



# Summary Report

## ISPRS TC VIII Mid-Term Symposium

9-12 December, 2014 - Hyderabad, India



Organised by  
**Indian Society of Remote Sensing**

**P G Diwakar**  
Organising Secretary &  
Vice-President, ISRS

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## Executive Summary

*ISPRS Technical Commission VIII Mid-Term Symposium on "Operational Remote Sensing Applications: Opportunities, Progress and Challenges" was organised by Indian Society of Remote Sensing (ISRS), jointly with Indian Society of Geomatics (ISG). About 500 professionals from the Remote Sensing and Geospatial domain from India and 17 other foreign countries participated in this convention held at The Park Hotel, Hyderabad during 9-12 December, 2014. As part of this, the Annual Conventions of ISRS and ISG were also held.*



### Inaugural Session

*The symposium was inaugurated by Dr Shailesh Nayak, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 in the presence of Mr A S Kiran Kumar, President Indian Society of Remote Sensing (ISRS) and Indian Society of Geomatics (ISG) and Dr Chen Jun, President of International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS). While Dr PG Diwakar, Organising Secretary of the event, welcomed all the delegates to the symposium, Dr V K Dadhwal, President, Technical Commission VIII of ISPRS, in his opening remarks, talked about the importance of the symposium and specially greeted all delegates, dignitaries, speakers and exhibitors. This was followed by the Presidential Address by Mr A S Kiran Kumar. He introduced the ISRS and ISG to the delegates and also shared how in India increasingly more number of federal and state governments, academic agencies, NGOs as well as the private sectors are using space based services. Dr Chen Jun, President of ISPRS congratulated Indian colleagues on being an excellent support to ISPRS initiatives and also shared his appreciations for Tsunami Early Warning System, INCOIS, Hyderabad. He also shared details on the, recently released, GlobeLandCover30 that has been developed by China with the support of ISPRS as part of his talk. The Inaugural Address was delivered by Dr Shailesh Nayak, Chief Guest of the program, reiterated on the establishment of Sustainable Development Goals of Rio+ 20, and the emphasis on the important need for observing Earth systems more pertinently. Monitoring of changes caused to the Earth System and analysing the affect on each sub-system for sustainable socio-economic and human development was also stressed. He urged the symposium to work towards understanding and quantifying data on weather, climate, communication & navigation systems, land use and land cover that would have deeper impact on human life, in the days to come. He specially said that the scientific community should work towards solution-oriented science with an emphasis on institutional, economic, social and ecological change. As a part of the inaugural program, scientists & engineers were also felicitated by giving away specific awards of excellence under aegis of ISRS and ISG respectively. These were specially in recognition of their contribution in developing, promoting and popularising the use of Remote Sensing and Geospatial data in India.*

### Special Lectures

As part of the symposium, two special lectures were delivered. The “Vikram Sarabhai Memorial Lecture” of ISRS was delivered by Dr Shailesh Nayak, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences on “India’s Global Engagement in Earth System Science”. The “Millennium Lecture” of ISG was delivered by Dr V K Dadhwal, Director, NRSC on “Unlocking the Potential of Geomatics for Disaster Management in India”. There were three plenary sessions on (i) Presentation by ISRS & ISG Awardees (9<sup>th</sup> December, 2014) (ii) Future Earth (10<sup>th</sup> December, 2014) and (iii) Operational RS Applications - Indian Scenario (11<sup>th</sup> December, 2014), wherein eminent speakers in the respective domain delivered lectures.

### Technical Sessions

A total of 26 parallel technical sessions, 3 poster sessions and 3 special interactive sessions covering various themes (Disaster and Risk Reduction; Health; Weather, Atmosphere and Climate Studies; Water Resources; Energy & Geological Applications; Cryosphere; Forestry, Natural Ecosystems & Biodiversity; Land Cover and its Dynamics, Including Agricultural & Urban Land Use; Coastal and Ocean Applications) were held, spread over three and half days. This also includes joint session of TC IV- Geospatial Databases and Location Based Services and TC VI- Education, Technology Transfer and Capacity Development; there were special sessions on Himalayan Mountain Challenges and Geospatial Solutions, conducted by ICIMOD and by ISG. This symposium witnessed an overwhelming response in respect of paper submissions. A total of 540 papers were accepted for oral, poster and special interactive session, of which, around 200 papers in oral, 43 in poster and more than 60 under special interactive session were presented, respectively. This symposium was attended by more than 450 registered delegates, with about 100 students / young researchers. Delegates from over 50 organisations and 18 countries.

### Exhibition & Pre-Symposium Tutorials

As part of this symposium, an exhibition was arranged showcasing the products and services of 18 organisations from government, academia and industry sectors. In addition to this 3 pre-symposium tutorials were held on recent advances in the geospatial technology, namely, 1. “Hyper Spectral Data Analysis and Applications”, 2. “Polarimetric SAR Data Processing & Applications” and 3. “Flood Monitoring & Modelling”. They were attended by more than 75 students and research scholars.

### Concluding Session

Concluding ceremony was held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Awards were given for 3 best papers each in oral and poster category for both general delegates and students respectively. ISPRS Young Author Award was also presented. All the sponsors and exhibitors were felicitated for their excellent support. Dr Christian Heipke, Secretary General, ISPRS Council in his concluding remarks appreciated the organisers for meticulous planning and successful organisation of the symposium with special remarks on Indian hospitality. Dr (Ms) Lena Halounova, Congress Director, ISPRS invited the delegates for the XXIII ISPRS Congress, to be held in Prague during 2016. Dr P G Diwakar, Organising Secretary, gave the vote of thanks to all who contributed for the successful conduct of the symposium. Geospatial Media and Communications Pvt Ltd provided media coverage of the event by bringing out daily reports of the symposium proceedings that was also published in their website.

