

Remote Sensing solution for agriculture, natural resource management

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KOTA KINABALU: The Remote Sensing Technology is an efficient and cost effective way for the country to manage agricultural and natural resources.

The technology can also be used to help the country manage the environment, disasters, safety and strategy as well as development, said Resource Development and Information Technology Minister, Datuk Dr Yee Moh Chai.

Speaking at the launch of the Remote Sensing and Other Related Technologies Seminar yesterday, Yee said that the technology can be applied in various disciplines in the country.

"The advantage of adopting the technology is that it saves cost, time as well as operation," he said.

Remote sensing was introduced in Malaysia in the 1980s and is part of the space technology.

The Malaysia Remote Sensing Agency has been entrusted to coordinate remote sensing satellites data acquisition for the use of the country.

The agency also deals and effectively manages consumer demands and needs for remote satellite images data and information.

Malaysia Remote Sensing Agency Director, Dato Haji Darus Ahmad in his speech, spoke of the need to raise



Yee (left) and Asnimar (second left) listening to Darus' explanation on remote sensing technology yesterday.

awareness on the use of the technology.

He added that the seminar aimed at exposing the many benefits and potentials of remote sensing technology.

In an interview later, Darus explained that the technology has already been adopted by several government departments in Sabah such as the Forestry Department.

"The Forestry Department uses the technology to manage forest resources in Sabah. They use it to manage logging activities that are taking place on a regular basis. They can do it almost daily, depending on

the cloud cover," he said.

He added that government departments and the private sectors requiring such services would be able to save cost and time by adopting the space technology, as compared to other conventional methods of acquiring images.

"Previously people took aerial images from aircrafts. It takes a long time to cover the whole State whereas with the satellite, you can do it very fast," he said.

On a question as to whether the use of the technology would compromise the pri-

vacacy of people at large, Darus replied that it would not.

"The remote sensing technology can only capture rooftops and not what is within a building so the people need not worry about that," he said.

He added that the technology was first introduced in the country for military purposes.

Also present at the event were State Planning Unit Director, Datuk Ismail Abdullah and Community Development and Consumer Affairs Permanent Secretary, Datuk Asnimar Sukarti.