

XVI Brazilian Remote Sensing Symposium (XVI SBSR), 13 – 18 April, 2013 in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil

The *Brazilian Remote Sensing Symposium* (SBSR), a biannual national event of the Brazilian remote sensing community, was held in Foz do Iguaçu this year. The city Foz do Iguaçu, with the proximity of the famous and worldwide known Iguaçu Waterfalls, is located at the West of Paraná State on the border to Paraguay and Argentina.

The SBSR, starting 35 years ago with only a few people, has developed into a premier event in the region, attracting people outside Brazil and with about 2,000 attendees. The organizers of SBSR are the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (*Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais* -INPE) and Latin American Association on Remote Sensing (*Sociedade de Especialistas Latino-americanos em Sensoriamento Remoto* - SELPER). Over the years, the Brazilian remote sensing community has seen steady increase, with a growing interest in applications and, additionally, research and developments. Consequently, a high number of contributions were submitted to the symposium; out of the 1,619 full paper submissions, 75% were accepted for publication. The final program included 192 oral presentations in 24 Plenary Sessions, several hundreds of papers were presented in the Panel Sessions and the remaining submissions went to the Poster Sessions.

Prior to SBSR, eight two-day lecture courses were provided on various geospatial topics, ranging from recent developments in research and applications to technological advancements and emerging applications. The instructors were internationally known experts, coming from several continents besides Brazil. The course on *New Advancements in Airborne LiDAR Technology* was supported by ISPRS Technical Commission I and locally organized by Edson Mitishita and Jorge Centeno both from UFPR (University of Paraná, Brazil), who covered the basic materials. Charles Toth (The Ohio State University, USA) and Boris Jutzi (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany) provided a review on the state-of-the-art of airborne LiDAR technology, and Ana Paula Kersting (Lactec, Brazil) discussed applications and industry developments. Most of the lectures ended up in stimulating discussions, as the audience was quite interested and engaged. Besides the two-day course, the ISPRS TC I representatives actively participated in a half-day workshop in the regular program.

In summary, the conference, including the two-day lectures, was extremely well-organized by the SBSR team and the hospitality during the entire event was exceptional. Clearly, the attendees benefited from a strong technical program and evidently enjoyed the socials too; for more details see www.dsr.inpe.br/sbsr2013.

Boris Jutzi and Charles Toth



From left to right: Edson Mitishita (UFPR, Brazil), Boris Jutzi (KIT, Germany), Ana Paula Kersting (Lactec, Brazil), Charles Toth (OSU, USA), and Jorge Centeno (UFPR, Brazil).