Conference Report

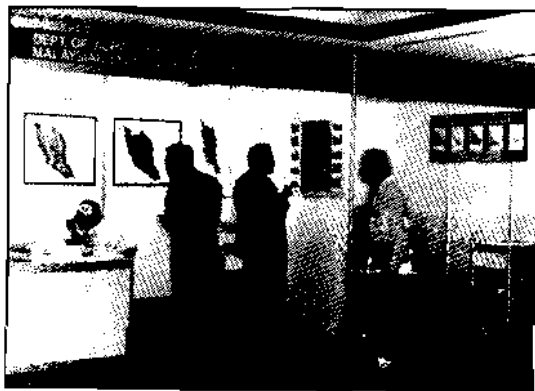# NALIS '94 Symposium and Exposition
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 14 - 16 November, 1994

Alias Abdul Rahman and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Taher Buyong

Considered the first GIS/LIS event in the country, NALIS '94 Symposium and Exposition brings together personel from various agencies working on land related data. Government agencies such as Department of Surveying and Mapping, Department of Land and Mines, MIMOS, MAMPU, MACRES, Department of Statistics, Public Work Department, Department of Agriculture, Department of Forestry, and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (Center for Geographic Information and Analysis) participate in this event. Some 300 participants, primarily surveyors (both from government and private sector) attended the symposium. 20 papers and 3 tutorials were presented. The symposium were officially launched by the Minister of Land and Cooperative Development of Malaysia. Sessions were organized on a single track so that everyone could attend each session, and miss nothing. All presentations were invited, and most of the papers are published in the conference proceedings.

Technical Sessions
The technical session is categorized into four sessions, namely, *Malaysian GIS/LIS Overview, LIS/GIS in Developed Countries, GIS Applications in the Public Sector, and LIS/GIS and Vision 2020.* Prof. Ian Williamson from University of Melbourne, Australia begins the technical session with his thoughtful theme paper on the LIS/GIS trends. Land related data agencies in Malaysia has to change for better and efficient services. He suggested that Malaysia has to look into what is happening in the developed countries particularly in ensuring the success of computerised land related data systems such as NALIS. From our observation, everybody seems to agree of what he said, Malaysian land-related data agencies have to change if not will be left behind. He also suggested that even the *name of the surveyors profession has to be changed,* probably to a better name e.g. 'geomatics' instead of surveying and mapping. The session on the overview of the Malaysian GIS/LIS was quite bored and not informative to us perhaps not so to others. All speakers touch the subject very briefly, highlighted the available system in their respective places, e.g. Land Office with the CLRS (Computerized Land Registration System). For an information, the system is being developed with the help of Swedish experts. The second day session highlights experiences from some of the developed countries e.g. Canada, Sweden, Australia, and Singapore. The GIS/LIS applications session were focussed on the project carried out by the speaker's organisation e.g. Kinta Kellas highlighted the use of GIS in the multi million bucks projects done in places like China and Vietnam plus the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) project in Sepang. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Taher Buyong presented the benefits of GIS for local authorities. He also exposed the role of UTM to the delegates particularly CGIA in providing the GIS-related short courses and producing GIS/LIS personel and experts for the country.

Apart from various research programs, the Bachelor, Masters, and Ph.D programs in GIS/LIS offered by UTM (Faculty of Surveying and Real Estate) is also highlighted and impressed the delegates especially from the neighbouring countries. Issues such as data sharing, data exchange, and data standard for the NALIS were discussed by other representatives. No doubt, NALIS can be implemented successfully if all the participating agencies can agree in many aspects and overcome the impedements.

Tutorial Sessions

Compared to the technical paper sessions, all tutorials were well attended, may be due to the fact that foreign speakers have got vast knowledge in the field. The tutorials topics were: LIS/GIS Project Management and Implementation; Database Concepts and Data Modelling; and Hardware, Software and Communications in LIS/GIS, each tutorial was delivered by Prof. Ian Williamson, Jan Hvashovd of Sweden, and Mark Sorrensen from ESRI, California, U.S.A respectively. The first tutorial discussed things which every agency should carefully looked and planned for any computerized system. He raised several implemention issues faced by New South Wales LIS system. The system is not perfect and need some modifications. The last tutorial overviewed the software, and hardware trends.

The Exposition

A showcase of products and services offered by leading companies in the field, took place outside the conference hall of Hilton International Hotel. Over 20 companies (local and foreign) plus several government agencies displayed the very latest in GIS/LIS and the related technologies available in our country. Among them are ESRI of South Asia, Siemens Nixdorf of Germany, Mapindo of Indonesia, Map Info, Genasys software vendos, etc. Our GIS center, CGIA also involved in the exposition, we displayed some of the on-going graduate research projects.

Good First-step

In summary, this was a useful meeting and a good step for the NALIS project in providing the opportunity to share and exchange experiences among the land related data agencies and users in our country. The next meeting will be held in 1996.

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