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ANNUAL WORLD BANK CONFERENCE ON LAND AND POVERTY
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LAND ADMINISTRATION AND THE ROLE OF LAND REGISTRARS; A CALL TO ACTION

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Abstract

Registrars are key players in the land administration process. Presently, there is no formal network or forum in which registrars from developing nations can discuss interoperability and standards successes and challenges, and to identify requirements for industry and the standards community.

Land registrars, especially those working with predominantly paper-based systems, are often challenged, for example, by: the wide choice of available software solutions; the role of emerging technologies such as blockchain; the poor fit of previous investments in technology; the integration of mobile and other devices; limited funding and inefficient business models; fragmented legal and policy environments; and on-the-ground realities versus actual capabilities.

This results in a strong case to provide a mechanism to help unify and collect international land registrar requirements. Collecting and including their requirements into the standards development process (e.g. the on-going revision of the LADM standard) could result in improved land administration best practices.



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Key Words: Standards, Registrars, Land Administration, capacity building

Land Administration and the role of Land Registrars; A Call to Action

The OGC community has an established Land Administration Domain Working Group (LandAdmin DWG) to address the challenging range of issues related to the efficient and effective discovery, access, processing and sharing of digital land administration data and information. Focusing on all levels of land administration from those implemented in developed nations to the need for basic land administration capabilities in the developing world, this DWG will:

“...identify enabling standards and best practices to guide countries in a programmatic way to establish more cost effective, efficient and interoperable land administration capability, to upgrade current manual to semi-automated processes, and to suggest solutions that are more automated and flexible to new data sources and technologies. These challenges are faced today in countries considered as “developing” as well as those designated as Official Development Assistance (ODA) recipients.”

To facilitate this working group’s efforts, OGC has formal liaison arrangements with ISO Technical Committee 211 which positions the Consortium to work in partnership with ISO on the revision of the ISO LADM standard. Furthermore, OGC has within its membership key National Mapping and Cadaster organizations as well as leading industry organizations offering LADM related geospatial technologies. OGC is supporting the requirements definition for revision of the ISO LADM standard.

However, with only approximately 40%ⁱ of nations operating with mature land administration systems of practice, an extremely important goal of the LandAdmin DWG is to focus on the needs of developing nations to establish useful, reliable and “fit for purpose” land administration capabilities leveraging existing and new innovative technologies that are sustainable based on a given nation’s infrastructure, capabilities, and policy environment.

Accessing the experts on the ground to understand and address practical, real-world requirements in the developing world is paramount to successfully guiding the community to activate innovative ways to ensure sustainable basic land administration capabilities are in place. This premise is well known and well documented, and there is a long and on-going history of substantial global investment in the developing world at local to national levels. What is missing is providing a mechanism to ensure land registrars have a coordinated voice in the process.



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Land registrars, especially those working with predominantly paper-based systems, are often challenged, for example, by; the wide choice of available software solutions; the role of emerging technologies such as blockchain; the poor fit of previous investments in technology; the integration of mobile and other devices; limited funding and inefficient business models; fragmented legal and policy environments; and on-the-ground realities versus actual capabilities.

This results in a strong case to provide a mechanism to help unify and collect international land registrar requirements. Collecting and including their requirements into the standards development process (e.g. the on-going revision of the LADM standard) could result in improved land administration best practices.

It is proposed that the international community act to establish an initial dialog among registrars so that requirements can be more directly included in planned and on-going standards work. The initial goals of the dialogue would include, but are not limited to;

- Offering education, clarity, and insight into available technologies and standards best practices in a neutral, open, inclusive and non-competitive environment
- Discussing trends in innovation and validate fitness against land registrar realities.
- Scoping requirements for a platform to manage knowledge requirements of value to registrars
- Exploring a framework for sustaining the network, through periodic follow-on workshops and virtual internet-based networking resources
- Recruiting a network of organizations and nations willing to pilot innovative standardized, interoperable land administration techniques, developed by the standards and technology community in conjunction with developing nations requirements, capabilities and policy environments
- Involving OGC, ISO, FIG, RICS and other applicable associations, including registrar associations such as the European Land Registration Association (ELRA), and the International Property Registries Association (IPRA – CINDER)

The main proposed next steps for this call to action include;



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- Secure formal support from cooperating associations and standard development organizations, such as ISO, FIG, and RICS on the land registrar network concept
- Jointly develop an expanded concept paper further refining the registrar network concept
- Develop a plan for a registrar workshop, including;
 - Identification of registrars to invite from developing nations
 - Selection of host organization in for the workshop
 - Creation of a detailed workshop technical and cost proposal
 - Commitment from donors for funding the workshop and travel and accommodations for representatives from developing nations with limited financial capacities.

This paper will present the refined and expanded concept, underway a time of the submission of this abstract, along with further calls to action for the creation of an international land registrar network, as required. Providing a network to help create a better-integrated voice for the land registrar community in the standards development process is critical to ensuring unique requirements are reflected in the standards revision process.

References

<http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/groups/landadmin>
