

FROM THE EDITOR.

Geoinformatics or Geoinformation are the recently coined words for an age old item of information that everybody desired to know, namely; 'where they are' and 'what is around them'. In the past where a man had to visit a place 'in person' to get these 'bits' of information is now achieved by 'Remote Sensing' through satellites and stored as 'Bits' in GIS databases.

Be it military/defense strategic planning or civilian administration and management, the importance of geographically synchronized information cannot be over emphasized. Coupled with satellite based Global Positioning Systems (GPS) of high accuracy, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) have now 'come off age' and are a necessity rather than a desirability.

It is after a substantial time that the Institution is publishing a "Special Issue" of ENGINEER. It is needless to say that this is a timely, appropriate and necessary cause. By organizing a National Conference on "Geoinformatics Applications Sri Lanka 2008" the Arthur C Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies (ACCIMT) in collaboration with The International Center for Geoinformatics Applications and Training (ICGAT) of the University of Moratuwa, has placed a positive step towards a national requirement. The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka is happy to contribute to this endeavour, by publishing selected, refereed technical papers of this conference as a special issue of the ENGINEER.

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