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Spatially Enabled Government and Society

Spatially enabled governments and societies recognise that all activities and events have a geographical and temporal context, and use spatial data, information and services effectively and efficiently when making decisions and organising their affairs.

This was agreed upon by participants at the recently concluded Expert Group Meeting and International Symposium on Spatially Enabled Government and Society hosted by the Department of Survey and Mapping, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 14th to 16th February 2012. The International Symposium is an activity of the United Nations-sponsored Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP) and supported by the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association, the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS).

The EGM was convened by PCGIAP Working Group 3, the FIG Task Force on Spatially Enabled Society and the GSDI Association the day before the PCGIAP International Symposium. The EGM brings together, and provides a forum for, professionals from government and private sector, academia and research institutes and technology-providers to discuss the issues, trends and technologies that impact a spatially enabled government and society. Participants at this EGM from the FIG included President CheeHai Teo, vice president Prof Ing. Rudolf Staiger, FIG



During the opening session of the International Symposium on Spatially Enabled Government and Society.

Commission 4 chair Dr Michael Sutherland, FIG Task Force on Spatially Enabled Society chair Dr. Daniel Steudler, Peter Laarakker from Dutch Kadaster, Enrico Rispoli from CNGGeL Italy and Brent Jones from ESRI.

By adding location to existing information, spatial enablement unlocks a wealth of existing knowledge about the environment, its legal and economic situation, its resources and challenges. Since this information is the foundation for informed decision-making, resilience and sustainability, it needs to have authority and be comprehensive, freely available and usable. Collection, updating, analysis, sharing and communication of the information underpins an effective delivery system for good governance, improving transparency and efficiency and resulting in more informed decision-making and sustainable actions.

The International Symposium was officiated by the Honourable Joseph Kurup, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia (second from right), accompanied by Dr. Hiroshi Murakami, vice president of the PCGIAP (first from left), Dr. Paul Cheung, director of the Statistic

Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (second from left), Mr. Zoal Azha Yusof, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia (third from left) and Prof Dr. Abdul Kadir Taib, director general of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (first from right).

The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Spatially Enabled Government and Society was adopted at the conclusion of the three-day event and presented to the Honourable Douglas Uggah Embas, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia, at the closing session of the symposium. The Declaration confirmed, among other things, the importance of authoritative and assured data and information, encouragement of the incorporation of volunteered information, development-enabling platforms by locating, connecting and delivering information from different scales, purposes and origins, as well as the importance of common geodetic reference frameworks, positioning and network infrastructures. ◀

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