

Date

Wednesday 18 July 2007

Title of session

Workshop 1 - Capacity Development

Name of presenter/chair

Co-chairs: Iain Greenway, Chief Executive, Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland

Prof Martien Molenaar, Rector, International Institute for Geo-Information Science & Earth Observation, The Netherlands

Presenter: Stig Enemark; President, International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)

Rapporteurs

Colin Henderson, Ordnance Survey and Selena Patton, Defence Geographic Centre

Presentation title: Capacity Building in Land Management: Implementing Land Policy Reforms

Initially, when entering a country you have to look at the whole picture rather than just your sector. You have to try and assess the capacity of the society to deal with new systems. You may have to postpone a project until the right infrastructure is in place.

A good book for those who are interested in the theoretical aspects of capacity building is 'Capacity for Development – new solutions to old problems' (UNDP 2002)

The Danish government agreed to help set up a project to draft new land laws in Malawi and develop a land registry framework. There are 270 traditional authorities in Malawi so the key issue was to integrate them through the civil law system. The current capacity was analysed and it was determined there was a large gap between the number of people who were capable of planning, valuing and surveying property and the number needed for the task.

A meeting of the leading academics of Malawi and the project team was convened to plan and create a multi-disciplined curriculum at the University, its purpose to cover the three main subjects needed with both practical and academic modules. The intention was also to train land clerks in the local authorities so they understood the changes. Unfortunately the Danish government pulled out of the project after two years.

We had the pleasure of Daniel Gondwe from Malawi in the audience who gave us an update on the project. He said that having the right equipment and training was very important. They are still looking for ways to build the capacity in the country. The courses have been introduced but there are problems finding the right professionals to administer the courses. This is currently a hindrance, without the capacity the land reforms can not go ahead. An organised structure is required to help

come up with resources, experience and expertise.

Questions	Answers
<p>Stuart Haynes, (Defence Geographic Centre UK) In what way did the Danish government think that this was a sustainable approach to the project in Malawi?</p>	<p>The project had been designed from the beginning with future sustainability in mind. The project was to manage the policy of decentralising land registration rather than implementing it. In a few years it would have sustained itself by training all the staff needed for the project.</p>
<p>Having trained 300 people you would then need 1 or 2 extra a year to develop the future professionals so running the training programs would become a problem in itself.</p>	<p>A future need would be to interact with the private sector to help pay for training.</p>
<p>Jean Dotse, (Ghana): Modern technology is not always available so training projects should include basic equipment.</p>	
<p>Winston Donovan, (British Virgin Islands): We have old cadastral mapping so the Government sent two students to Jamaica to study. They are slowly getting more people qualified. Land ownership is important for tax purposes so the government is interested in funding students to help generate more income.</p>	<p>It is important that development is anchored in society. We need to change the thinking so that training is seen as an investment, as more survey work is completed then more revenue is generated. Organisations should see trained staff as more profitable to them.</p>