

An Overview of the 26th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing

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Background

Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS), Vietnam Association of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (VGCR) and Association of Vietnamese Geographers (AVG) jointly organized the annual event of the AARS, the 26th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS) from November 7-11, 2005 at Hanoi, Vietnam.

Nepal is one of the member countries of AARS and Survey Department is representing as the member organization of Nepal since 1999 AD. There were 6 participants from Nepal: One each from Ministry of Land Reform and Management, Land Management Training Centre, ICIMOD and National Development and Research Institute and two from Survey Department. Moreover, the conference was attended by 624 participants; it includes 376 foreign participants, 143 local participants and 105 observers from 37 countries of the world including Vietnam.

Objectives

The objectives of the conference are as follows:

1. To discuss problems in Remote Sensing and GIS in Asia
2. To exchange academic, technical information and applications
3. To promote regional cooperation amongst member countries
4. To promote operational applications of Remote Sensing and Space Technology

Programme

The programme of the conference consisted of the following activities:

- **Registration** : Each participants has to make registration with Registration Fee of US \$ 100 and the participants were provided with a conference kit. The fee includes: attendance to the conferences, one CD-ROM Proceedings, a Conference souvenir,

participation in the opening and closing ceremonies, Lunches and Coffee breaks, participation in two Banquets and the Exhibition.

- **Opening Ceremony** : The Session of the Opening Ceremony was chaired by Dr. Le Quy Thuc, President, Vietnam Association of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing. The session was addressed by Prof. Shunji Murai, General Secretary, AARS, Honorary Chairman Prof. Dr. Scientist Dang Hung Vo, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and Prof. Ian Dowman, President, ISPRS. The messages delivered by the speakers are available in the Programme Book of the conference.
- **Keynote Addresses** : There are three presentations on this session and are the following:
 1. Mr. Kaoru Mamiya, Vice President JAXA, Japan : Maximizing Space Benefits for the Society
 2. Mr. Jorg Hermann, Managing Director INFOTERA, GmbH, Germany : Terra SAR-X mission: The new generation in High Resolution Satellites
 3. Dr. Suvit Vibulsresth, GISTDA, Executive Board, Thailand : Indian Ocean Tsunami and Remote Sensing.
- **Commercial Technical Sessions** : SPOT Asia, ERSDAC, VidaGIS, SuperMap, EADS and Department of Survey and Mapping, MONRE delivered their corresponding commercial presentations in two sessions.
- **Technical Sessions** : From 8th November, Tuesday to 11th November, Friday, technical sessions were conducted in 59 parallel sessions. Out of 395

Abstracts submitted, only 280 technical papers were presented. Three papers from Nepal: Registration of 3rd Dimension : the context of Nepalese Cadastre by Rabin K. Sharma, Land Management Training centre : Journey of Surveying and Mapping Studies in Nepal by Sri Prakash Mahara and Socio-economic and Environmental Change in Pokhara Valley : a Study using Satellite Remote Sensing and other Information by Dr. Krishna Pahari were presented.

- **Poster Sessions** : These sessions were conducted from Tuesday to Thursday and 115 papers were displayed and presented.
- **Exhibition** : The Exhibition was inaugurated jointly by Prof. Shunji Murai, General Secretary, AARS; AARS Dr. Le Quy Thuc, President, Vietnam Association of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing and Prof. Vu Tuyen Hoang. There were 29 stalls from 27 different organizations related with Remote Sensing, Space Technology and Geographical Information System. The exhibition lasted from Monday to Thursday. The exhibitors displayed their recent products and demonstrated its strengths, functions and provisions of their hardware and software.
- **National Delegates Meeting** : National delegates meetings were held on November 8 and 10, 2005. The meetings were chaired by Dr. Le Quy Thuc, President, Vietnam Association of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing. General Secretary presented the report on AARS and the financial status. Prof. Shunji Murai and Manu Omakupt are once again unanimously reelected as General Secretary and Deputy General Secretary of AARS respectively. Prof. Ryutaro Tateishi presented the report on Asian Journal of Geoinformatics. Dr. Guo Hua Dong, China presented the concept on launching of a Ricesat. Finally, AARS decided to provide recommendations in Remote Sensing Development to host country Vietnam from the conference which is a first time in its History.
- **Closing Ceremony** : The closing ceremony was conducted under the Chairmanship of Mr. Manu

Omakupt, Deputy General Secretary of AARS on November 11, 2005. Prof. Dr. Scientist Dang Hung Vo, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam gave a Keynote speech on “The need of cooperation on formulation of an open spatial database for Asia”. Prof. Emeritus Shunji Murai, General Secretary, AARS presented the report of the National Delegates meeting along with the recommendations in Remote Sensing Development to host country, Vietnam. Dr. Nguyen Dinh Duong, ACRS Organizing Secretary presented the statistics of the conference.

Prof. Ryutaro Tateishi announced the Japan Society of Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry (JSPRS) Award for the young presenters in which 5 of them were from the oral presenters and 1 from the poster presenters. Prof. Murai gave away award to the winners. Prof. Murai also handed over gifts to the Deputy Minister and some of the other Local Organizing Committee members.

Vote of thanks was offered by **Rabin K. Sharma, Nepal**. Mr. Sharma considered the decision of Local Organizing Committee to give vote of thanks from the representative of Nepal is a glory to Nepal and felt very much honoured to get opportunity to deliver vote of thanks in such an international forum.

The date for the 27th ACRS was decided to be held from October 9-13, 2006 in Ulaanbatar, Mongolia. So, the Chairman of the 27th ACRS, Dr. M. Saandaar invited all the delegates to participate the 27th ACRS. He also provided some information of Mongolia and about the conference important dates.

Deadline for submission of Abstract :
July 15, 2006
Notification on Abstract Acceptance :
August 15, 2006
Deadline for paper submission :
September 15, 2006.

Additional Event

In conjunction with the conference the following additional events were also organized as the special sessions of the conference:

1) **2nd Asian Space Conference** : The 2nd Asian Space Conference (ASC) was organized by International Institute for Air Space Law (IIASL) and was held from November 8-11, 2005. The theme of the conference was “**Satellites, Applications, Socio-economics and Regulatory Regimes**”. The conference was conducted with 9 Sessions with number of parallel sessions, each with high quality presentations and speakers. The details of the conference are available in the proceedings of the conference.

2) **Workshop on Capacity Building in Asia** : The workshop on capacity building in Asia was jointly organized by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Geoinformatics Centre of Asian Institute of Technology (GAC/AIT) and was held on November 8, 2005. This workshop attempted to share the results of the Mini projects with other Asian participating countries in the Mini project conducted by JAXA and GAC/AIT in the past. The participating countries are Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. During the workshop, the representative of the participating countries presented the results of the Mini-project. Mr. Sudarshan Karki from Survey Department, Nepal presented the results of the project with the title “Utilization of Space Technology : Urban Planning for Earthquake Disaster Mitigation”. The details of the workshop are available in the proceedings of the workshop.

3) **Innovative problem solving methodologies for less developed countries** : The special session on this topic was chaired by John Van Genderen and 4 technical papers were presented in this session.

4) **Tsunami** : The special session on the topic of Tsunami was chaired by Dr. Suvit Vibulsreth and 11 technical papers were presented in 2 sessions.

5) **Ricesat** : The special session on the topic of Ricesat was chaired by Gua Hua Dong and 5 technical papers were presented in this session.

6) **Strengthening International Partnership for Education** : The special session on this topic was chaired by Kohei Cho and 5 technical papers were presented in this session

Receptions

a) The Local Organizing Committee of the 26th ACRS provided the following receptions:

1. Welcome Dinner : A welcome dinner was offered in honour of the ACRS participants on November 7, 2005. During the dinner time, participating countries were requested to perform cultural item in which 8 member countries took part in the event. The participant countries were: Vietnam, India, Nepal, China, Japan, China Taipei, Thailand and The Netherlands. As per the tradition of AARS, it is a competition event and accordingly, Japan was awarded with second prize and there was a tie between China and Vietnam for the first place. Due to the tie in the first place the third place was not declared.

2. Farewell Dinner : A farewell dinner was offered to the participants on November 10, 2005 and on that evening professional artists performed the various types of Vietnamese dances and sang songs.

b) AARS provided a dinner for the national delegates on the first day of the national delegates meeting on November 8, 2005.

Conclusion

The conference completed with a grand success. General Secretary of AARS expressed his satisfaction for the participation from more Asian countries than the past and appreciated to receive such a large number of technical papers in this 26th ACRS. It was believed that the participants of this conference able to update their knowledge on the recent developments in the field of Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System and also able to acquire information, to some extent, on the present status of the technological development in the participant countries.

As the next conference, 27th ACRS is going to hold from October 9-13, 2006 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The professionals in the field of Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System of Nepal should grab opportunity by participating the event to present international level technical papers to share ideas and views with the international professionals so that the corresponding institutions could improve its available technology or even to introduce the feasible technology for the betterment of the society of Nepal.