

REMOTE SENSING

- Remote sensing technologies offer Indonesia the means to control its development in the face of its spiraling population and industrial growth

Indonesia is the largest country in Southeast Asia and has abundant natural resources such as coal, oil, and natural gas. Until recently, the Government of Indonesia lacked the technology to manage the use of these natural resources. In this respect, remote sensing technologies have offered Indonesia the means to control its development in the face of its spiraling population and industrial growth.

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Following the inauguration of Indonesia's multifunction earth station in September 1993 built with the assistance of MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates of Canada, the Indonesian remote sensing industry is poised to take off. Operated by the national Aeronautics and Space Institute (LAPAN), the earth station, located at Pare Pare, South Sulawesi, is capable of accessing data from natural resource satellites such as LANDSAT, SPOT, and ERS-1 and will provide a significant increase in data availability.

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Currently, there are 102 centres that process digital image data. 56 are run by government agencies, 14 are connected to universities, and 32 belong to the private sector. The Indonesian Society of Remote Sensing (MAPIN) has 540 members.

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- The National Coordination Agency for Surveys and Mapping (BAKOSURTANAL) provides geomatics products and services. BAKOSURTANAL operates a Hydrographic and Navigation Mapping Center, manages a natural resources information system, operates a Geographic Information System training center, and has a remote sensing research and development unit.