

Certification of Surveyors in the Indonesian Surveyors Association (ISA)

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Key words:

SUMMARY

The need of profession official recognition in Indonesia arose few years ago when globalization issues particularly in exchanging of surveyors between countries took into effect. The need of profession official recognition is not new to Indonesia in fact there is a law, Law 18, that regulate the accreditation of services and constructions profession. However all efforts to cope with this always collide with insufficiency of existing competency standards.

The Indonesian Surveyors Association (ISA), representing most of surveyor profession in Indonesia, takes a step towards the fulfillment of the need of profession official recognition by starting the certification of its member surveyors. For this purpose the ISA established the Surveyor Association Board.

This paper will explain the status of certification and the next development as well as the programs of the Surveyor Association Board.

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Profession Certificate is a symbol of professional. It means that any one holding the certificate has passed recognized competence standards of professionalism. With this certificate, one is permitted to conduct any job and will be guaranteed to produce professional results. To become a professional worker one must have a certificate of profession or a license issued by any internationally accredited board of certification.

In many countries like the United States, Europe, Japan and others, the profession certification has long been adopted and the certificates are even recognized internationally so that this may be used in these countries.

In globalization and free trade era all countries in the world has to open their national borders to accept international professional workers to work inside their jurisdiction. This has some consequences that can be viewed from two different circumstances.

For countries that have professional workforce they will not loose domestic jobs but even they will get them from outside their jurisdictions. In the contrary, for countries that don't have professional workers they cannot get job opportunities inside and outside their countries.

So the key to survive here is whether the country has professional workers or not.

Then the only way to cope with this situation, any country needs to improve its workforce to reach certain competency enough to compete with workers from other countries to getting jobs in every part of the world.

Indonesia is among countries that give little awareness in certifying its worker. Especially for survey and mapping profession there is no significant activities that has been implemented in relation to certification of this profession.

2. SURVEY AND MAPPING PROFESSION CERTIFICATION

In relation to survey and mapping industry and profession, there are many survey and mapping firms and associations established in Indonesia. The base of the establishment of these surveying and mapping firms and associations is Law 18/1999, Services and Constructions that regulates the accreditation of all firms and associations. As stated in the law, the accreditation should be executed by an institution that is established by a forum of stakeholders. The institution is called Institute of Services and Constructions Development.

The adoption of the Law 18/1999 has not yet fully implemented although the accreditation institution has already been established. This institution has not yet gained fully support from

all stakeholders. Regardless this support, the institution keeps operating. This institution gives accreditation to some firms and associations including the Association of Indonesian Survey and Mapping Company and Indonesian Surveyor Association.

Since adoption of the Law 18/1999, several survey and mapping associations like Indonesian Geodetic Engineer Association, Indonesian Remote Sensing Community, Indonesian Cartographic Association and Indonesian Geographic Association have been established. In addition to that, a firm association called the Association of Indonesian Survey and Mapping Company has been established. This company association forms as an umbrella for all survey and mapping companies operated in Indonesia. However, their activities were limited to holding member meetings and seminars and unfortunately very little effort was given to profession certification.

The limited activities to profession certification as mention above could be explained as follow. The significant reason was that there was no government regulations that require professions to certify their competency before applying for any kind of jobs during the last decades. Particularly for survey and mapping, since almost all survey and mapping projects belonged to government then there was no necessity to implement the survey and mapping profession certification.

Among the survey and mapping association, the Indonesian Surveyor Association is the largest. Since its founding in 1972, the association has had more that 1000 members spreading over the country and varying in education background from land surveyor, photogrammetry, geographic information system, remote sensing, geodesy and hydrography. The activities of the Indonesian Surveyor Association are concentrated in holding member meetings seminars, and yearly scientific forum.

In relation to the certification, the significant work of the Indonesian Surveyor Association starts in the beginning of 2004 when the association establishes regional committees in Province of West Java and Province Central of Java, and the Board of Certification. The committees and the board are now preparing themselves in order to obtain accreditation from the Institute of Services and Constructions Development. In addition to that, especially the Board of Certificate is working on

Although having 1000 members already, the Indonesian Surveyor Association has a big problem of funding. The fund of the association comes from membership fee and contributions. However, since the membership fee is too cheap and contributions are very little, the collected fund is not sufficient to carry on the association activities.

There is another important activities that relates to the certification. The Council of Indonesian Geomatic, as a regulatory body performing as an umbrella to all survey and mapping associations, has developed several standards of competency that can be used by all association as a reference to implement the certification of the profession.

3. SURVEY AND MAPPING PROFESSION CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The government of Indonesia finally issues a regulation (Government Regulation nr 80/2003) requiring that all government projects must be carried out by professional firms that employ professional workers. This means that all firms must be accredited and all people work for the firms must hold an accredited certificate of professional.

The regulation has broad impacts for all survey and mapping profession. Since then the ISA office receives many application from survey and mapping workers asking to a certificate. Not just that, many survey and mapping firms are also ask to provide them with survey and mapping professional because without them, the firms may not apply for any survey and mapping projects.

This situation gives ISA no more choice other than implement the certification. The Indonesian Surveyor Association considers that the certification is more challenging than threatening because with certificate in hand, a survey and mapping profession will have better quality and hence will produce better result, so this more advantages than disadvantages. The Indonesian Surveyor Association also think that collecting of fund will be easier because there will be closer relations between profession and its association. In addition to that Indonesian professional will take more advantage by having more opportunities to get international jobs abroad.

Because of that the, Indonesian Surveyor Association as a largest surveyor organization in Indonesia takes an initiative to face this challenge by starting directly the certification of Indonesian surveyors.

There are several important issues to do by the Indonesian Surveyor Association in relation to the implementation of survey and mapping profession, as follows:

- Expand the Indonesian Surveyor Association organization by establishing the regional committee in the provinces so that certification can be implemented in each province. This will simplify the certification that the applicants can do it in province where they live rather than going to Jakarta that take times and money.
- Establish board of survey and mapping profession certification in each province
- Develop a standard competency
- Develop examination procedure covering examination material, examination schedule and board of examiners.

Indonesian Surveyor Association decided to start the certification by year of 2004. While waiting for the completion of the above issues, for this year 2004 the Indonesian Surveyor Association implements the certification by setting up a temporary procedure for certification as follows:

- A certificate will be granted under circumstances that the applicant can show the educational background and experience that accredited by the director of firm where the applicant works.

- The profession will be grouped in five subject areas, as follow:
 - Engineering surveyors
 - Photogrametrist
 - GIS profession
 - Remote Sensing profession
 - Hydrographic profession.
 The works undertook by the Council of Indonesian Geomatic, will be applied for this purpose.
- The certification may be implemented in central committee or in regional committee.

4. CONCLUSION

- The certification of survey and mapping profession is important in order to improve quality of the survey and mapping professionals and works that is needed to overcome the effect of globalization and free trade.
- The Indonesian Surveyor Association has to work harder to cooperate with all associations and firms in order to get support to make the certification successful.
- The Indonesian Surveyor Association has also to continue to expand and improve its organization, to complete Standard of Competency, to accredit the Board of Certification and establish the Regional Board of Certification.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Agus H. Atmadilaga, Chair of Indonesian Surveyor Association Board - Indonesian Surveyors Association. Head of Center of Land Resources Surveys.

Age: 49

Education Background:

- Engineer Degree from Bandung Institute of Technology Bandung Indonesia
- Master Degree from Wageningen Agriculture University – ITC , the Netherlands

Organization experience:

- General Secretary, Indonesian Surveyor Association, 1996 - 1999.
- Vice President, Indonesian Surveyor Association, 1999 - 2002.
- Chair of Indonesian Surveyor Association Board, 2002 - 2005
- Lecturer in Pakuan University, Bogor, Indonesia.

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- Engineer Degree from Bandung Institute of Technology Bandung Indonesia
- Master Degree from Ohio State University Columbus Ohio USA

Organization experience:

- Actively Involved in the development of Indonesian Spatial Data Infrastructure as a member of NSDI Forum.
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- Member of Project Management Office of the Marine and Coastal Resources Management Project.

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