

# **SLA Chairman's Speech for OneMap3D Beta Launch**

**To be delivered on Thursday, 17 September 2020, 11:05am**

**Estimated duration: About 1100 words, 10 min delivery**

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Good morning,  
Ladies and gentlemen

## **Opening**

1. It is a great honour to be here today to launch OneMap3D Beta. Today is yet another important milestone in SLA's innovation journey in the geospatial domain.

## **Geospatial - The Growing Power to Solve Problems**

2. The OneMap3D project is part of SLA's effort to continuously create solutions to meet the growing needs of the industry and the public at large. This project underscores SLA's belief that geospatial information is a critical enabler for communities and businesses to address problems, both current and future.

3. We are not alone in this belief. Recognising the growing importance of geospatial, the United Nations and the World Bank have invested much effort and resources in strengthening the geospatial expertise and adoption around the world. The UN established a Committee of Experts, of which Singapore is a member represented by SLA, to work on various aspects of geospatial information such as its use in land administration and management, in disaster prevention and management, and in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. The World Bank has worked with the UN in formulating an Integrated Geospatial Information Framework. The framework aims to guide the development and adoption of geospatial, especially in developing countries, through country action plans, to bridge the geospatial digital divide and secure socio-economic prosperity.
5. Against the backdrop of global attention and the trend of digitalisation, we can expect a good growth in the geospatial market. In fact, according to Inkwood Research, the APAC geospatial market is projected to grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of close to 16% by 2028.

**GeoWorks – Catalysing Business Growth, Innovation & Collaboration**

6. Singapore is ready to ride on this growth. Under the Singapore GeoSpatial Master Plan, we envision Singapore becoming the GeoHub of the region with wider geospatial adoption and a vibrant enterprise ecosystem. It is with this in mind, GeoWorks, our very own geospatial industry centre was set up to promote business growth, drive innovation and foster a well-connected industry ecosystem. Today, GeoWorks have more than 40 industry partners and members from 11 countries. I was told, quite happily, the community is still growing.
  
7. Through GeoWorks, SLA is able to understand the industry needs better. We launched the 3D Singapore Sandbox in March this year to meet the growing needs of 3D geospatial in the market. We shared with several industry partners the SLA's 3D city models and other 2D geospatial data. They, in turn, use these to create their own 3D solutions to demonstrate their innovation and technological power to their potential customers, especially those in the Architectural, Engineering and Construction industry.
  
8. Also, through GeoWorks, SLA actively seeks and promotes collaboration, among the industry partners, as well as with our teams, in developing innovative geospatial products and services. Just to name one, AirMap, from Santa Monica,

USA collaborated with a Singapore start-up, Garuda Robotics to clinch a project from the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore.

## **OneMap3D Beta – Continuous Improvement and Collaboration**

9. To a large extent, OneMap3D Beta is a product of both industry and public feedback, as well as our desire to collaborate with the industry. Since the first generation of OneMap, which was born in 2010, many people and organisations have used it for various purposes - from as simple as information for every-day life essentials, to more complex issues like the environment or mobility. Over time, SLA received requests from users to upgrade our map portal to provide a more immersive experience. Some businesses that leverage on OneMap for marketing and operations, especially those in the real estate sector, have also requested for 3D maps to be provided.

10. SLA has taken these feedback and requests seriously. I was told by the SLA Management team that they started to explore making a 3D map portal as early as two years ago. Apparently, 3D geospatial, especially in the open source world, is evolving and there are many challenges to

overcome. The 3D city models generated by SLA, and enhanced by local SMEs managed by GovTech, with funding support from the National Research Foundation, are complex in their construction and management.

11. Over the past one year, since the prototype of OneMap3D was shown during GeoWorks' first anniversary, I was told by the SLA Management team that many challenges were overcome, and many collaborations with the industry were explored. Working together with the industry has certainly helped. I am happy to note that later we will be seeing the fruits of the collaboration when SLA demonstrates the OneMap3D Beta. I would like to take this opportunity to thank BIMAGE, Garuda Robotics and Mogul for helping and working with the SLA team in the development of OneMap3D Beta.

12. There is real power in the truth of Helen Keller when she said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." I would say, collaboration is one of the key factors of any organisation's success. In the making of OneMap3D, we bear in mind the vision of the Singapore Together movement, that is, for Singaporeans to partner with the government, and with one another, to shape our shared future. In this spirit, SLA will continue to look out for

opportunities to partner with the industry and the general public in many of the things we do, not just OneMap3D itself.

13. Today's launch of the OneMap3D beta is just the beginning of our journey together in geospatial innovation and collaboration. There is much potential in the geospatial market, be it business growth, as research has suggested; or creation of innovative products and services to serve our stakeholders, as we see the accelerated demand in digitalisation as a result of, not least the Covid-19 pandemic, but also the onset of the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution. In my opinion, such potential can best be and fully realised if the geospatial community is well connected. SLA will continue to put our efforts in strengthening the community through GeoWorks. We would very much welcome all of you to give us ideas and suggestions on how we can do better in this regard.

## **Closing**

- a. In closing, I would like to quote a Chinese proverb, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." The venture of 3D geospatial is not going to be easy, as was the development of OneMap3D. I am glad that SLA has taken the first step, taken together with our collaborators, to present OneMap3D Beta today. It is

not by any means a perfect product for now. There will be many more steps to take, in making it truly useful for the many stakeholders we intend to serve.

14. I would encourage the SLA team to persevere in this long journey, and I would urge all of you in the industry to come take this meaningful journey with us. On this note, I am pleased to announce the launch of OneMap3D Beta. I wish all of you a good day ahead. Thank you.