Geological Hazards Programme

Youth Innovation in Open-Data: Experiences from OpenStreetMap

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Participants at the successful OpenStreetMap workshop

OpenStreetMap is an open platform tool that has great potential for emergency response. With complete data, OSM can be used as an alternative to authoritative data where the mappers can provide fresh or updated data to avoid data staleness. Besides its use during disasters, OSM can be used for many other purposes such as tourism, transportation, health services and more.

One way to increase the contribution to OSM data is through Mapathon, which is a coordinated event where mappers need to be digitally involved in mapping a selected area through competition. The Shah Alam Mapathon (SAM) was held on 5 December 2022 and its purpose was to build the capacity of young mappers to utilize the open-access platform through buildings digitization in the Shah Alam area.

On 4 March 2023, SEADPRI-UKM and U-INSPIRE Malaysia@UKM, with support from UNICEF Malaysia and other partners successfully conducted a workshop to share the experience and knowledge about the development of open-data through OpenStreetMap (OSM) in Malaysia.

The workshop was held at Hotel De Palma, Shah Alam, from 10.00 am until 12.00 pm. It aimed to present the potential of OSM as a new alternative source of data in supporting decision making, and to gather views from the stakeholders on the potential and reliability of OSM. The workshop involved all the active participants of SAM, panels from Grab Malaysia, OSM Malaysia Community and National Geospatial Centre along with participants from U-INSPIRE Malaysia@UKM members. Other than becoming a sharing platform for the development of open-data, the workshop also acted as the closing event of SAM with an appreciation session for all active participants. The workshop received great support from all the participants. The participants gained exposure on open data which can potentially allow them to implement their expertise or knowledge for future development of the OSM.