

Date

Monday 13th July 2009

Title of session

Plenary: Challenges of economic turbulence on mapping and how mapping can help solve it

Developing World: The case of Eritrea

Name of presenter/chair

Professor Željko Bačić, Director General, State Geodetic Administration Croatia - Chair

Habtemicael Weldegiorgis , Director General, Cadastral Office, Eritrea - Presenter

Name of rapporteurs

Danny Hyam & Jenny Green

Habtemicael opened by thanking Vanessa Lawrence and said that he was honoured to be there, thanked the conference for the assisted place and wished the conference success. He said that it was a small world and that we needed to learn from others. In his presentation he was going to use Eritrea as a working example.

Much of what Habtemicael said in his presentation was contained within his slides.

Other things that were mentioned were:

- Any real development within the country begins with surveying and mapping, and so without mapping, Eritrea cannot plan and development cannot grow.
- There is no central mapping in the country, it is not yet integrated, it is split into the 6 regions and between the different department (mines, water, etc).

Questions/Comments	Answers
<p>Vanessa Lawrence CB, Ordnance Survey: Is the mapping agency getting dialogue at the right level in government to get their issues heard and does government understand the importance of mapping?</p>	<p>Habtemicael Weldegiorgis: Eritrea was proposing not a central mapping agency but a joined up Cadastral and mapping, otherwise it will not work well.</p>

<p>Muhammad Bashar Nuhu, Federal University of Technology, Nigeria: An interesting presentation, but is it representative of a developing country? Land records are missing.</p>	<p>Habtemicael Weldegiorgis: According to law, all land is registered. After 1997 this was compulsory, however there has been not enough resource to enforce this so it is still voluntary. They have to register all Land and Buildings.</p>
<p>Professor Ian Dowman, International Society for Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing: There is a need for expertise, how are you managing to train your staff and what issues do you face in training?</p>	<p>Habtemicael Weldegiorgis: There is some training internally and some through ISPS abroad through skill upgrading; otherwise there is a low level of expertise.</p>
<p>Chukwudozie Ezigbalike, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa: Congratulate Eritrea on how far they have improved that now any office allocating land has to register the land, so there has been lots of progress.</p>	