

## Manila Hosts 12<sup>th</sup> SEASC

The 12<sup>th</sup> South East Asian Survey Congress in Manila, Philippines on 18-20 June 2013 is expected to draw thousands of surveying and mapping professionals from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region and worldwide. The event takes place at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

The congress is organized by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) and the Philippine Geodetic Engineering and Geomatics Society (PhilGEGS) for the ASEAN Federation of Land Surveying and Geomatics (AFLAG). NAMRIA is the central mapping agency of the Government of the Philippines while PhilGEGS is a private organization composed of geodetic engineering and geomatics practitioners.

The congress with the theme *“Geospatial Cooperation towards a Sustainable Future”* offers three days of learning, networking, skill building, and showcasing of technology through plenary and technical sessions and exhibitions.

The plenary sessions include keynote speeches of key officials of the Philippine government and various technical institutions and international organizations as well as discussions on geospatial science and technology applications and innovations. The technical sessions cover topics on land administration and resource management, local governance, coastal and marine resource management, construction and transportation management, geospatial information management and cooperation, valuation and real estate management, climate change and disaster risk reduction, environmental management, institutional development and capacity building, education and mutual recognition, spatially enabled society, geovisualization, geospatial intelligence, and geodetic research and development.

The technology and map exhibit features the latest technological trends in the surveying, mapping, and geomatics industries. The congress

also includes a roundtable discussion on disaster risk reduction and management and a Young Surveyors Forum.



Steering and Organizing Committee members with NAMRIA Administrator Tiangco (seated, second from left) and Engr. Alberto (seated, third from left)

NAMRIA Administrator Dr. Peter N. Tiangco chairs the 12<sup>th</sup> SEASC Steering Committee with PhilGEGS President Engr. Avelino L. San Buenaventura as co-chairperson. The 12<sup>th</sup> SEASC Organizing Committee is chaired and co-chaired by Engr. Raymund Arnold S. Alberto of PHILGEGS and Director John Santiago F. Fabic of NAMRIA Information Management Department, respectively.

The Organizing Committee is composed of working groups on Administrative, Safety, and Security Support; Documentation of Events and Meetings; Exhibits and Expositions; Fund Raising and Management; Logistical and Technical Support; Program and Invitation; Promotions, Marketing, and Website Management; Registration, Guests, and Delegates Reception and Billeting; Special Concerns; Technical Paper and Review Sessions; Tour and Accompanying Persons Program; and Venue and Accommodation.

A three- and five-kilometer distance fun run dubbed as *SEASC Unity Fun Run 2013* at the Liwasang Ulla Lim in CCP Complex on 16 June 2013 kick-starts the congress. The public fun run aims to promote peace and unity in the ASEAN region.

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Organizing Committee discussion with AFLAG Honorary Secretary General Gerry Ong at PICC on 19 February 2012

**Editorial**

*Mabuhay!* Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> issue of the ASEAN FLAG Newsletter.

This special edition is published simultaneous with the holding of the 12<sup>th</sup> South East Asian Survey (SEAS) Congress in Manila, Philippines on 18-20 June 2013. As the flagship event of the ASEAN Federation of Land Surveying and Geomatics (AFLAG), the SEAS Congresses have gained popularity over the years to the extent that from being organized every four years, it is now held biennially. Congratulations to the Philippines for organizing this auspicious event for the first time.

Since the 11<sup>th</sup> SEAS Congress held in Kuala Lumpur in 2011 in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia, AFLAG has been regularly holding its council meetings in various capitals of the ASEAN Member States. Alongside the meetings, the hosts also organize technical seminars to keep abreast of current developments around the Region as well as to be informed of the latest technologies in surveying, mapping, and geomatics.

Also significant is the role that AFLAG plays in the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services (CCS) to forge the way forward in realizing the Framework Agreement on the Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Surveying Qualifications. The AFLAG President had played a pivotal part in chairing the meetings of the competent authorities of the Framework Arrangement for the Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualifications.

During the 12<sup>th</sup> SEAS Congress, AFLAG will also be holding its Biennial General Meeting on 19 June 2013 and the election of a new Council. The Editorial Board wishes to thank the outgoing President Dr. Wicha Jiwalai, Hon. Secretary General Gerry Ong, and the Council Members for their leadership and invaluable contributions.

Thank you.

The Editors

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**12th SOUTH EAST ASIAN SURVEY CONGRESS**  
**MANILA PHILIPPINES 2013**  
*“Geospatial Cooperation Towards a Sustainable Future”*  
 18-20 June 2013  
 Philippine International Convention Center (PICC)  
 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines

Organized by  
 National Mapping and Resource Information Authority  
 and  
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 ASEAN Federation of Land Surveying and Geomatics

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## News

### Cambodia Issues Three Million Titles... And Counting

As a key tool for social stability and economic development, post-conflict Cambodia has made a serious effort to solve the complex land issues by establishing a transparent, participatory, cost-effective, and technically accurate systematic land registration system in accordance with the international standards of the modern cadastre as defined by Fédération Internationale des Géomètres (FIG).

Starting from scratch after the final peace in the country in 1998, the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction of the Royal Government of Cambodia has managed to register so far three million land parcels, which represent 25% of the legal land ownership rights of the people, at a record-low cost of USD 10 per parcel. According to recent studies, 95% of landowners are more than happy with the established procedure and speeding up systematic land registration is among the top priorities of Cambodia.

The current main challenges to improve the Cambodian land administration include avoiding any exclusion of land areas and people from the legal processes, strengthening the official registration of land transactions, and increasing public awareness and information dissemination as well as land valuation system development and the recently started indigenous communities' land registration.

The policy, legal and technical development and implementation of the Cambodian land administration system continue to be supported by the Governments of Finland (through FINNMAP) and Germany (through the German Society for International Cooperation or GIZ) according to the principles of the Paris Declaration on Enhancing Aid Effectiveness. •

### GEP National Convention Held

The Geodetic Engineers of the Philippines, Inc. (GEP), the accredited professional organization for Geodetic Engineers by the Philippine Professional Regulations Commission (PRC), held its 39<sup>th</sup> Annual National Directorate Meeting and Convention at the Grand Menseng Hotel in Davao City from 31 May to 02 June 2013.

The event with the theme "Steering the Geodetic Engineering Profession towards Global Competitiveness" had almost 700 delegates from all over the Philippines. The activities for the three-day event included preliminary ceremonies, technical sessions, fellowship and awards night, business meeting, and educational tour.

The convention was declared open by National President Jimmy T. Francinilla. The topics and resource persons for the technical sessions were the Philippine Geoportal Project, NAMRIA Deputy Administrator Linda SD Papa, Geoportal Project Manager; Impact of Plate Motion on the Philippine Reference System of 1992 and Cadastral Survey by Engr. Epifanio D. Lopez, GEP Adviser for the Academe; Geodetic Engineering Roadmap by Engr. Pedro L. Noble, Member of the PRC Board of Geodetic Engineering; Cloud Computing and Updates on the GEP Website by Engr. Roberto M. Recamunda, GEP Website Administrator; and Joint Administrative Order No. 1 by Engr. Romeo P. Versoza, Regional Technical

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### YASM Participates in 12<sup>th</sup> SEASC



9<sup>th</sup> YASM Council Meeting

After being authorized by the AFLAG during the 47<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 13 November 2012, the Yunnan Association for Surveying and Mapping (YASM) immediately mobilized Chinese surveyors and companies to participate in the 12<sup>th</sup> SEASC through paper and product presentations and technology exhibition. YASM is the sole Corporate Member of AFLAG in China and contributes to the surveying industry of Southeast Asia.

On 26 December 2012, YASM President Mr. Liu Jiyuan hosted YASM's 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting in Kunming, China. During the meeting, it was recognized the great assistance extended by AFLAG to YASM, even to the whole surveying industry of China. It was also agreed that YASM will submit papers and organize companies and delegates to the 12<sup>th</sup> SEASC.

In his official visit to Beijing, Mr. Liu Jiyuan also got the support of the leaders of the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping of China and the Chinese Association for Surveying and Mapping (CASM). He was also commissioned by CASM to invite the members of the AFLAG to attend the 2013 China International Surveying, Mapping and Geo-information Technology and Instrument Forum or ChinterGeo 2013 in Wuhan, China this October. •

### Technical Seminar To Be Held in PH

The Philippines will host the technical seminar on *Reference Frame in Practice* at the Philippine International Convention Center, Roxas Boulevard, Manila on 21-22 June 2013. The seminar is organized by the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), FIG, the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems [GNSS] (ICG), and the Philippine Geodetic Engineering and Geomatics Society.

Expected participants include operational geodesists or surveyors who are involved with reference frame issues and precise GNSS positioning, either in a government or commercial environment, including academics or postgraduate students in the surveying discipline and related fields.

Distinguished geodesists from various organizations and disciplines will be presenting the following topics during the two-day seminar: Case Studies on the Status and Issues of Geodetic Infrastructure from Countries in the Region, International GNSS Services and Other Initiatives, Asia-Pacific Reference Frame Status and Determination, Reference Frame Infrastructure, Gravity and the World Height System, Multi-GNSS Environment, Going Geocentric, Dynamic Datums, and The Role of Manufacturers in the Provision and Operation of Geodetic Infrastructure. •

# Highlights of AFLAG Events



## Council Meetings

ASEAN FLAG June 2011-June 2013 Meeting Venues		
Council Meetings	Date/Month/Year	Location/Venue
43 <sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2011	Malaysia
44 <sup>th</sup> Council Meeting	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	Thailand
45 <sup>th</sup> Council Meeting	March 2012	China
46 <sup>th</sup> Council Meeting	June 2012	Cambodia/Laos
47 <sup>th</sup> Council Meeting	October 2012	Brunei
48 <sup>th</sup> Council Meeting	March 2013	Vietnam (HCM)
49 <sup>th</sup> Council Meeting	June 2013	Philippines
50 <sup>th</sup> Council Meeting	June 2013	Philippines



44<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting



45<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting



46<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting



47<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting



48<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting



Seminars/Technical Visits



Dinner Fellowships



## Feature Article

# PhilGEGS: En Route to the New Frontier

by *Randolf Sevidal Vicente, M.Sc.\**

Professional organizations and societies are founded to support the single discipline for which they are named. But like other organizations and societies, many of them have increased in number because of the call to respond to the issues affecting their profession. Normally, their influence flows from their continuing and highly visible functions such as advancing the continuing professional education and development, ensuring adherence to the Code of Conduct, and safeguarding the interest of the organization and the members that they represent.

With these purposes, they tend to go off the track; even those who have already reached the level of maturity. Among the reasons are the complex interests of officers and members, short-sightedness, chronic problem on resources mobilization, ineffective communication mechanisms, blurring of professional boundaries, mismatched academic preparation and industry needs, to name a few. Under such conditions, members' expectations are unmet which result in the propensity of the members to think of better and creative approaches to complement the requirements and to fill in the gaps with greater flexibility and through participative and innovative manner without compromising mutual interests.

It is a fact that time changes and so do human needs. Professionals, such as Surveyors, Geodetic Engineers, and Geomatics Practitioners, must cope with the varying skills and competency requirements in their own specific line of work. They should be well-equipped with adequate knowledge to undertake their respective duties and functions. Fostering closer relationship and networking with other professional bodies is one way to generate the intellectual capital towards global competitiveness and respond to issues of national and regional significance.

With these in mind, the PhilGEGS or Philippine Geodetic Engineering and Geomatics Society, Inc. was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on 11 November 2011. The registration was based on the official endorsement of the Professional Regulation Commission which includes the Certificate of Non-objection dated 07 October 2011, among other legal requirements. Worth noting is the fact that the creation of new organizations or societies is valid under existing Philippine laws. Fully aware of the diverse issues besetting the profession and gearing towards the new frontier, PhilGEGS has adopted the philosophy statement *"Geodetic Engineers and Geomatics Practitioners operating and responding to the management, scientific and technical needs of its constituents, other professionals, government sector, business, academe and other interest groups and stakeholders in technology and human development, towards land administration and governance, poverty alleviation, disaster risk reduction and management, infrastructure development, economic growth under the ambit of the Code of Ethics of the association."*

This philosophy serves as the overarching viewpoint in pursuing PhilGEGS' vision to become *"A highly respected and competent professional and technical association that is well-committed to continuously promote the interest and welfare of its members and associates, and to sustainably cater to the requirements of its clientele*

*and the general public."* Such a vision became the basis of the 15-member Board of Directors in crafting the association's objectives. Such intentions will be actualized at the following levels: National Governing Council, Board of Directors, Executive Committees, Standing Committees, Special Committees, Technical Working Groups, and Area Operations Offices.

To properly administer the membership application and registration, the types of membership are as follows: (a) Consultant, (b) Professional, (c) Associate, and (d) Honorary. Except for honorary membership, interested individuals may apply for membership as consultant, professional, and associate through their respective regional offices where his/her domicile or place of work or business is situated. Upon acceptance of the membership application, the Board of Directors will schedule a group oath-taking ceremony for new members. Worth noting is the reality that under the provision of relevant professional regulatory laws, membership of any individual professional in an integrated and accredited organization shall not be a bar to membership in other associations of that profession. It is indeed a basic constitutional right of the individual professional.

Since its creation, PhilGEGS has been at the forefront of advocating professional development initiatives. In pursuance of the objectives of the society, PhilGEGS is determined to sustain visibility within the international community. Among its major undertakings is the hosting of the 12<sup>th</sup> South East Asian Survey Congress (SEASC) in cooperation with the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) to be held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) on 18-20 June 2013. The theme, *"Geospatial Cooperation towards a Sustainable Future,"* articulates the very essence of transnational collaboration for a sustainable future. The event encompasses plenary and technical sessions that will offer the local practitioners with such a wonderful opportunity of learning the advances and trends in surveying, mapping, geomatics, allied sciences, and other related fields.

To cater to the needs and requirements of the younger and would be professionals, the society will recognize affiliate member organizations of Young Geodetic Engineers Association (YGEA) and Geodetic Engineering Students Organization (GESO) pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws of the society. Hence, the Congress organizers in cooperation with the FIG and the Young Geodetic Engineers of the Philippines (yGEP) have included the Young Surveyors Forum to look at the issues and interests of the younger generation.

PhilGEGS will also play an active role in the Roundtable Discussion on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) set on the third day of the Congress. It is intended to address two main issues, namely: (a) the need for technical capability building for effective governance in DRRM and (b) the adoption of a common reference system for transnational DRRM. The event is an implementation of one of the agreements reached during the Council Meeting of the ASEAN Federation of Land Survey and Geomatics (AFLAG) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 11 March 2013.

*...continued on page 7*

\*Vice President, ASEAN Federation of Land Surveying and Geomatics and Proprietor, RSV Geoconsulting and Management Services

## 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association of Authorized Land Surveyors Malaysia 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013\*



*President Mohammad Azmi and his Executive Council facing the membership at its 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting*

### Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 25 March 2013

Each year, before the end of March, the Association of Authorized Land Surveyors Malaysia (AALSM), the FIG Member Association from Malaysia, convened its Annual General Meeting where its membership from around the country gathers for half a day to dispense the business of the Association. The President, Mohammad Azmi Mohd Zin, and his Executive Council are required to present its annual report (activities, developments, and finances) to the membership for debate and adoption.

One notable activity in the past year is in the area of professional development. AALSM, jointly with the Land Surveyors Board Malaysia, implemented a competency program in the area of underground detection and mapping. The Land Surveyors Board Malaysia is the competent and regulatory authority for the qualification and registration of surveyors and the issuance of licence to practice. Registered surveyors who are licensed and wish to engage in underground detection and mapping services undertake this additional program that lasts

approximately six months and involves both taught and practical components with formal assessment (written and practical) at the end of the program.

With regard to the 2014 FIG Congress, a National Steering Committee chaired by the Chairperson of the Land Surveyors Board Malaysia and comprises senior members of the Profession from within Government, the Malaysian Convention and Exhibition Bureau, the Co-Congress Director as well as the President of AALSM was established last year. Its aim is to provide the needed support from all stakeholders, general oversight, as well as to ensure that the Local Organizing Committee successfully delivers the 2014

FIG Congress.

The President of FIG, being a member of AALSM, attended the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, as in any previous years. The progress in organizing the silver jubilee edition of the FIG Congress was also reported and the Association will be sending a delegation to the 2013 FIG Working Week in Abuja led by President Mohammad Azmi. In the delegation is the Co-Congress Director, Mr. Hasan Jamil, who chairs the Local Organizing Committee.

The President of FIG, being a member of AALSM, attended the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, as in any previous years. The progress in organizing the silver jubilee edition of the FIG Congress was also reported and the Association will be sending a delegation to the 2013 FIG Working Week in Abuja led by President Mohammad Azmi. In the delegation is the Co-Congress Director, Mr. Hasan Jamil, who chairs the Local Organizing Committee. •

*\*The original article was published in [http://www.fig.net/news/news\\_2013/assism\\_meeting.htm](http://www.fig.net/news/news_2013/assism_meeting.htm)*

### **GEP...** *from page 3*

Director for Lands of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) .

The convention was highlighted with the citation of deserving and outstanding GEP members for 2012-2013. The GEP Most Outstanding Geodetic Engineer was awarded to Engr. Clemente A. Ibo, member of the GEP Regional Division V (Bicol Region). The Most Outstanding Professional in the Field of Geodetic Engineering, conferred by the PRC, was awarded to Engr. Raymund Arnold S. Alberto, a member of the GEP National Capital Region.

During the election of the new sets of GEP governors and officers, Engr. Ralph C. Pablo, a member from the government sector and current Director of the Lands Management Bureau of the DENR, was elected the National President for the Administrative Year 2013-2014. •



*The incoming GEP Board of Governors*

**Manila Hosts...***from page 1*

*The SEASC 2013 Technical Paper and Review Sessions Working Group from the University of the Philippines Department of Geodetic Engineering (from top left, clockwise) Dr. Ariel C. Blanco, Asst. Prof. Czar Jakiri S. Sarmiento, Asst. Prof. Louie P. Balicanta, Asst. Prof. Mark Edwin A. Tupas, Asst. Prof. Jeark A. Principe, and Asst. Prof. Ma. Rosario Concepcion O. Ang*

Aside from the 12<sup>th</sup> SEASC, the Philippines hosts the 49<sup>th</sup> AFLAG Council Meeting at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza on 17 June 2013, the 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial General Assembly on 19 June 2013 at PICC, and the 50<sup>th</sup> AFLAG Council Meeting on 20 June 2013 at PICC•

**PhilGEGS...***from page 5*

Under the Partnership Agreement by and between the FIG and PhilGEGS, a Technical Seminar on Reference Frame in Practice (RFIP) will be conducted at the PICC on 21-22 June 2013. The seminar aims to facilitate a regional forum for geodetic agencies, geodesy experts, and practitioners on the needs of Asia and the Pacific, build the geodetic capability through knowledge exchange, and improve data sharing and international participation. Among the collaborating institutions are the IAG, UN-GGIM-AP, and ICG. Experts in the field around the world will be actively participating in the seminar. The Environmental Systems Research Institute, Leica, and Trimble will support the event.

As a newcomer in the industry, PhilGEGS will continue to take future sensible initiatives geared towards the intensification of capability building and local and international cooperation in geodetic engineering, surveying and geomatics. Under the society's medium-term priorities is the strengthening of linkages with international organizations focusing on pipelined international events which will be held in the Philippines.

Towards this end, PhilGEGS vows to set off with the necessary means to attain its mission which is *"To become the esteemed and leading professional and technical association serving as the focal point of geodetic engineering and geomatics duly capacitated with appropriate resources and strong pool of development partners towards contributing to the present and future needs in professional and human development, good land governance, sustainable development, and related development undertakings and initiatives of the country."*

The present trends in professional organization management dictate the need to take primordial consideration to specific higher level issues and concerns that tend to affect the quality of life of people. PhilGEGS believes that intellectual capacity building and dynamic good organizational governance must be among the key considerations in sharing the analytical know-how and practical creativity for socioeconomic growth, environmental and resource management, and sustainable development. •

**AFLAG Welcomes New Members**

AFLAG warmly welcomes new members to its fold. These new members and their membership status are as follows:

- Hubei Province Society for Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography (approved as Sustaining Member during 44<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand)
- TRIMBLE (Thailand) Co. Ltd. (approved as Sustaining Member during 44<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand)
- Philippine Geodetic Engineering and Geomatics Society (approved as Institutional Member during 45<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, Kunming, Yunnan, China)
- PASCO China Corporation (approved as Sustaining Member during 45<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, Kunming, Yunnan, China)
- Wuda Geoinformatics Co., Ltd. Wuhan, China (approved as Sustaining Member during 45<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, Kunming, Yunnan, China)
- SUYOO Beijing Co., Ltd. (approved as Sustaining Member during 45<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, Kunming, Yunnan, China)
- Indonesian Surveying And Mapping Enterprises for Geospatial Information or ASPIG (approved as Institutional Member during 46<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic)
- Beijing Eastdawn Information Technology Co., Ltd. (approved as Sustaining Member during 46<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic)

AFLAG encourages professionals and institutions in the surveying industry to become members of the Federation. Interested individuals and organizations may contact the AFLAG Secretariat at:

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Website: [www.aseanflag.org](http://www.aseanflag.org)



## Personality Profiles

### Dr. Wicha Jiwalai, AFLAG President



His colleagues at the AFLAG describe him as fatherly and humorous. Meet Dr. Wicha Jiwalai, the esteemed and admired outgoing President of AFLAG. He is affectionately called Dr. Wicha or "Achan" (which means teacher in Thai).

During Dr. Wicha's term, AFLAG saw the increased participation from Lao PDR and Vietnam. It also saw the recognition of

the AFLAG especially with matters relating to the MRA (Mutual Recognition Arrangement).

Dr. Jiwalai obtained his doctorate and master's degrees in Geodetic Science from The Ohio State University. He also holds a master's degree in Engineering from the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation, The Netherlands. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the Chulalongkorn University.

Dr. Jiwalai has received numerous awards such as the Distinguished Alumni Award in Engineering from the Chulalongkorn University in 2003; the Duane C. Brown Distinguished Alumni Award from The Ohio State University in 1985; and the Wild Heerbrugg American Society of Photogrammetry Award in 1975. He is also an honorary member of the Japanese Society of Consulting Engineer.

Dr. Jiwalai has served in several organizations in various capacities. He is a Council Board Member of the Council of Engineers of Thailand (2010 to present); the Audit Committee Chairman of the Thai Nondestructive Testing Public Co., Ltd (2007 to present); Audit Committee Member of the Thai Optical Group Public Co., Ltd. (2006 to present); Audit Committee Chairman, STP&I Public Co., Ltd. (1999 to present). He is also the Chairman of Salintara Co., Ltd. and Director of the World Resort Co., Ltd., positions he has held since 1990.

He was moreover the Chairman of the Executive Board of the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (Public Organization) from 2010 to 2013; Deputy Governor for Public Works of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration from 1985 to 1989; and Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of Survey Engineering of the Chulalongkorn University from 1979 to 1985.

Dr. Jiwalai is a Chartered Director of the Thai Institute of Directors Association, a leading organization founded in 1999 to improve director professionalism and corporate governance in Thailand.

With his impressive credentials and accomplishments, Dr. Jiwalai has indeed helped steer AFLAG to greater heights. •

### Gerry Ong, AFLAG Honorary Secretary General



Meet Mr. Gerry Ong, the constantly busy and restlessly active outgoing Honorary Secretary General of AFLAG.

Gerry Ong is a Registered Surveyor in Singapore. He serves as a council member of the Land Surveying Division of the Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers (SISV). He is also the founder and Principal Consultant of GPS Lands, an organization providing advance geospatial tools and solutions with operations in Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

Gerry contributes to the surveying profession through his advocacy in the use of modern and advance geospatial tools from concept to completion. The

advocacy of utilizing geospatial technologies to impact lives in a positive manner and the opportunity to serve the wider body of the surveying profession within the ASEAN region sparked his interest to join AFLAG.

Gerry has represented SISV to the AFLAG since 2007. In his first term from 2007-2009, he served as Hon. Sec. Gen. This is his second time serving as the Hon. Sec. Gen. (2011-2013). He has headed the AFLAG Secretariat in Singapore (c/o SISV) since 2011 and as the Honorary Secretary General, he is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the AFLAG. Along with Ms Manisah (team member of AFLAG secretariat in SISV), they ensure the successful conduct of each AFLAG council meeting by looking into the organization details and liaisons works with ASEAN member nation responsible for a particular council meeting cum seminar. During his tenure, he was able to encourage fellow practitioners from within the ASEAN region to join AFLAG, thus seeing an increase of memberships in the Federation. The incorporation of a technical session in each council meeting, taking the form of a seminar or a technical field trip also happened during his term. This initiative fulfils Article 5 of the AFLAG Constitution which outlines the Federation's aim of being and serving as a focal point for the exchange of ideas relating to the surveying profession within the ASEAN region as well as conducting, encouraging, promoting, and advancing the profession in a conducive way that best fits each member nation.

Gerry is heartened that the relationship between fellow professionals within ASEAN has been warm. Each meeting was filled with full engagement of what each member nation has shared. Though AFLAG has grown, he says, there is still much work to be done. The Federation has to further unite and involve each ASEAN nation's institutional and corporate members more actively. The main challenge facing AFLAG today is that the officials of the Federation hold key positions in their respective fields which entail huge responsibilities and demand most of their time. This situation oftentimes contributes to the constraints of the Federation to move forward. Any initiative, however, would require the active participation of all members. He believes that with more members stepping up to serve and contribute their time and efforts, this challenge will be overcome. Gerry is determined to fulfil the aims and objectives set out in Article 5 of the AFLAG constitution, i.e., to have all ASEAN nations present at every council meeting. He also envisions the formation of necessary AFLAG workgroups such as the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Workgroup and the active participation of each member nation.

Although Gerry is constantly on the move, travelling half his time around the region attending to business and AFLAG related agendas, he does not consider himself as overly busy. He has time to catch up with his key personnel within his organisations, meet up with fellow professionals and tending to the needs of his valued clients. Gerry balances time between work, family and Church activities. He spends his leisure time reading and unwinds by taking long walks or runs on a regular basis. Gerry intends to continue serving his nation as an advocate of the surveying profession and to continue serving and remaining relevant to AFLAG. "Technology convergence along with high computing capabilities enables the geospatial industry practitioners to perform things beyond their imagination," he says. "Let us join and participate in AFLAG and promote our profession toward new frontiers." •