



**FIG/UN Habitat-GLTN Technical Session on the
Surveying Profession and Grassroots-led initiatives**

Thursday, 19 June 2014, 16:30–18:00, *Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre Rooms 403 & 404*

One of the greatest challenges for the world population today is to manage and administer land and natural resources in a way that will sustain equitable living for all today and for generations to come. Land professionals have to lead land stakeholders in responding to the challenge in approaches that are realistic and include all sectors of society. Land Professional and policy makers should support inclusive land management and administration approaches that go beyond formally registered land rights. These approaches should ensure that the poor communities are included and surveying professional standards become relevant for the environment of the poor and disadvantaged groups. This session on surveying profession and grassroots-led initiatives discusses redefining the role of professionals in supporting grassroots-led initiatives thereby emphasizing their role in changing the mindset that surveying is only for the rich; highlighting their value in engaging communities about relevant survey approaches that are suitable for the environment and purposes; and clarifying the catalytic role that they play in land policy agenda to ensure comprehension of the issues at grassroots level and constructive empathy of policy makers. This should go a long way in addressing unnecessary complexities of land registration while recognizing and aligning professional practices to variations in cultural and societal perceptions of land.

The communities, both in rural and urban areas have started grassroots initiatives where they use in addressing many of their local challenges and also utilize such structures to leverage development support including services delivery from relevant authorities. At times these communities get support from benevolent NGOs in implementing these initiatives. The Land Professionals have to participate in these engagements bringing their professional perspectives at the appropriate level. Land management and administration activities impact all communities, although the impacts may vary thereby creating different perceptions. The land professional have to use their professionalism to interpret the perceptions at community level into policy agenda, thereby bridging the gap between the authorities and these communities. This catalytic role of land professional which brings about common understanding between the communities and authorities is crucial in mitigating conflict and enhancing community respect of the land laws.

The GLTN land tools are another approach of enhancing applicability and relevance to local situation of some of the policies and principles on land administration. A land tool is a practical way to solve a problem in land administration and management. These tools are simple and can be used by communities; however the land professionals should contribute and support communities to take these tools to higher levels. The Social Tenure Domain Model is an example of the land tools. It can be implemented by communities to capture, manage and engage on people to land relationships in their locality. With the support of professionals the tool can be used to extend the amount of attribute data captured and provide detailed analysis of the community situation and their developmental aspirations.

The foundation for successful land professional support to community initiatives can be derived from genuine communication between the land professional and communities, thereby ensuring comprehension of all standpoints. That is, participatory engagement leading to relevant solutions to land challenges.

Objectives:

- To discuss key challenges encountered in grassroots-led initiatives
- To discuss how land professionals can bring value addition to the grassroots-led initiatives
- To propose possible actions and partnerships between professionals and grassroots-led initiatives.

The Joint Technical Session

This joint technical session will be facilitated by Jean Du-Plessis, Land and GLTN Unit, UN Habitat, Kenya. It will be a dynamic and interactive session where the facilitator and the audience will engage and interact with invited panelist and with one another to address the objectives of this session.

The facilitator will introduce the topic and the manner the session will be conducted, the panelists will have an opening statement (2-3 minutes), will interact with the facilitator, with fellow panelist and the audience towards a highly interactive session around the focus, which is our professional responsibility to engage and contribute to grassroots-led initiatives. The session will close with each panelist having the final/closing statement (2-3 minutes) before the facilitator wraps up the joint technical session.

Proposed Members of the Panel (to be invited)

- Daniel Roberge, FIG Commission 7
- Jack Makau, Slum Dwellers International
- Lajana Manandhar, Huairou Commission
- Dewi Kartika, International Land Coalition
- Diane Dumashie, FIG Africa Task Force