

# Surveyors' Day – 21<sup>st</sup> March

*Message from*

*Surveyor General*

**S. Sivanantharajah**



The proposal was to declare 21<sup>st</sup> of March every year as the **Surveyors' Day** in parallel with the **Global Surveyors' Day** was made by the Minister of Lands, which was approved by the Cabinet of Sri Lanka in 2018. The aim of the Global Surveyors' Day is to improve the Surveying education and competence globally, upkeep the standards of professional surveyors and surveying technologists of different places, thereby enhancing mobility of surveying professionals and ensuring a high standard of professional practice.

Since the first recorded history of land surveying dating back to 2700 BC by the ancient Egyptians and land surveying has been recognised as a profession by the Romans in 300 AD as an important item for our survival. In this advanced technological world, surveyors play a critical and a pivotal role in turning ideas into reality, finding solutions for critical technical issues as the surveying portfolio has no bounds due to the wide range of disciplines falling under surveying title. Most people are only aware of land surveying at some point in their lives since many does not give a much thought to it. Since it shows how invisible the role of surveyors is to the public. Thus, observing the Surveyors' Day contributes to the enhancing of the role of the Surveyors in Sri Lanka.

Various countries across the world celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> of March as the Global Surveyors' Day (GSD). The work of surveying, mapping and geospatial professionals are recognized on this day. This worldwide event was initiated by International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) based in Denmark, the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors (CLGE) in Belgium and the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) in USA.

FIG is a non-government organization (NGO) recognized by the United Nations and representing over 120 countries across the world, which represents the whole range of professional fields in surveying, geomatics, geodesy and geo-information community. It provides an international forum for discussion and development aiming to promote professional practices and standards related to surveyors.

Surveyors' Day highlights the importance of a Surveyor. The importance of their job and the impact of the field work over the country. The role of the private and public-sector surveyor should have a good co-operation and coordination in collecting accurate geo spatial data for preparing scientific maps for the implementation of various projects related to the development and benefit of the people in the country.

Surveyors in Sri Lanka have contributed greatly to the development of Sri Lanka over the years using innovation, creativity, a wealth of knowledge and expertise. A professional surveyor is honoured with a privilege and obligation of the practicing professionally and ethically.

**I wish all the survey professionals in Sri Lanka to move towards the global targets in par with the Global Surveyors' day.**