

Surveyors Express the World! – Celebrating the Global Surveyors’ Day, the Malaysian way

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The Global Surveyors’ Day 2019 – The Malaysian Edition (GSD2019) was the first festivity of its kind being organised at a national level, where the contribution and involvement of the geomatic and land surveyors’ profession in Malaysia’s nation-building are being celebrated. The celebration was a one-week event, beginning from 21st March 2019 until 26th March 2019. The celebration was organised by the Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (JUPEM) and much supported by the Board of Licensed Land Surveyors Malaysia (LJT), Association of Authorised Land Surveyors Malaysia (PEJUTA) and Royal Institute of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM).

The celebration started with an Astronomical and *Falaq* Talk on 21st March 2019, where the public was exposed on the role of surveyors in determining the Islamic holy month's calendar. Coincide with the supermoon phenomenon happening the day before, visitors were also given the opportunity to experience stargazing and night sky observation.



Earlier on the same day, a seminar entitled “Talk to Impress” was organised by RISM to encourage surveyors to become an excellent influencer and skilled communicator.



A hot topic on “Flat Earth” was also discussed through an open forum by astronomic and surveying experts on the same day. It was co-organised by the young surveyors of UiTM. The forum had attracted around 300 audiences who were interested in the forum debate.



On the 22nd March 2019, during the Muslim’s Friday prayer a *Khutbah* was performed by the Imam at the famous UTM Kuala Lumpur mosque. In his *Khutbah*, the Imam highlighted to the audience the importance of astronomical study and the role of surveyors with the determination of the *Hijrah* calendar and navigation.



The main GSD2019 celebration was JUPEM's Open Day and the officiating ceremony of GSD2019 by YB Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources, which occurred on the 23rd and 24th March 2019. Plenty of activities were conducted with the same primary objective; to create awareness and promote the many domains and services of geomatic and land surveying profession have to offer to the public. Aside from that, visitors were given the opportunity to interact with prominent surveyors from academia, private and public sectors about the surveying profession. More than 2,000 visitors came to the open day that included tertiary, secondary and primary students and also kids – the future young surveyors of Malaysia.

To engage with the visitors, most of the activities organised were interactive and hands-on so visitors could gain first-hand experience and appreciate the works of surveyors. Not forgetting, to know the various type of spatial analysis that can be optimised for decision making. The activities included live and hands-on demonstrations on survey services and geospatial technologies, such as UAV mapping, disaster risk mapping, terrestrial laser scanning, cadastral survey, sun observation, qiblah verification, international boundary survey and underground utility mapping.







Interactive games such as I-Spy Topo Map, Thematic Map Puzzle, Survey Trivia Archery, Wheel of Maps – National Atlas, Spatial Race and other quizzes were also conducted and open to all visitors. Each game focuses on specific surveying elements for visitors to comprehend and appreciate.





Besides that, a colouring contest was also organised to inspire creativeness among kids, and the cartographic fundamentals were used to determine the winners.





Next, special guided tours too were conducted, where each session showed the different types of surveying processes and domains performed by JUPEM. Questions and answers took place almost every time to feed the curiosity of the special guided tour participants.





Other than that, Career Talk on the surveying profession was held in 3 courses from both private and government sectors to promote the many areas of surveying and job opportunities in the Malaysian market. Last but not least, 16 key surveying industry from either the private, government or academic sectors participated in showcasing their works, technologies and services at the exhibition ground. To encourage a healthy lifestyle among surveyors and the public, GSD2019 Fun Run was conducted and attracted more than 600 participants from all walks of life for their own enjoyment and run at a distance of 4km.



The GSD2019 celebration was then continued with Subsurface Asset Management & Surveying Conference 2019 (SAMS'19) event from 25th – 26th March 2019 at Istana Hotel Kuala Lumpur City Centre. SAMS'19 was organised by PEJUTA. The conference has gathered utility providers, surveyors, engineers, town planners, local authorities and government agencies in Malaysia, with the aim to make them understand and aware of the subsurface asset management and underground utilities developments in Malaysia.



Concurrently, a Geodetic Revolution Talk had also taken place on the 25th March 2019, to give participants insight on the revolution of the geodetic survey in Malaysia and its current state of development. The talk of was co-organised by young surveyors of POLISAS.



All in all the Malaysian edition of the Global Surveyors' Day celebration was a success. The objective of the celebration was met as good responses and feedbacks were received from the visitors. Visitors and the public have come to realise that surveyors, truly do express the world in many forms and the spatial information resultant from the services carried out by surveyors would enable one to make smarter decision-making, and better nation-building. Indeed, surveyors express the world.

