

## Invitation to ACRS2012

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General Secretary, Asian Association on Remote Sensing(AARS)



Dear International Colleagues,

On behalf of Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS), I would like to welcome you all to the 33rd Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS) to be held from November 26 to 30, 2012 in Pattaya, a beautiful resort of Thailand. ACRS is one of the largest remote sensing conferences held once a year in Asia. The Conference is jointly organized by Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA), Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and AARS. As you may know, last year, Thailand was seriously damaged by the heavy flood. But, Thai people are patient and have been working so hard for the recovery. Now, the 33<sup>rd</sup> ACRS is well planned and well prepared by the local organizing committee. The attendance of Princess Sirindhorn to the opening ceremony is expected. I have no doubt on the success of the conference.

On this occasion, I would like to remind you about the history and latest progress of ACRS and AARS. The ACRS was established in 1980 by the founders of ACRS namely Prof. Shunji Murai, Prof. Chen Shupeng, Dr. Suvit Vibulsresth, Dr. Manu Omakupt, Mr. Christy Nanayakkara, Prof. A. J. Chen and many other active Asians. The 1<sup>st</sup> ACRS was organized in November 1980 in Bangkok, Thailand. So, this year, we are going back to the country where ACRS was born. Since 1980, every year ACRS has been organized in some country in Asia, and, in 2009, we celebrated the 30 years anniversary of ACRS in Beijing, China. Up to now, 24 countries and regions from Asia and 17 countries and organizations from outside Asia are members of AARS. Last year, over 800 participants attend the 32<sup>nd</sup> ACRS organized in Taipei. The world interest to ACRS and AARS is increasing. Promotion of students and young scientists is one of the most important objectives of ACRS. We have several awards for promoting young generation including the Shunji Murai Award, the Innovation Award, the Best Student Paper Award, and JSPRS Award.

ISPRS is an important sister society for AARS. Every year, several ISPRS Council members attend ACRS and discuss about the mutual cooperation with us. Since 2010,

under the cooperation with the ISPRS WG VI/5 and Student Consortium, the Student Summer School is organized just after ACRS. Last year, More than 40 students and young scientists from Asia attended the one week summer school. We are planning to organize the Student Summer School again this year just after the 33<sup>nd</sup> ACRS.

The ACRS has kept a unique style as follows as compared with other International or Western conferences.

1. The ACRS is fully open to any nation and region.
2. Non-discrimination, which means that any participant must pay the registration fee.
3. Self fund participation.
4. Inexpensive registration fee of just 100 US \$ including conference, parties, proceedings in CD ROM etc.
5. Home made but not commercialized conference.

The ACRS has been sustained with the following philosophy.

1. Friendship First and Money After!
2. For Asian, by Asian and with Asian!
3. Asian style with Asian culture!

Finally I would like to ask all of you to attend this conference and contribute to improve the quality of the conference by presenting papers, discussing technical issues, exchanging ideas with Asian friends, and singing & dancing together at the welcome party. Looking forward to seeing you in Pattaya at the 33<sup>rd</sup> ACRS.

Thank you.

ACRS2012 Homepage : <http://acrs2012.gistda.or.th/>

AARS Homepage : <http://www.a-a-r-s.org/acrs/>



Photo 1. Pattaya, Thailand



Photo 2. The 32<sup>nd</sup> ACRS organized in Taipei, 2011



Photo 2. Summer School 2011 organized at NCU connected to 32<sup>nd</sup> ACRS.