

Dear Dr. John Trinder,

I am writing this letter to express my appreciation for the ISPRS Travel Grant that enabled me to attend the ISPRS Technical Commission VI Symposium, as well as the Geo-informatics summer camp & 11th ISPRS summer school & 5th ISPRS 3S-Summer Students Seminar in Wuhan, China. I presented a paper at the conference entitled, "Towards a web-based GIS for teaching geo-informatics at under-graduate level in developing countries: a case study of Iran". My paper was well received and I was able to get valuable feedback on my research.

In addition, since I am currently a second year Ph.D. student and the project that I am working on greatly involves using statistical methods for analyzing and interpreting spatial data, I very much enjoyed taking the Spatial Statistics course during the workshop. It was my honor to meet Dr. Daniel A. Griffith, professor at University of Texas at Dallas, USA and Dr. Bin Li in person, and have the chance to get tutored by them in Spatial Statistics. It is also worth mentioning that I had the honor to gain Dr. Griffith and Dr. Li's interests in my project and I am continuing my collaboration with them in order to have their valuable suggestions and comments regarding my research results, which I owe this collaboration to ISPRS.

Furthermore, I met several other famous researchers in the field of Geo-information and Earth Observation, and had the chance to network with them. I enjoyed my discussions with Dr. Marguerite Madden, professor and director of the center for geospatial research at University of Georgia, Dr. Milan Konecný, professor and former president of International Cartographic Association (ICA), as well as Dr. Peng Yue, professor from Wuhan University. I also had fun days making new friends (Liangcun Jiang, Sheryl Rose Reyes, Nagy Robert and Justyna Jeziorska); all graduate students from all over the world which made the travel even more interesting. Last but not the least; I had a re-union with two of my former friends and colleagues: Dr. Lei Niu, and Hossein Vahidi, which made this travel the most productive conference travel I have ever experienced, both scientifically as well as emotionally. I will never forget those days that I learned the rich culture and friendly behavior of Chinese people while visiting Peking, Wuhan and Shanghai.

Again, I sincerely appreciate having received the ISPRS Travel Grant. Having the opportunity to present my work in a professional forum and to meet others in my field is an extremely important part of my professional development. I couldn't have had this experience without your support.

Kind regards,

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