



DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING  
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL SCIENCE  
*Civil Engineering · Geomatics Engineering Option*

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016

To: Nederlands Centrum voor Geodesie en Geo-informatica (NCG)  
The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) Council  
Family of Dr. Otto von Gruber

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the society of NCG, ISPRS Council and the family of Dr. Otto von Gruber for establishing the award and choosing me as the 14<sup>th</sup> recipient. I would say, this award, is the highest recognition I have ever had in my career, and I would like to express how thankful I am and the how delightful of my family, colleagues and friends from here in Canada and back in Hong Kong are.

What made me grown as a person and as a researcher are credited by a lot of beautiful minds and great hearts, including Dr. Ahmed Shaker, Prof. Songnian Li, Prof. Said Easa, Prof. Ahmed El-Rabbany, Dr. Arnold Yuan, Dr. Darko Joksimovic, Dr. Joseph Chow, Prof. Esmond Mok, Mr. Silas Liu and Mr. Ernest Fung; all the schools and colleges I have attended: Ryerson University, Middlesex University, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Tang King Po School and Tak Sun School; as well as all the funding parties who generously supported my Ph.D. and postdoctoral research, including Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Ontario Graduate Scholarship, GEOIDE, Canadian Remote Sensing Society, Association of Ontario Land Surveyors and Teledyne Optech. I am the beneficiary. I am the one who receives the award but it's really not mine. It belongs to everyone who have my back all these years.

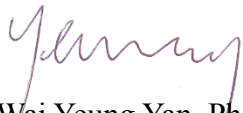
Since my Ph.D. graduation in 2012, I've faced continuous failures, which are not less than a couple dozens, in applications and door knocking for postdoctoral and research positions, fellowships and research funds. Though I am very fortunate to have my supervisor Dr. Ahmed Shaker's support both spiritually and financially, the level of frustration has elevated to a point where the idea of quitting academia came across in my mind several times in the last few years. I am very thankful God made a plan that comes at the right time. Indeed, this award is a tremendous encouragement not only to me, but also to those who work very hard and, at the same time, have a strong faith in believing of what they (we) are doing.

Currently, in work, I am extending my Ph.D. and early postdoctoral research work to develop a more generic and universal model for radiometric correction and normalization. Also, Dr. Shaker and I are collaborating with Teledyne Optech and we are on the way developing and deploying automatic data processing algorithms for the world's first ever multispectral LiDAR sensor. What's more important is, lately, I am taking a bigger role in giving back and volunteering on and off the school, and continuously training myself as a long distance runner for charity.

With the help of Prof. George Vosselman, I have received the monetary prize from the NCG in early August. I have spent part of it to cover my travel expenses from Canada to Prague for the ISPRS Congress and purchase a hard copy of the latest ISPRS Book Series “Spatial Context: An Introduction to Fundamental Computer Algorithms for Spatial Analysis” authored by my former professor, Prof. Christopher Gold, who is a role model I always look up to. Certainly, I have quality time here with my family, colleagues and friends with great meals and glasses of wines to share the joys, and I have donated the rest of the prize to UN Refugee Agency (CAD\$200) and Orbis (CAD\$250) in the name of Dr. Otto von Gruber.

I am not able to meet everyone who made the decision of the award, nor who established, supported and funded the award way back to 1964. I just want to make sure the selection committee know how thankful I am, and how the people around me including my family, friends and colleagues are feeling so proud of being with the recipient of the 2016 Otto von Gruber Award. I will insist and pursue what I believe in academia, and carry on to help those who need a hand. Lastly, I hope to let you know I humbly dedicate this award to my grandmother who had a long battle with cancer and passed away peacefully on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Hong Kong at the age of 94 with my family at the bedside, except me.

Yours truly,



Wai Yeung Yan, Ph.D.  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
Department of Civil Engineering  
Ryerson University

cc: Prof. Christian Heipke, ISPRS President  
Prof. George Vosselman, Professor, University of Twente  
Prof. Songnian Li, ISPRS Treasurer  
Dr. Ahmed Shaker, Vice President of ISPRS Commission III