Responding to the Millennium Development Goals

Enemark, Stig

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Responding to the Millennium Development Goals

Prof. Stig Enemark
Vice-President of Aalborg University, Denmark

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The Message

- The Eight Millennium Development Goals form a blueprint agreed to by all the world’s leaders and all the world’s leading development institutions.
- The UN Millennium Summit 2000 established a time bound (2015) and measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, environmental degradation etc. These goals are now placed in the heart of the global agenda.
- The paper suggests that FIG should carefully consider how we can best contribute to reaching the MDGs. FIG should identify their role in this process and spell out the areas where the global surveying profession can make a significant contribution.
- It is proposed to establish a Task Force to develop a FIG policy in this area in cooperation with the UN agencies and especially the World Bank.

“The adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) drawn from the United Nations Millennium Declaration, was a seminal event in the history of United Nations. It constituted an unprecedented promise by world leaders to address, as a single package, peace, security, development, human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

Kofi Annan, 2005

The UN Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
Goal 5: Improve maternal health
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

The framework includes 18 targets and 48 indicators enabling the ongoing monitoring of annual progress.
FIG should identify its role in achieving the MDGs and spell out the areas where the global surveying profession can make a significant contribution.

- Issues such as tenure security, pro-poor land management, and good governance in land administration are all key issues to be advocated in the process of reaching the goals.
- Measures such as capacity assessment, institutional development and human resource development are all key tools.

The role of FIG

- FIG should identify its role in achieving the MDGs and spell out the areas where the global surveying profession can make a significant contribution.
- Issues such as tenure security, pro-poor land management, and good governance in land administration are all key issues to be advocated in the process of reaching the goals.
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The Land Management Paradigm

Land Management includes all activities associated with the management of land and natural resources that are required to fulfill political objectives and achieve sustainable development.

Land Administration Systems (LAS)

LAS provide the infrastructure for implementation of land policies and land management strategies in support of sustainable development. LAS are concerned with the four land administration functions of land tenure, land value, land-use and land development.
FIG should work closely with the UN agencies and especially the World Bank in merging our efforts of contributing to the implementation of the MDGs.

The World Bank Development Agenda plays a key role in implementing the MDGs. The FIG/WB cooperation is widely recognised especially in the area of land administration. I suggest that we increase this cooperation and develop some more formal relations.

I suggest that we aim to develop a WB/FIG special event in 2008 at the WB Headquarters in Washington that will focus on implementing the MDGs and show how we are working in parallel especially in the area of capacity development in land administration.

Other more targeted areas of cooperation

- The UN-Habitat agenda on Global Land Tool Network for pro-poor land management.
- UNDP, FAO, UNEP on projects related to urban/rural interrelationship and environmental sustainability.
- UN OOSA (UN Office for Outer Space Affairs) in relation to issues like disaster and risk management.

A proposed FIG Task Force

- FIG already shares the global responsibility of implementing the MDGs. FIG should, however, develop a more focused approach in this area.
- FIG should establish a Task Force for analysing, explaining and presenting a FIG response to the MDGs.
- The Task Force shall cooperate with the UN agencies and especially the World Bank in developing a FIG policy document including a strategy for implementation and advice of the FIG council on necessary action.

The future belongs to our children