

**Report on the 5th ISPRS Student Consortium and WG VI/5 Summer School
6-10 November 2010, Hanoi, Vietnam
<http://hanoi2010.isprs-sc.org/>**

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Although this year's Summer School (SS) under the auspices of ISPRS Student Consortium (SC) and WG VI/5 took place in autumn, its parameters had been set to pure summer and manifested in the land of conical hats – Vietnam. Given the fact that the SC is an international organization, it is consistent that its main annual event happens every year at another place of the globe and thus offers the opportunity to expand knowledge and all the benefits offered by SS to different groups of young people, in particular to local Geomatics enthusiasts. After last year's successful SS in Warsaw, the 5th SS saw the light this year in Southeast Asia, precisely in the capital city of Vietnam, Hanoi, where 54 participants gathered from 6th to 10th of November 2010. The organization required a lot of energy of very few people because the event was organized in a very short time. The selection of its location was not accidental, since the event took place directly after the 31st Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS) 2010, which reunited strengths of all the influential Asian remote sensing scientists. The SS main theme was Advanced Remote Sensing for Mapping, Monitoring and Management of the Environment and was a puzzle of four day lectures supported by practical exercises and an all-day trip along the Red River to visit temples and villages. Lectures strongly drilled into themes of microwave remote sensing, change detection of land use/land cover, natural hazards and topographic mapping from high-resolution satellite sensors. The teaching material can be found at <http://www.isprs-sc.org/materials/cat/11>. All lectures took place at the Vietnamese Institute of Geodesy and Cartography (VIGAC), from which we disconnected in the evening hours with various social events that had quite short life expectancy, but nevertheless were quite intensive. The prevailing SS participants were Vietnamese, Indonesians, Taiwanese and Japanese, altogether participants from 13 countries attended the event. Nevertheless, the purpose of regional integration and cooperation was achieved since non-Asians remained in the minority, which was more than obvious in many things (from awkwardness with catching the rice with sticks, to everyday wonderings about the traffic in Hanoi, to clumsiness when bargaining, etc.). That you are not a real Asian you discover as soon as you get a microphone foisted under your nose to sing karaoke. Meanwhile the Westerners had to justify somehow why they aren't good at singing in public without additional stimulators, most Asians were happy to show what they are able to do, with the text on a screen or from their head. Respect! If for foreigners karaoke was a bit awkward thing, this is definitely not the case for Vietnamese food! It is something all Vietnam visitors without exception agree upon, Vietnamese food rocks, no matter how much the noodles are entangled. In general participants were pleased with the event since we all gained not just new knowledge but also some good friendships. Beyond that, Vietnam is a wonderful piece of land and sea and we think that all of those who left the country without trying to process all the acquired knowledge somewhere out of Hanoi missed something great, because Vietnam hides in all its dimensions many simple but beautiful places where also very „intense“ conference content can be easily digested. Last but not least ,we wish to thank all our sponsors, especially the Platinum ones (ISPRS Council and Foundation, Pasco Corp. – Japan and Leica Geosystems – Switzerland), as well as the local organizers and their team for their tremendous hospitality.



The school participants, lecturers and organizers in the lecture hall.



Happy faces at a social event, with some unexpected guests.