

Enhancing Mobility: The Role of Mutual Recognition Surveying Services Among the Region

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SUMMARY

This paper examines the critical role of surveying services in fostering national development, nation-building, and ensuring security and sustainability within the ASEAN region. Recognizing that surveying is an essential component of professional services, the ASEAN Competent Authority Committee on Surveying (ACACS) has been entrusted with implementing the ASEAN Framework Arrangement for the Mutual Recognition of Surveying Qualifications (MRA). Signed by ASEAN Member States (AMS) on November 19, 2007, this agreement aims to enhance the mobility of professional surveying services across member countries. The paper highlights collaborative efforts between the ASEAN Federation of Land Surveying and Geomatics (AFLAG) and ACACS to create an environment where ASEAN surveyors can operate freely across borders. It addresses key challenges that impede this mobility, including significant disparities in developmental levels among member states, variations in educational accessibility and quality, and differing regulatory frameworks governing cadastral systems. The paper emphasizes the necessity for harmonization and integration of surveying services while advocating for the approval and adoption of comprehensive guidelines to support these initiatives. Furthermore, the paper introduces the first edition of the Assessment Statement for ASEAN Registered Surveyors (ARS), which serves as a foundational tool for ACACS in managing the ARS mechanism. This document is pivotal for facilitating the registration of both ARS and Registered Foreign Professional Surveyors (RFPS), enabling a more streamlined process for professionals seeking to practice across ASEAN borders. In conclusion, this paper underscores the importance of mutual recognition agreements as enablers of professional mobility. It calls for a concerted effort among ASEAN member states to address existing challenges and enhance cooperation in surveying services, ultimately contributing to a more integrated and competitive ASEAN Economic Community. By fostering an environment conducive to the free movement of surveying professionals, the region can better meet its development goals and ensure sustainable growth. □