

Progress Report from ISPRS Regional Representative for Africa
Prepared by Jide Kufoniya, ISPRS Regional Representative for Africa
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1. Membership Drive:

Africa has a total of 27 members, comprising of 17 Ordinary members, 1 Associate member, 6 Regional members and 3 Sustaining members. Membership drive continues with distribution of hand bills at events and discussions with relevant organisations.

2. MoU with AARSE:

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between ISPRS and AARSE (African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment) was signed during the General Assembly of AARSE on Thursday 28th October 2010 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia by Prof. Ian Dowman (1st Vice President, representing ISPRS) and Dr Tsehaie Woldai (incumbent President of AARSE at the time of signing, representing AARSE). Prof. Dowman represented ISPRS at the 8th biennial conference of AARSE in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia between 25th and 29th October 2010. I attended the conference but in my capacity as the then Secretary General of AARSE and witnessed the signing of the MoU. In line with the constitution of AARSE, I was elected the President of AARSE from 1 Nov 2010 to October 2014.

3. ISPRS Centenary Celebration:

On the invitation of Council, I attended the ISPRS Centenary celebration and General Assembly in July, 2010 in Austria.

3. Proposed ISPRS Regional Event in Africa:

Following the decision reached during the Centenary meeting in Austria to start a gradual introduction of ISPRS regional conference by organizing joint pre-events workshops/seminars during regional geo-activities such as CODIST, AARSE, ALC and AfricaGIS, email discussions were held with the UN-ECA officials (for CODIST) with positive response by the latter. This was further discussed during the 8th AARSE conference at a meeting with the Director of the ICT and Science & Technology Division (ISTD) of ECA (the division responsible for the organisation of CODIST meeting). ISPRS was represented at the meeting by the 1st Vice President and me. ECA welcome the proposal to organise a 2-day pre-CODIST-2 workshop in early May 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Discussions are on-going with IAA and EIS-Africa to jointly organise the event (with ECA).

4. Position of Regional Representative for Africa

In line with the constitution of AARSE which provides that the Secretary General would be the next President on the expiry of the latter's tenure, I was elected the new President of AARSE for the four year period 2010 – 2014. With this development, I requested the ISPRS Council to kindly consider appointing another person as the regional representative for Africa to ensure that we (both ISPRS and AARSE) derive maximum benefit from the recently signed MoU between the two organisations. This request has been ratified by the Council and Dr Hussein Farah of RCMRD, Kenya appointed as the new Regional Representative.

5. Appreciation

I am sincerely grateful to the Council for giving me the opportunity to serve ISPRS at this level while assuring that my support for ISPRS will continue to wax stronger.

Signed:

Jide Kufoniyi