

Welcome Speech for Singapore Geospatial Week+ 2020 Launch

To be delivered on Wednesday, 9 September 2020, 1030am

Estimated duration: 5 min

Mr Tan Kok Yam, Deputy Secretary, Smart Nation and Digital Government Office, Prime Ministers' Office;

Distinguished panellists and speakers;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Good morning. I am heartened to see so many of you here today with us, online, at our second Singapore Geospatial Week event.
2. When we first mooted the idea of creating a Singapore Geospatial Week a year and a half ago, we did not anticipate we would get such overwhelming response from the geospatial industry. We thought it was a good occasion to celebrate and encourage the use of geospatial technology and information supporting our Smart City initiatives. We had imagined a limited one-week event, attended by a selection of experts and attended by a small group of geospatial enthusiasts.

3. We did not imagine that in just our second year, we will be organising an expanded two-week programme, speaking to an international audience, playing host to over 60 webinars, and having over 80 speakers and panellists from around the region contribute their time, knowledge and expertise to our event. I am deeply humbled by the industry's response and would like to thank everyone here today who has contributed to the success of Singapore Geospatial Week Plus 2020.
4. The importance of geospatial cannot be emphasized more, especially in today's environment. For example, the current Covid-19 pandemic has driven the need for businesses to use geospatial information and location-based data to develop new crowd management applications that takes into consideration safe distancing measures, so that the public can make informed decisions to protect themselves. Geospatial can also be used as a collaborative tool when responding to the pandemic. By combining different data types and technologies based on location, businesses can understand people movement patterns, and deploy the necessary resources to protect their staff and the community.
5. SLA, as the national geospatial agency for Singapore, has always advocated the use of geospatial technology and information, to improve business processes and decision-making, and to bring geospatial organisations together for

innovation. And we will continue to stress this need and take pro-active steps to encourage the adoption of geospatial technology across multiple industries – whether it's in Build and Infrastructure, Mobility and Logistics, Real Estate and Retail, or Urban and Environment.

6. Singapore Geospatial Week is our commitment to that aim, and we hope the activities organised over these two weeks will provide Interest, Excitement and Inspiration for the next generation of entrepreneurs and leaders to use geospatial technology for the good of business and the community alike.
7. To this end, we also hope that this event will encourage other organisations to consider holding their own geospatial days in Singapore or elsewhere in the world, so that everyone becomes aware and familiar with the power that geospatial technology can bring.
8. And perhaps one day in the future, we can look back to 2020 and see Singapore Geospatial Week as the seed that would eventually grow to become the premier regional or global geospatial celebration. We look forward to that day.
9. With that, we wish you all a sincere welcome to Singapore Geospatial Week + 2020. We hope you will have a fruitful,

instructive and rich learning experience on all things
geospatial.

10. Thank you.