



# MGF & SISC 2014 CONFERENCE REPORT

*Fostering Domestic Capacity for Economic Growth*

## OPENING CEREMONY

As the fallouts of the global slowdown continues to play across the world, the Malaysian economy, which has shown great resilience even in the most difficult times must now move towards technology adoption and enhancing capabilities to continue on the growth path. This was the message from Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji Haji Mohd Noor, Minister of Local Government and Housing, Sabah at the Malaysia Geospatial Forum. The Forum was co-organised with the Sabah International Surveyors' Congress in Sabah with the theme: Fostering Domestic Capacity for Economic Growth.



The Forum successfully brought together a number of leaders and experts on a single platform where they shared their thoughts and opinions about a wide-range of topics. Over 450 participants from 10 countries attended the conference. We are also glad to share that we received 56 papers presented in this conference. The exhibition featured a number of exhibitors who showcased the cutting-edge geospatial solutions. The exhibition hall was abuzz with visitors eager to update themselves with the latest geospatial technology available. The conference provided an excellent networking platform for the users and providers of geospatial products and services.

## PLENARY SESSION

### ***Harnessing Domestic Wealth***

Given the recent discovery of oil and gas resources, the Sabah region is now a hot bed for the energy sector and this is also where the most advanced mining technologies could play a big role. Lee Ming Tong, Advisor, Palm Oil Industrial Cluster (POIC) Lahad Datu highlighted how geospatial technology involving remote sensing, GIS, GPS could play a significant role in the development of the palm oil sector by making it more sustainable, environment friendly and cost-effective. Dato' Dr Nor Aieni Haji Mokhtar former Undersecretary of NOD, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia, said that the value of Malaysia's maritime sector is generated by a wide range of economic and resource use activities. Dr Ahmad Ibrahim from Academy of Sciences Malaysia Nations said that all the development and progress may derail without well proper planning and management. He insisted that the key to future sustainability are the investment in science, technology and innovation. Datuk Dr Mohd Yaakub Haji Johari, President and Chief Executive, Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (SEDIA), invited the geospatial industry to contribute towards the goal of sustainable development.

### ***Exploring New Frontier***

Rodney Chaffee, Head of Sales Asia Pacific, FARO Technologies updated the audience with the latest 3D terrestrial laser scanner technology. He said "with the ability to scan almost any terrestrial objects, we can expect many more creative developments." Dr Wong King of Hong Kong Institute of Utility Specialists used the metaphors that like our blood vessel, underground utilities works in same principles. "Few will care about that until there is a problem" he added while speaking about the utility industry in Hong Kong and also sharing his view on the challenges and opportunities for future development. John Whitehead of Trimble said "employing the fast moving geospatial technology has become a challenge to today's surveying professional. The mergers of geospatial technologies provide practical and efficient solutions for today's surveyor."



### ***Meeting Regional and Global Demand***

Sabah has its own strength that can be enhanced and developed both in terms of infrastructure and economy. It was among the contents of the presentation by Datuk Mohd Hasnol representing the Institute for Development Studies (Sabah). He said, "Sabah is a state blessed with natural resources, but proper development planning is needed for wealth creation". He was accompanied by Abhay Mithal, Director of Skymap Global, Singapore who emphasised on the importance of cross border geospatial information and applications which contribute to increased regional co-operation and knowledge transfer in Asia. Ir Mazura Nor from Dr Nik & Associates Sdn Bhd talked about geoinformation technologies and flood management. David Hisdal from Intermap discussed the benefits of virtual software. "Cloud is on-demand technology in managing and integrating the spatial data infrastructure," he said.

### **TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES**

Several technical sessions on a broad range of topics were also held at the conference. These sessions highlighted the user and the industry perspective regarding the geospatial technologies vis a vis Big Data, Geospatial Building Resilient Communities, Web Mapping & 3D Technology, Property Market, Precision Farming & Forestry, UAVs, Multi-Purpose Cadastre and Land Rights, Fostering QS Capacity in Construction Industries, Geo systems & Infrastructure, Business Management and Legal Awareness in Construction Industry. The conference also witnessed a Technology Track Session conducted by FARO which updated the audience with the latest FARO 3D terrestrial laser scanning technologies.



## THANK YOU NOTE

Geospatial Media and Communications extends its deepest gratitude to the host organizer, strategic partners, sponsors, exhibitors, supporting organizations, supporting institutions, speakers and all the delegates who were part of Malaysia Geospatial Forum 2014.



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