

Report on the Mid-Term Symposium of ISPRS commission VI on “Data, Information, and Knowledge Sharing for Geo-Education”

This Mid-Term ISPRS commission VI symposium on “Data, Information, and Knowledge Sharing for Geo-Education” (<http://www.lmars.whu.edu.cn/isprscm6/index.html>) was held in Wuhan, China, from May 19th to 21st, 2014. It was jointly organized by the State Key Lab of Information Engineering in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (LIESMARS), ISPRS Technical Committee VI and International Cartographic Association (ICA) Commission on Education and Training. Over three hundred attendees from 22 countries, including more than 60 conference representatives and over 200 students from the 2014 GeoInformatics Summer Camp & 11th ISPRS Summer School and 5th ISPRS 3S–Summer Students Seminar, participated in the conference.

The conference topics covered education and training, technology and knowledge transfer, and regional capacity development. A diverse range of papers related to Geo-Education in ISPRS and ICA areas of interests were submitted to the symposium for publication. The abstracts/papers submitted were evaluated by the Technical Commissions Presidents, Working Group Chairs, and ICA Commission members, according to content, significance, originality, relevance, and clearness of presentation. Altogether there are 24 contributed papers included in the ISPRS Archive, and 3 contributed papers included in the ISPRS Annals.

There were total 14 oral sessions, 2 poster sessions and a working meeting of TC VI. The program included 4 plenary sessions, 2 keynote sessions, one White Elephant Session and 8 parallel sessions. The event started in the morning of May 19th. Prof. Jianya Gong, president of ISPRS TC VI, chaired the opening ceremony session. In the opening ceremony, the president of Wuhan University – Xiaohong Li, gave his warm welcome to all participants for gathering at Wuhan University, the most beautiful university in China. Then, Pende Li, Deputy Director General of National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation (NASG), presented a short speech with emphasis on the importance of GeoInformation and Education. Later, Christian Heipke, Secretary General of ISPRS, brought greetings from ISPRS council, and Yaolin Liu, Vice President of ICA, made a brief introduction to ICA. Next, Marguerite Madden, Second Vice President of ISPRS, represented ISPRS Foundation to award Travel Grants. At the end, Jun Chen, President of ISPRS, declared the opening of this conference.

In the Keynote Sessions, four keynote speeches were given by Deren Li, member of CAS and CAE, Wuhan University, Uwe Stilla, Professor at Technical University of Munich (TUM), Pengde Li, Deputy Director General of NASG, China and Daniel Griffith, professor of University of Texas at Dallas, USA. They gave overviews of Geoinformatics education in China, MSc Program ESPACE at TUM, capacity development of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation in China, and Current State of Spatial Statistics Education in the United States.

In the White Elephant Session, three members of White Elephant Club, Armin Green, Ian Dowman and John Trinder made five reports. Armin introduced what the White Elephant Club is, and then shared tips with students and young researches on thesis writing. Ian Dowman gave a very valuable speech on how to give presentations and write a journal paper. Finally, report on research project proposal writing was made by John. Deren Li also gave some helpful tips for Chinese students and researchers on the paper and proposal writing.

Six parallel sessions focusing on “Technology Transfer and Capacity Development”, “ICA

Education”, “Web-based Resource Sharing and E-Delivery of Education Services”, “Promotion of International Collaborative Education Programs”, “Promotion of the Profession to Young People” and “Promotion of Regional Cooperation and Regional Capacity Development in Geoinformatics”, were held on May 20th. The last two parallel sessions in the morning of May 21st contained the working meeting of ISPRS TC VI and one Student Lecture Session. In the Student Session, seven students from different universities gave brief introductions on campus life and education programs in their universities. Subsequently, 13 students posted their researching works and guest experts, Ian Dowman, Songnian Li and Wolfgang Kainz provided constructive suggestions and valuable comments on their posters. In the last plenary session, three company sponsors (GeoStar, Leader Spatial and Geoway) made sponsor reports, followed by the summary report of the symposium.

In summary, the symposium was a great success. The papers, together with the oral and poster presentations, serve to demonstrate the importance of data, information, and knowledge sharing for Geo-Education in a truly international community. The high quality sessions provided good opportunities for scientists, young researchers and energetic students to spark scientific ideas in Geo-education. This event was not only fruitful but also unforgettable. On the banquet of 70th birthday celebration for Armin Gruen, those unfamiliar people became friends, new friends became old friends and old friends became close friends. May this friendship last forever and look forward to the next reunion in Prague, Czech Republic, 2016.



Opening ceremony of the symposium



Group photo of the symposium