

Bismillah Hirrahman Nirrahim
Assalamualaikum Warahmatullah Hiwabarakatuh
Good Morning

Alhamdulillah hirabbil alamin, wassala tuwassala asyrafil
ambiya hiwarmursalin, Sayyidina Mohammasin Wa'ala Alihi
Wasahbihi Ajmain.

We are most grateful to Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala, that we
are all able to gather here for the Official Opening of The 8th
South East Asia Survey Congress 2005.

Yang Berhormat,

Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Paduka Awang
Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar,
Minister of Development, Brunei Darussalam,

Yang Mulia,

Dato Paduka Dr Haji Mat Sunny bin Hj Mohd Hussin,
Deputy Minister of Development, Brunei Darussalam

Yang Mulia,

Dato Paduka Awg Hj Matasan bin Hj Mohd Daud,
Permanent Secretary (Administration & Finance)
Ministry of Development

Yang Mulia,

Awg Hj Mohd Said bin Pehin Penyurat Dato Paduka Haji
Hashim,
Permanent Secretary (Technical & Professional)
Ministry of Development

Yang Berhormat,
Dato Paduka Hj Yunos bin Mohd Noh,
Vice-President BIG

Professor Holger Magel,
President FIG

Yang Mulia,
Awg Hj Mohd Jamil bin Hj Mohd Ali,
Acting Surveyor General

Distinguished Delegates, Guests,
Distinguished Speakers, Exhibitors, Sponsors and
supporters,
Members of The Media and the Organising Committee,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome to The 8th South East Asia Survey Congress.

Firstly, on behalf of the Organising Committee, I wish to
convey our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to His

Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Development, Brunei Darussalam, for consenting to officiate this Official Opening despite his very busy schedule, and later to also officially open the Technical Exhibition which is held in conjunction with World GIS Day.

Honourable Minister, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

The South East Asia Survey Congress, or better known as The SEAS Congress is the flagship event of The ASEAN Federation of Land Surveying and Geomatics, AFLAG. This 8th edition is being hosted by the Brunei Institution of Geomatics, BIG, with the collaboration of The Survey Department, Ministry of Development and with the support of The International Federation of Surveyors FIG. This 8th edition is the first of the biennial event, having been organized every 4 years earlier. BIG and Survey Department are indeed very honoured to have been given this opportunity. BIG is just over 2 years old and was last April admitted as a member of the prestigious world body The FIG. We are very honoured to have the company of

Professor Holger Magel, The FIG President who will be addressing this Congress.

The primary objective of this congress is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and information, and to showcase our respective members' contributions to both regional as well as global geomatics fraternity. The congress will not only highlight cutting-edge developments in cartographic and allied technologies but will also feature keynote lectures on various Geomatics-related and technical topics which will facilitate the sharing and exchange of ideas and techno-trends.

The congress programme has been designed to offer a wide range of activities which are congruent to the congress theme: "Geomatics and The Community: Spatial Way to Sustainable Development". It is our expressed aspiration to facilitate and augment both local and foreign delegates to share leading-edge ideas and key technologies which will stimulate greater cooperation and enterprise in an increasingly globalised world economy.

To further enhance regional cooperation, The Organising Committee is also hosting other meetings in the margins of

The SEAS Congress. Yesterday, the meeting of the Joint Land Surveyors Boards of Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Sabah, Sarawak and Brunei Darussalam was held in the morning whilst in the afternoon AFLAG held her Extraordinary General Meeting and Council Meeting. The EGM was aimed at approving amendments to the AFLAG Constitution. Later this afternoon, and the next couple of days, The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, The UNGEGN will also hold her meeting and workshop. Similarly, The Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and The Pacific will hold a workshop and Executive Board Meeting. The various meetings and workshops aim to complement the works of the multi-disciplined organizations and avoid duplication of efforts.

Honourable Minister, Distinguished Guests and Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Congress would not have been made possible without the cooperation and collaboration of the members of the organizing committee; mainly staff of The Survey Department. That I am on the threshold of leaving The Survey Department, please allow me to express my greatest

thanks and appreciation to my staff who have been working tirelessly, especially towards the success of the Congress. The Survey Department has always taken the initiative in undertaking her role in the National Development, true to her motto - *Leading the Way*, in support of the aspirations of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Brunei Darussalam.

As Chairman of The Organising Committee, I fully acknowledge and express our gratitude to the financial, in-kind and moral support extended by The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Brunei Darussalam.

I am also most grateful to the generous sponsors, notably Brunei Shell, supporters and exhibitors. However, the success of the Congress is through the active participation of the delegates, you, who have taken to spend your valuable time to be with us, and to share your knowledge and expertise for the betterment of mankind.

For some of us, we have been subjected to natural disasters and the ensuing tragedies, notably the tsunami that occurred

on the 26th December last year. May lessons learnt help to avert such tragedies in the future.

Distinguished Overseas Delegates,

The Congress program may be quite compact. Nevertheless, we have also arranged social and technical programs, as well as golf, to take you away from the Congress venue; to enable you to partake in some of the truly unique as well as 'seldom seen and many not be seen anywhere else' sights and sounds of Brunei Darussalam, The Abode of Peace and the "Kingdom of Unexpected Treasures".

Honourable Minister, Permanent Secretaries, Distinguished Guests and Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for being here today. May Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala bless us all. Amin.

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah, Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Thank you.