

Introduction

It is not always easy to relate investments in land administration systems to effects on economic growth and poverty alleviation. For India, McKinsey Global Institute calculated in its report 'The Growth Imperative' (2001) that removing barriers in the performance of the real estate market would propel the economic growth with 1, 3%. Apart from inflexible zoning, rent controls, protected tenancies, also the lack of good land registration and cadastre limits growth rates. The relation between land policy and poverty reduction was explored in the research report of the World Bank, 'Land Policy for Growth and Poverty Reduction' (2003). Both reports justify investment in improving land records and land access. During a conference held by the World Bank and the Ministry of Rural Development on 6th January 2006 in New Delhi, the participants even agreed that improving land administration is a top-priority for India.

With all this in mind, GIS-Development, the Centre for Science, Development and Media Studies and Commission 7 (Cadastre and Land Management) of the International Federation of Surveyors FIG took the initiative to dedicate a two day international conference on enhancing land registration and cadastre in India, as part of the bigger event MapIndia 2006.

The participants aim at covering the wide spectrum of land administration, from economic and social benefits of good land administration on one hand to the application of low cost technology on the other hand.

I am convinced that the authors will reach their goal to contribute to better land administration in India.

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