d geoinformation, tools for data collection, cloud solutions, data management, optimizing processes and web-based information dissemination, standardization of 3d information, advanced modelling and visualization, as well as related legal and institutional aspects and knowledge sharing in operational experiences, the emerging challenges and the good practices.

We all understand the significance of these areas of interest for the good management of land, the sea and especially the built environment. I am sure that you already have enjoyed, and will continue to enjoy, energetic discussions during these days in addressing these issues.

Dear colleagues,

It is all about people and their living in urban settlements. It is all about developing the “cities we want”, digitally networked and intelligent. And we, as geo-information professionals, are expected to develop services and tools to deliver administrative, economic and social benefits.

This period is full of events dealing with geo-information and land policy for urban management.

Earlier in September of this year, here in Athens, FIG and GLTN organized an Expert Group Meeting on “Valuation of Unregistered Lands” jointly with a high level FIG and World Bank conference to raise awareness on the necessary strategic and policy framework in order to formalize and create sustainable real estate markets as a pillar to build robust economic urban growth, eliminate urban poverty and meet the vision of the global sustainable development agenda of 2030.

Following this event, in Hamburg, INTERGEO 2016 was held, the largest annual networking event that brings together vendors, providers, managers, professionals as well as academics and researchers in the field of geoinformation.

There I had the chance to meet with hundreds of our colleagues, representatives of business and public administration; managers of geodata from all over the world; young entrepreneurs and creative minds all working toward the same goal, trying to increase the “value” of geodata for the people, in order to get more benefit, more transparency, more safety, more environmental quality, more growth, more fairness, more efficiency in governance of urban areas, more smart cities.

And right now, while we are talking, the largest world event on implementing the New Urban Agenda HABITAT III takes place in Quito, Ecuador.

Next Monday the FIG Commission 7 annual meeting and Geoconference on "Cadastre 4.0 - Transparency-Participation-Collaboration" will take place in Portugal and then the Com3 event in Romania "From Volume to Quality: Bridging the Gap for Spatial Data Infrastructure".

No reality has a more direct bearing on the subject of 3 dimensional geoinformation and cadaster than the growth of large cities, especially in the developing countries of the world, especially in the phenomenon of the mega cities.

For our young participants let me give some impressive information. A mega city is an urban area of 10 million population or more. The Economist “Pocket World in Figures” 2016 Edition, lists 33 mega cities of the world from Bangalore, India at ten point

one million, thirty-third on the list, to number one Tokyo at thirty-eight million.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported that in 2014 fifty-four percent of the world's people lived in urban areas, up from thirty-four percent in 1960. The tipping point, according to most authorities, occurred in 2007 when there were more urban dwellers than rural residents in the world: the so-called "urban millennium."

The United Nations predict that by 2050 sixty-six percent of the world's population will live in urban areas.

Much is being written about the growth of urban populations and the concurrent growth of urban infrastructures and institutions to support this huge growth of two-thirds of the world's people in the cities. Of all the institutions that must be developed to anticipate, keep abreast of and support this growth, the cadaster stands foremost in the interest of commerce, real estate investment, municipal revenue, and personal property security not to mention urban planning and management.

As the cities grow they grow vertically as well as horizontally thereby introducing the element of the third dimension.

The tools are available to track and manage this growth of large cities; our professionals know what must be done and we know how to do it.

As usual, what is most critical to that end is the political will to secure land tenure and the foresight required to build the appropriate cadastral institution. What we in FIG call Fit-For-Purpose.

The Habitat III Conference and New Urban Agenda, examines many issues relating to the world's cities including

- Meeting the financial needs of cities: A call to action
- Implementing land value capture and taxation to finance the SDGs and the Habitat agenda
- Urban-rural linkages
- Inclusive cities
- Global toolkit for safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces
- Crowdsourcing data for safe cities and sustainable community action
- Migration toolbox for urban governance.

Clearly, the future of the world's cities is much on the minds of the world's planners.

Recent innovative thinking has introduced the concept of multi-dimensional multi-purpose land information system. It is a logical extension of the 3D cadaster concept, by adding the time dimension and the detail/scale dimension to the equation.

A stated focus of this workshop here in Athens, is cost-effective workflow for new or updated 3D parcels.

In a discussion of “cost effectiveness” one must consider time, that 4th dimension that we speak of. In time, we are usually referring to land titles history and time-sharing rights, or how the shape and size of land parcels and cadastral objects change over time, but it is also a matter of time-cost in the construction of the cadaster, as well as the time/property value relationship. As the city grows, or to put it another way, as the great cities of the world become mega, the value of land and its improvements grow as well. Thus the time/value relationship and its impact that we in FIG are concerned about as well.

Dear Colleagues,

We have a great deal to talk about during these short days of this Fifth International Workshop on 3D Cadastre and Eleventh 3D GeoInfo Conference.

In the name of FIG, I congratulate you for your achievements in this particular field, I welcome you all to Athens and wish you a meaningful experience and a successful conference.