

Establishment of a Computerised Cadastral Records System for Trinidad and Tobago West Indies

Fitzherbert REYES and Charisse GRIFFITH-CHARLES, Trinidad and Tobago

Key words: Cadastre, Cadastral Reform, Cadastral Records, Trinidad and Tobago.

ABSTRACT

The cadastral records in Trinidad and Tobago consist of index maps and section sheets held on various media, at several scales, in different projection systems and at different sites. Several sets of cadastral records exist that are separately maintained and updated. The result is that there is no single reliable source of current survey information relating to property boundaries. The situation is exacerbated by a legal framework that supports a dual system for recording property transactions comprising of registration of Deeds under the Common Law, and Registration of Title under the Real Property Ordinance.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, under an Inter American Development Bank (IDB) funded loan, initiated the development of a computerised cadastral records system in January 1996 with the purpose of reorganising and computerising the indexing of the cadastral and land records managed by the Lands and Surveys Division, Ministry of Housing and Settlements.

Upon completion of the project, the New Records Management Strategy (NRMS) is expected to make more efficient the workflow of land related activities within the Lands and Surveys Division and provide a computerised indexing system that would support searches and queries of the cadastral records. However, the project is very much delayed and is currently incomplete.

This paper details the historical development of the cadastral system in Trinidad and Tobago, the genesis of the cadastral records management project and the current status of the project. A conclusion is drawn as to the institutional, political and societal reasons for the current inability to achieve a favourable outcome to the project.

CONTACT

Mr. Fitzherbert Reyes
The Lands and Surveys Division
118 Frederick Street
Port of Spain
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Tel. + 1 868 643 2332
E-mail: fitz_n_charm@tstt.net.tt

Ms. Charisse Griffith-Charles
The Department of Surveying and Land Information
The University of the West Indies
St. Augustine
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Tel. + 1 868 640 2959
Fax + 1 868 662 4414
E-mail: charain@tstt.net.tt
<http://www.eng.uwi.tt/depts/survey/staff/ccharles/index.html>

TS7.15 Regional Experience in the Cadastre – Africa and the Americas
Fitzherbert Reyes and Charisse Griffith-Charles
Establishment of a Computerised Cadastral Records System for Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies