TIF grant report by Peng Jia

With great support by the ISPRS Travel Grants, I was able to attend the ISPRS TC III Symposium and I would like to share my fruitful experiences during this symposium.

Firstly, I co-chaired the Environmental Health sessions, during which I identified some scholars working actively in the fields of environment health and exchanged ideas with them in terms of both strengths and limitations.

Second, I further built connections with a few leaders in environmental health areas, including Profs. Fazlay Faruque (University of Mississippi Medical Center, USA), Shahzad Sarfraz (University of Gujrat, Pakistan), and Iyyanki Muralikrishna (Defence Research and Development Organisation, India). In addition to future research collaboration, we discussed the tentative plan of holding the 2019 ISPRS Geospatial Public health Symposium as a two-day pre-conference workshop prior to the Geospatial Week 2019 to be held in Enschede, The Netherlands, where I am currently working. Besides, Prof. Muralikrishna invited me to write a preface for an environmental health book he is currently editing. Prof. Faruque and Prof. Sarfraz, with his Ph.D. students, will also attend our coming 1st International Symposium on Lifecourse Epidemiology and Spatial Science (ISLES) from 16-20 July 2018 in Leiden, The Netherlands.

Third, I had discussion with the editor assistant of the journal Remote Sensing, which set up a new special issue “Remote Sensing of Health” for our coming ISLES workshop.

Attending this conference has greatly benefited my career by improving my professional knowledge and organizational skills, expanding my academic network, and creating new opportunities also journal outlets for our future research.

My overall impression on the Environment Health sessions of this conference is that a small number of presenters have conducted research related directly to human health, perhaps due to limited access to human health data. This gap needs to be filled via more future international collaboration.