

"THE WORLD CADASTRE SUMMIT, CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION"  
THE INAUGURAL SPEECH OF THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND URBANIZATION  
MR. İDRİS GÜLLÜCE FOR THE WORLD CADASTRE SUMMIT

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Turkey has recently made great strides in a spate of areas such as industry, technology, transport, education, science and arts as well as Land Registry and Cadastral Services, and secured a presence in the global market thanks to its economic growth, import of goods and services, and quality of products.

Held for the first time in Turkey, "the World Cadastre Summit, Congress and Exhibition" will gather industries of surveying and geographical information technologies, experts and officials of respective countries under the theme of "Let's Cadastre the World" in an epoch where the number of communication means increases each day, and thus let the world know about Turkey's capability and potential and further strengthen its promotion across the globe.

This event will pave the way for a discussion over new solutions to register lands that 75 percent of the global population has yet to own and has no access to information to this end, and provide a chance to elaborate on new ideas to improve land management policies and system of the countries.

Land functions as the basis of life as well as a *raison d'être*, an assurance for the future and a corner stone of economy for individuals and countries. Lands are considered not as a inheritance for societies but as something to hand down next generations. That is why it is imperative to safeguard property rights for lands and make use of them in a sustainable manner for the sake of a safer and more robust future. Making all of them possible is the main function of cadastre.

Carried out in Land Registry and Cadastral Services in the light of know-how and experience of self-sacrificing staff working for the headquarters and rural services affiliated to the General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre, some projects have improved the quality of services provided by public institutions for citizens, and enhanced the business capacity and volume of the private industry in surveying and cadastre. In addition, the General Directorate is now in a position to lodge international tenders thanks to the cooperation with the World Bank while the Turkish private industry is equipped with the business capacity to run in line with international standards. Services and efforts expected from the General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre improve on a regular basis both in quality and coverage.

Turkey's political priorities, strategic goals and public requirements currently require the General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre to render services as an institution that not only collects and stores data and information but also process and submit them.

Projects and activities carried out by the General Directorate in line with this objective are major steps in this respect.

The fact that cadastral efforts are completed across Turkey and that the renewed and digitalized cadastral maps are made available in a compatible manner with land registry details within the Spatial Real Estate System (MEGSIS) as a part of the Modernization Project for Land Registry and Cadastre constitute the most essential inputs for plans and real estate valuation efforts to improve the livability level of settlements for sustainable urban development, and the spatial and life quality.

Providing public and private institutions with information acquired as a result of renewal and update of cadastral maps in a manner to reinforce digital cadastral and land registry information has improved the effectiveness and efficiency of land registry and cadastral services. The concept of land registry and cadastre originates from the statehood. On the other hand, cadastral efforts are momentous services to safeguard land property.

A society can not possibly rid of conflicts unless what individuals own is registered by the state. Cadastral efforts based on a well-functioning surveying system and consequently land registry information play an undeniable role in securing peace within a society.

Therefore, one can only be knowledgeable with a country as long as it is surveyed. On the other hand, social and economic development call for surveying a country's lands in the optimal manner possible. Without land registry-cadastral and surveying information, it is impossible to succeed in any projects for lands. Without them, you can neither construct any irrigation canal, energy and road project nor any audit and regulation on land use.

While they function as major services, the generation of information for Land Registry and Cadastre is a quiet and retiring task to carry on. You can put efforts exerted for days and months on a paper or fit them into a disc or a CD. All these efforts are appreciated by those in need and put on paper. The General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre carries out efforts across Turkey and the world as an efficient institution that meets international standards with an ability to provide fast, uninterrupted, safe and up-to-date e-state integration by making use of functions, advanced information and communication technologies for national real estate policies in line with the objective for a strong society, livable spaces and sustainable environment.

I would like to take this occasion to express that it is an honor for us to host such a comprehensive scientific event to discuss over "cadastre" as a major topic at the global level, and gather with distinguished guests, and I would like to welcome you all once again.

Best regards,  
İdris GÜLLÜCE  
The Minister of Environment and Urbanization  
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