Announcement

The U. V. Helava Award – Best Paper Volumes 195-206 (2023)

The U.V. Helava Award, sponsored by Elsevier B.V. and Leica Geosystems AG, is a prestigious ISPRS Award, which was established in 1998 to encourage and stimulate submission of high-quality scientific papers by individual authors or groups to the ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, to promote and advertise the Journal, and to honour the outstanding contributions of Dr. Uuno V. Helava to research and development in photogrammetry and remote sensing.

The Award is presented to authors of the best paper, written in English and published exclusively in the ISPRS Journal during the four-year period from January of a Congress year, to December of the year prior to the next Congress. The Award consists of a monetary grant of SFr. 10,000 and a plaque. A five-member Jury, comprising experts of high scientific standing, whose expertise covers the main topics included in the scope of the Journal, evaluates the papers. For each year of the four-year evaluation period, the best paper is selected, and among these four papers, the one to receive the U.V. Helava Award will be selected. The seventh U.V. Helava Award will be presented at the 25th ISPRS Congress in 2026.

The Jury, appointed by the ISPRS Council, evaluated papers from Volumes 195-206 (2023) and announces its decision for the Best Paper. The winner of the 2023 Best Paper Award is:

"The development of a global LAI and FAPAR product using GCOM-C/SGLI data", by Toshiyuki Kobayashi^a, Hideki Kobayashi^c, Wei Yang^d, Hiroshi Murakami^b, Yoshiaki Honda^d, Kenlo Nishida Nasahara^a

published in Volume 202, August 2023, Pages 479-498. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S09 24271623001855





a: Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Tsukuba, 1-1-1, Tennodai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8572, Japan

b: Earth Observation Research Center (EORC), Space Technology Directorate I, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Tsukuba Space Center, 2-1-1, Sengen, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8505, Japan

c: Research Institute for Global Change, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, 3173-25 Showamachi, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama 236-0001, Japan

d: Center for Environmental Remote Sensing, Chiba University, 1-33 Yayoicho, Inageku, Chiba 263-8522, Japan

Jury's rationale for the paper selection

This paper developed an operational solution for the free provision of LAI et FAPAR products at global scale using observations from the Global Change Observation Mission - Climate (GCOM-C) satellite. Superior spatial and temporal resolutions are obtained compared to existing products. The methodological innovation relies on the joint adoption of a 3D radiative transfer model, a vegetation model and a forest map. Such ancillary data is independent from existing products.

With the assessment of a new sensor at global scale, the delivery of free data relevant for many environmental models and the innovative processing, this paper very well deserves the Best Paper Award for 2023.

On behalf of the ISPRS and the U.V. Helava Award Jury, I would like to congratulate the authors for this distinction and thank them for their contribution. I would also like to thank the sponsors of the Award, and the Jury members for their thorough evaluations.

Clément Mallet Editor-in-Chief, ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Univ Gustave Eiffel, IGN, ENSG, LASTIG. E-mail address: clement.mallet@ign.fr