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Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia values the vital role of geospatial information

WE use GPS navigation from our car or cellphone to commute daily, to locate the nearest nasi lemak outlet, to find the best holiday deals, to grab a ride, and more, without a second thought.

These are examples of using geospatial information, which is defined as data referenced to a place – a set of geographic coordinates – that can be gathered, manipulated and displayed in real time.

The same platform is now a

major contributor to economic transformation in many countries through e-services and e-commerce.

“Future innovation and advancement will benefit smart construction, precision agriculture and driverless vehicles,” said Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia president Sr Haji Mohammad Azmi Mohd Zin, adding that there is still a lack of awareness and understanding of the vital and integrative role of geospatial information. “Information that is accessible, that reflects the

physical world (both natural and built), that provides the digital version of our world where all human, economic and environmental activities take place, is necessary for a smart society. All countries and all sectors need geospatial information for national development and decision-making,” he said.

According to Azmi, geospatial information describes the geographic and built features, their relationship to other features, to humanity and its activities. “Within our professional



Azmi (right in blue) planting a tree at FRIM Selangor Research Station Melaka during Global Surveyors' Day recently.

“FUTURE INNOVATION AND ADVANCEMENT WILL BENEFIT SMART CONSTRUCTION, PRECISION AGRICULTURE AND DRIVERLESS VEHICLES.

– AZMI MOHD ZIN



domain, it is about boundaries, plans, maps and charts, our valuation and property data, our estimates, costing and construction cost, our building condition and related information concerning planned or soon-to-be-built structures,” he said.

Azmi noted an emerging “data ecosystem” for sustainable development leveraging on integrative capacities of geospatial information to provide evidence on places, people, events and activities so that citizens, businesses, organisations and governments can make informed decisions.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a global plan of action for people, planet and prosperity – is envisaged to profoundly improve the lives of everyone and transform our world for the better.

“The broad and transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda provides tremendous opportunity for our profession to meet the demand for new data acquisition and integration approaches, for timely and reliable data, including earth observations and geospatial information,” said Azmi.

This year, the 21st International Surveyors' Congress (ISC) includes a one-day Kuala Lumpur International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management. It is held in conjunction with a UN Expert Consultation and Meeting from June 18 to 21.

This UN activity is hosted by the Malaysian Government through the Department of Survey and Mapping, Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources Malaysia.

Organised by the Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia, the first day of the 21st ISC seeks to improve awareness and understanding for the unprecedented data necessary for sustainable development, and to embrace the digital transformation towards smarter infrastructure, cities, economies and communities.

The second day covers parallel technical sessions related to property surveying, quantity surveying, building surveying, geomatics and land surveying – the four divisions of RISM. ☺