

## **ISPRS Hannover Workshop “High resolution Earth Imaging for Geospatial Information”**

The joint workshop of the ISPRS working groups I/4, III/4, IV/2 and VII/2, supported by the ISPRS Commission I, working group IV/1 and the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) was held at the Leibniz University Hannover from the 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2013. The local organizer was the Institute of Photogrammetry and GeoInformation (IPI), under the direction of Christian Heipke, Karsten Jacobsen, Franz Rottensteiner and Uwe Sörgel.

According to the involved working groups the topics were “Geometric and Radiometric Modeling of Optical Airborne and Spaceborne Sensors” (WG I/4), “3D Scene Analysis” (WG III/4), “Global Status of Mapping and Geospatial Database Updating” (WG IV/2), “DEM Generation and Surface Deformation Monitoring from SAR Data” (WG VII/2), and “Methods for the Update and Verification of Geospatial Databases” (WG IV/1). The involvement of the ISPRS commissions I, IV and VII allowed topics to be included such as sensors, the interpretation of remotely sensed data, and the verification of geoinformation systems (GIS). The ISPRS Hannover Workshop has been running successfully once every two years for a considerable period of time. The aim is to reach not only participants from universities and research centres but also to include people from industry, government agencies, and private companies. The workshop provides a wonderful opportunity to discuss both recent and future developments.

In total, 126 participants were registered from 29 countries and all five continents. The workshop included five key note speakers, 39 oral presentations and 38 interactive presentations. As there was no parallel program offered during the interactive (poster) session, and afternoon tea was provided for participants, it was well attended and offered a great opportunity for intense discussions with the authors.

The publications of the workshop are freely available on the ISPRS webpage ([www.isprs.org](http://www.isprs.org)) or under the link <http://www.int-arch-photogramm-remote-sens-spatial-inf-sci.net/XL-1-W1/>. It is also planned to publish a special issue of the “ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing” including the best workshop papers in an extended version as well as additional papers related to the workshop topics. The deadline for the submission of these publications is 30/09/2013.

The workshop was officially opened by Uwe Sörgel followed by welcome addresses by the IAA Technical Director Rainer Sandau and ISPRS General Secretary Christian Heipke. Heipke used his welcome address also to hand out 5 travel grants provided by TIF - The ISPRS Foundation (see **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.**). Two keynote speeches followed. The first speaker, Ranganath Navalgund from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), talked about “Earth Observation in Early Warning Systems”. The second key note talk by Rainer Sandau (AAA) was entitled “Global Space Cooperation – New Activities for Disaster Management and Climate Change”. The three other key note speakers opened sessions on the following days of the workshop. The speakers were Lorenzo Bruzzone (Trento University) on the topic of “Current scenario and challenges in the analysis of multitemporal remote sensing images”, Charles Toth (The Ohio State University) about “Remote Sensing Sensors and Platforms: The Trends”, and Micheal McCullagh (University of Nottingham) about “Crowd-Sourcing Mapping – Letting Amateurs into the Temple?”.



**Fig. 1: Christian Heipke (2nd on the left) with the winners of the TIF grants, Ewelina Rupnik, Marta Kubiak, Faith Karanja, Khelifa Djerriri and Henrique Candido de Oliveira (from left to right)**

Beside the invited talks there were ten technical sessions on “Image analysis” (chaired by Franz Rottensteiner), “Space geometry” (Karsten Jacobsen), “DTM” (Peter Reinartz), “Analysis of urban areas by SAR” (Uwe Sörgel), “Laser scanning” (Boris Jutzi), “New sensors” (Stefan Hinz), “Operational remote sensing” (Daniela Poli), “Orientation” (Elja Honkavaara), “High resolution space borne SAR” (Franz Meyer) and “Remote sensing applications” (Petra Helmholz).



**Figure 1: Invited talk speaker Ranganath Naval Gund (left) and Charles Toth (middle); interactive Poster session (right).**

The success of any event, such as this, also rests on the opportunity to socialise with fellow international participants to discuss and exchange ideas as well as to develop new contacts and friendships (Figure 2). On the first night all participants met for the *Get together party* on the top of the local *Messdach* (a survey observation platform on the roof of a building on campus). On the *Messdach* everyone could not only enjoy a nice view over the *Herrenhäuser Gärten* (a local tourist attraction) and the city but a food buffet with drinks. The second night the workshop dinner took place at the *Wilhelm-Busch-Museum* (Wilhelm Busch is widely considered to be the inventor of comics), close by to the workshop venue. At the museum the participants could enjoy a superb dinner supported by Hexagon. The authors would like to thank Hartmut Rosengarten and Hexagon for the support and sponsorship of this workshop and the organisation of a master class on Thursday afternoon.



Figure 2: Social events on the *Messdach* (left) and in the *Wilhelm-Busch-Museum* (right).

Thanks also go to Christian Heipke, Uwe Sörgel, Karsten Jacobsen and Franz Rottensteiner with Claudia Sander, Annette Radtke, Uwe Breitkopf and many others for the excellent organisation of the event. Their efforts included the preparation of the conference, the technical support and the organisation of food and drinks for all participants during the conference.

Let us end with a wish: We are looking forward to seeing you all again 2015 in Hannover.

Antje Thiele (Institute of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)  
and  
Petra Helmholz (Department of Spatial Sciences, Curtin University)