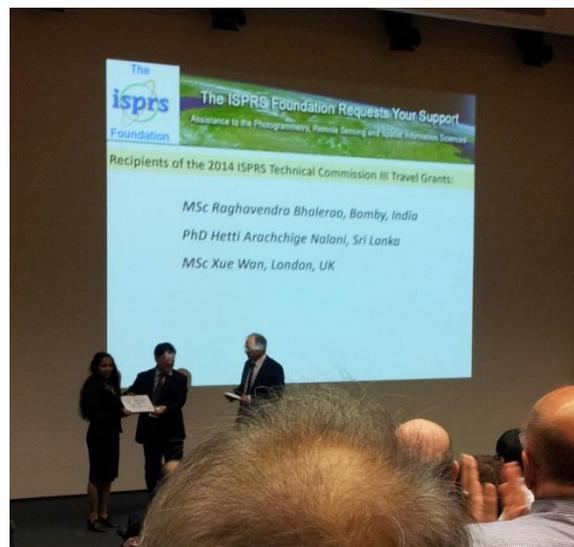# Report summarizing the value of attending the ISPRS Technical Commission III Midterm symposium on Photogrammetric Computer Vision (PCV), ETH Zurich 2014

By

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My name is Hetti Arachchige Nalani, one of the recipients of the ISPRS Travel grants for attending the ISPRS Technical Commission III midterm symposium on Photogrammetric Computer Vision (PCV 2014), in ETH Zurich, Switzerland. I am currently working as a lecturer in the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. I finished my Ph.D. thesis (Automatically extracting and modelling urban objects from mobile laser scanner data) in TU Dresden, Germany in June 2014. The paper that I had submitted to the PCV 2014 was a product of that research work. Having received an ISPRS travel grant from the ISPRS Foundation, I was able to attend the PCV 2014 symposium and to obtain an excellent opportunity to present part of my Ph.D. work to the international scientific community. Therefore, this financial support was very much helpful for me as I would not have been able to obtain such an experience otherwise. Therefore, first and foremost, I wish to express my gratitude and thankfulness to the ISPRS Foundation for giving me the opportunity for being there. And I would like to describe my experiences in this conference and the advantages that I have gained during this event in this brief report.

Introduction

The ISPRS conference on Photogrammetric Computer Vision, organized by the ISPRS Commission III was held in the main building of ETH Zurich, Switzerland. The conference began with an entertaining opening address which was followed a welcome speech, travel grant awards ceremony and paper sessions. Sessions over the next two days covered various topics in the area of Photogrammetry. It included sessions on novel tools and techniques for building modelling, point cloud processing, pose estimation, and scene interpretation. Many scientists from all over the world were presented with great enthusiasm about their research work related to many interesting topics. Over 60 posters were presented at the symposium. I was able to read all of the posters that I was interested in and talked to the people presenting them. I presented two papers and they were well attracted by large audience. As there were not parallel sessions, I was able to catch all current developments in the photogrammetric field.

Benefits that gave from this symposium

Attending the symposium also gave me many valuable opportunities as follows:

1. The symposium was a truly international event. Plenary sessions covered recent developments in the area of Photogrammtery. And further, two day poster sessions covered a wide range of interesting topics and this was a great opportunity for me to gain knowledge of the latest research activities in the field of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing around the world.

2. It was a great chance for me to present a paper at the international symposium covering some of my Ph.D. work in the field of automatic modelling of building façade objects and to get information on the state of art in this research area. I was really pleased with the encouraging, appreciations and helpful feedback that I got for my work. It was rewarding to be able to contribute to the conference, and I felt a real sense of achievement about what I have accomplished over the last three years. I also have a number of new contacts and promising ideas from some expert persons in this filed such as Dr. Markus Gerke, Dr. GunhoSohn, and Prof. Uwe Sorgel, to follow up my experiments and begin to think about the question "what next?". It also led to emergence of a number of research thoughts that would improve the results obtained so far in my research. As a person who finished the Ph.D. recently, it gave a perfect

opportunity to know the people in my desired research area and also to discuss future possibilities of collaborations. Moreover, I had the opportunity to get in touch with some participants in order to elaborate future collaborations.

3. Further, the PCV 2014 represented a wonderful experience for me as I expanded the experience by presenting a poster of my colleague (as a co-author) for an international audience. Both presenting and going around and chatting to people about their work was extremely beneficial for me. I was able to meet the expert people, who work on point cloud processing for object modelling, and to discuss future directions for that research as well as gain a better understanding of the ways in which to model building from ALS and image data.

4. The symposium was attended by a number of professors, trainees, research fellows and research students to present their work experiences and to share their valuable comments and discussions. Therefore, attending the symposium and presenting my work has given me the chance to be in touch with the most up to date research work done in different specialties across the World.

5. A number of papers found that were directly relevant to my interesting area, such as Nauatem et al., Aijazi et al.,Wichmann and Kade, Previtali et al., He et al., and Xiong et al.,. I very much enjoyed hearing about work in my interesting area from some excellent speakers. Therefore, it has given me a number of valuable thoughts for application in future research work. I learned not only need to find ways to improve how I perform my work but also to keep one goal in my mind: how the improvement would be benefited to my students in Sri Lanka.

6. Attending this symposium gave me a useful insight into other works currently occurring in the field of Photogrammetry. Being able to talk to other experts was very encouraging and opened my eyes as to the support available for research and the encouragement to continue to be involved with further research in my area.

7. It also represented a unique opportunity to meet fellow scientists from different parts of the globe. I also enjoyed the networking opportunities that this represented and I was the only one who represented Sri Lanka. I enjoyed the time I spent with other young researchers, PhD students, and senior scientist during my time in ETH Zurich. Further, I have also gained and improved upon existing transferable skills (communication skills) from joining this international symposium.

8. There were plenty of opportunities for informal discussion with others working in fields related to urban object detection and reconstruction. For examples, during the tea-break, we continued our discussions and got to know different members of the Photogrammetric community. Also, two wonderful social events have been organised as part of the symposium. The ice-breaker was made a good opportunity to know each other as it was in the conference opening day. At the end of the second day there was a barbecue at *Seebadenge* on the lake shore where we enjoyed delicious foods.This was very useful, allowing me to meet other scientists, and also to share not only research works but also their cultural information. Therefore, it was a nice surprise and great evening.

9. Moreover, the symposium presented some scientific initiative project information. This information will be invaluable and interest to participate for this work to contribute my knowledge with Photogrammetric and computer community.

10. In addition to all of the interesting presentations and poster sessions, I had reserved one day, after finishing the conference, for some personal sightseeing in Zurich city, I had never been to Zurich before and had to see some of the beautiful places which was very entertaining! Thus I had the chance to enjoy the Switzerland culture and nature, combining an important step for my career with a travel experience.

11. Lastly, I also had a very good chance to meet again my Ph.D. supervisor and some of my colleagues who were participated to this symposium.

Conclusion

I thought the conference was a great success and the organisers did a fantastic job. In general, the conference was extremely informative and allowed me to make many important contacts. Also, it gave a lot of new inputs for me.Therefore, this conference visit has proved to be an invaluable experience. I will be sharing my experiences at my university with my co-workers and students. Overall, presenting papers at this professional international symposium is important to my academic careers and growth as professionals, and is relevant experience for careers both inside and outside of academe. The knowledge gained from attending this ISPRS symposium contributes to the scholarly development of my university. I would therefore like to thank the ISPRS Foundation for their part in making it possible for me to attend this excellent symposium, as well as for other benefits I have enjoyed as a lecturer, researcher of the Photogrammetric community. Also Thanks for being so welcoming at the PCV 2014.

I greatly enjoyed this symposium and it was a valuable experience for my future career. I look forward to attending many more in the future.