



Name: Robin McLaren

Current Position: Senior Associate

Key Skills:

- Design and implementation support of land administration solutions
- Land Reform policies in Developing Countries
- National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) strategy formulation and review
- Geospatial information management
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessments
- Project management (design and implementation)
- Audit of GIS / SDI projects

Profile

Robin has over forty years' experience in the design, implementation and management of geospatial information systems. Initially this was with the system providers, but for the last thirty-five years he has been providing independent consulting services internationally to public and private organisations investing in innovative location enabled applications and has also been supporting land policy and land administration initiatives in developing countries.

He has been at the forefront of the GIS revolution. In the late 1970's he developed and supported early, innovative Land Information Management solutions in continental Europe and through the early 1980's designed and implemented GIS solutions world-wide from bases in Switzerland and Canada. In 1986 he built on this strong technical and business background and established Know Edge Ltd to provide independent advice to clients investing in geospatial information management solutions. Over the past 35 years he has helped to implement over 100 corporate solutions, including National Land Registration and Cadastral Systems, utility asset information management solutions and complex Local Government land & property information management solutions. He excels at turning business requirements into effective information system solutions that deliver significant benefits to the business and citizens.

Robin is recognised as a world expert in Land Administration and has worked extensively with the United Nations, EU and World Bank on land policy / land reform programmes to strengthen security of tenure and support economic reforms in Eastern and Central Europe, Africa, Middle-East and the Far-East.

Robin has supported national governments in formulating National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) strategies and led the formulation of the initial UK Location Strategy and supported similar initiatives in Kenya, Hungary, Iraq and Western Australia. He has also supported the implementation of INSPIRE in the UK and was a member of the UK Location Council.

Robin has been an active member of FIG since 1994 and has published a wide range of professional papers at national and international conferences. Robin is an Honorary Fellow



at the School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh and has co-authored FIG / World Bank / UN-HABITAT publications on 'Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration'.

Robin is excellent at facilitating discussion, building consensus and thrives in complex, multi-cultural environments. He is currently working part time as an independent consultant as he nears retirement.

Professional Experience

1986 - present Director, Know Edge Ltd & Independent Consultant

Founder and Managing Director of a private consulting company created in September 1986 to provide independent consulting services associated with geospatial information management and the formulation of SDI strategies in the Utilities, Land Administration Agencies, Land & Property Information Management, Mapping Services, Central and Local Government, Retail and Financial Services, Environmental Management market sectors. Extensive support of land reform programmes world-wide through the United Nations, EU and World Bank.

Achievements

- Developed and supported the implementation of enterprise geospatial information management strategies within a significant number of organisations in local government; water, gas and power utilities; financial services; environment agencies, sports agencies, defence agencies and mapping agencies.
- Led the formulation of the UK Location Strategy and was a founding member of the UK Location Council.
- Member of the UK Location Programme team implementing the EU INSPIRE Directive in the UK.
- Supported the procurement of large, complex enterprise geospatial information management solutions.
- Technical Advisor to the Hungarian Government during the 1990s on their land restitution and reform programme.
- Supported land reform programmes in Mongolia, Philippines, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Iraq, Hungary, Slovakia, Estonia, Poland, Russia, Kuwait, Romania, Croatia and Albania.
- Honorary Fellow, School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh, Scotland for the last 20 years and supported and taught elements of the M.Sc. in Geographic Information Science.

1984 - 1986 Product Manager, Wild Leitz Canada

Product Manager primarily responsible for a new, innovative GIS (System 9) - the first to be based entirely on Relational DBMS technology. Responsibilities included the management of product requirements and the co-ordination of product release strategy between R&D and marketing.

Achievements

- The design, implementation and world-wide launch of a state-of-the-art GIS product



**1980 - 1984 Software Development Manager, Wild Heerbrugg AG,
Switzerland**

Initially senior member of a systems group to market, benchmark, install, support and extend the externally supplied Synercom Technology Inc.'s INFORMAP product world-wide outside of North America. Software activities included creating application packages for photogrammetric data capture and city cadastres. Subsequently involved in the management of a project to create a totally new GIS. Activities included: strategic planning, market research, product requirements definition, top-down design, target hardware selection, project management and implementation. Project staff included 40 programming personnel distributed in North America and Europe.

Achievements

- Development and support of customised GIS solutions to a world-wide network of suppliers.

1978 - 1980S Software Developer, Ferranti-Cetec Graphics Ltd, UK

Applications programmer involved in the design, development, installation and support of an interactive graphics mapping and information system aimed at the European cadastral market. Major systems installed at Basel and Munich.

Achievements

- Development and support of the world's first Land Information System

Qualifications

1975 B.Sc. (Hons) Topographic Science, University of Glasgow, Scotland
1977 M.Sc.E. Geodesy & Geomatics Engineering, University of New Brunswick, Canada
2015 D.Sc. (Honorary) University of Glasgow, Scotland

Memberships

Honorary Member FIG
Honorary Fellow, School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Outside interests

Ski Mountaineering, Field Hockey, Tennis, Golf, Music, Urban Planning, Lion Taming.

CV last updated: March 2024