

Importance Of Geographic Information Systems(GIS) and Remote Sensing Approach In Education And Professional Practice Of Urban Planning In Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing education has been implemented and adopted by universities in many developing countries in order to produce a good data analysis system. For future town planners, they should possess technical knowledge in Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing as well as certain skills in designing spatial databases and in spatial analysis. They also should understand GIS not only as a tool to be used in their work but also as a part of an approach to organize urban planning and management. GIS and Remote Sensing also will be a very demanding skills in Urban Planning area because at the highest levels, GIS is considered not only as an efficient tool for spatial analysis but also as a way to define and assess urban policies. Thus, the learning of GIS and Remote Sensing should be started since early years in university. In Malaysia, to complete four years study period for Urban & Regional Planning field, GIS and Remote Sensing is not a core course in all universities. In certain universities, it is an elective subject which the student have the opportunity to choose or not to choose the subject. Nowadays, to acquire GIS and Remote Sensing software or hardware is not a problem anymore especially for a developing country like Malaysia. In addition with the performance increase of computer capabilities and the invention of new low cost and user friendly software and hardware, thus, this study is to propose to all universities (which offers urban planning course) to have GIS and Remote Sensing syllabus in their university's study plan. This study also will highlight the importance of GIS and Remote Sensing approach in education and later in professional practice of Urban Planning in Malaysia.

Key words: Urban Planning, Education, Professional Practice, GIS, Remote Sensing