

# **WHY “WCS: A WORLD CADASTRE SUMMIT?”**

**Tahsin Yomralioglu**

Istanbul Technical University, Department of Geomatics Engineering, Istanbul, Turkey.  
tahsin@itu.edu.tr

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Today as all of you aware of that Cadastre is a big challenge in all aspects of the land-related progression, from the basic property use to geo-data assembly, analysis and dissemination. It plays great roles in allowing people, governments, local communities, non-government organizations and the academicians to make progress in addressing many of the world's most pressing land-use and recording by land problems. The Cadastre has ability to support human lifetime in a better way, but failures are still existing. Is the cadastre really being used well and changed our social, economic and cultural creations and future of our world so far? So, we have to think globally about the cadastre for a better land use for our common future. Now it is the time to make a worldwide road map for the Cadastre itself... For the first time ever, this congress will bring together cadastral people, land administrators, politicians, scientists, investors, geo-data providers and GIS/LIS/SDI users dealing with cadastre from all over the world to share their ideas.

**Key words:** Cadastre, Land, Property, Land administration.

## **2. The Importance of Land**

Land had represented wealth and power from the first settlement to the end of 1700s. As a result of the increase in the capital after the industrial revolution, land became a good that can be traded rather than a source of wealth. After 1945, effective environmental planning need emerged especially in Europe's urban areas and land was considered as a scarce source after the population growth as a result of the reconstruction works. In 1970s, due to the insufficient food production and scarcity in the sources, effective management of rural areas emerged as an increasing need.

Thus, land was seen as “socially” scarce source and the need to manage this source effectively was frequently mentioned in the international community. In this context, plenty of meetings and activities were organized by several global organizations, especially by the United Nations and the European Union.

Stated in the “Brundtland Report” by “The World Commission on Environment and Development” in 1987 and described as “Meeting today's needs by taking future generations into consideration”, “Sustainable Development” was widely accepted throughout the world. Land can be used with a sustainable development approach only with good land administration and management. Healthy land policy is essential to ensure effective land administration and

management. One of the prerequisites of developing land policies is to have sufficient land knowledge.

This relation between land knowledge, policy, administration, management and use has a dynamic structure just as the relation between humanity and land does. Countries should regularly revise their land knowledge administration regimes, land policies, land administration and management systems and land use in order to keep up with this dynamism. They less frequently revise such field as land policies where change and development occur slowly; however, they more frequently revise such field as land administration, especially land management.

Some of the reasons that make Land Administration Systems – LAS dynamic are as follows; these systems are directly affected by rapid technological developments, they are the main source of land information, including land policy making, that all public institutions and private sector need, and government wants to provide more effective service by using these systems. “Cadastre” is one of the main components of LAS. In addition, as the main source of data concerning the land use, “topographical map producing” and “land valuation” activities fall within the field of cadastre.

A well-functioning cadastre guarantees property, reduces land conflict, supports real estate taxation, ensures loan security, protects land sources, monitors environment and ameliorates urban planning and infrastructural development. Today, the most important duty of cadastre is to support sustainable development.

Working towards international agreements that respect the interests of all and protect the integrity of the global environmental and developmental system on land, Recognizing the integral and interdependent nature of the Earth, our home, Proclaims that: As stated by the United Nations in 1996;

*Land is the ultimate resource, for without it life on earth cannot be sustained. Land is both a physical commodity and an abstract concept in that the rights to own or use it are as much a part of the land as the objects rooted in its soil. Good stewardship of the land is essential for present and future generations.*

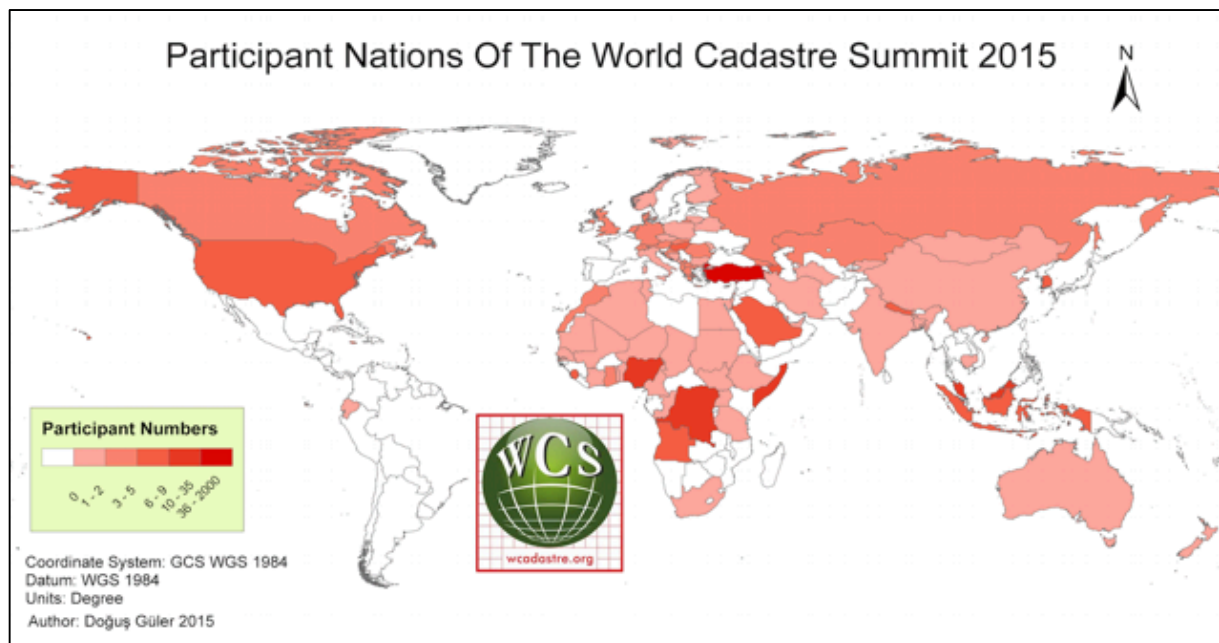
*From a legal perspective, land extends from the centre of the Earth to the infinite in the sky. In the present discussion, however, the focus will be on that volume of space that encompasses the surface of the Earth, all things that are attached to it, and the rocks and minerals that are just below it. Land includes areas covered by water such as seas and lakes, all building and construction, and all natural vegetation.*

### **3. The need for a WCS**

Now it is the time to make a worldwide road map for the Cadastre itself. For the first time ever, a congress will bring together cadastral people, land administrators, politicians, scientists, investors, geo-data providers and GIS/LIS/SDI users dealing with cadastre from all over the world to share their ideas. Thoughts that related to any aspects of the cadastre proper for land-use people are came to the WCS-CE. Presentations focused on the national and international

policies, standards, methodologies, tools; and any developments involved with cadastral developments and new ideas and technologies. The call for contributions that cover land-related functions in any part, intersection of phases, and/or integration of phases of Surveying, Geomatics, Planning, Land Management, GIS, Geo-Spatial Information, Data Standards, Land Law and Policies, Cadastral Training and Developers etc..

The WCS-CE can cover all details in cadastral fields and aims to bring together cadastre specialists all over the World. Main aim is to discuss the latest issues and developments on the Cadastre in a scientific platform and to bring together researchers, experts in many countries. The WCS-CE is most timely and, in addition to hearing presentations from experts and interesting speakers, participants will be able to attend in a number of Panel Discussions, Tutorials, Workshops, Keynote Speakers, Technical Tours, Exhibitions, Social and Cultural Events particularly during the congress days. In addition, a special "Cadastre Summit" section can be held with the contribution of authority delegates of the world-nations to make a global declaration on the cadastre.



#### **4. Conclusions**

Many countries already recognize the need for a cadastral system. Agenda 21 and the HABITAT II Global Plan of Action provide additional justifications for establishing and maintaining appropriate cadastral systems to serve the different needs of nations and their citizens. Also, WCS recognize the statement of “FIG- International Federation of Surveyors Statement on the Cadastre”. As stated by the FIG;

This statement of the International Federation of Surveyors highlights, from an international perspective, the importance of the Cadastre as a land information system for social and economic development. It gives examples of legal, organisational, and technical issues that

need to be addressed in order to establish and maintain a Cadastre. The statement also describes some of the different roles that surveyors play in the management and operation of a Cadastre. This statement does not recommend a uniform cadastre for every country or jurisdiction.

A Cadastre is normally a parcel based, and up-to-date land information system containing a record of interests in land (e.g. rights, restrictions and responsibilities). It usually includes a geometric description of land parcels linked to other records describing the nature of the interests, the ownership or control of those interests, and often the value of the parcel and its improvements. It may be established for fiscal purposes (e.g. valuation and equitable taxation), legal purposes (conveyancing), to assist in the management of land and land use (e.g. for planning and other administrative purposes), and enable sustainable development and environmental protection.