

## ISPRS SC Las Vegas, Manila and Belem: Successful Participation in ISPRS Mid-Term Symposiums

The ISPRS Student Consortium (ISPRS SC) attended all the ISPRS Mid-term Symposiums this year. At least one or two of the ISPRS SC Board of Directors attended these symposiums. While earlier ebulletin included our participation at the TC I symposium in Changsa, below is the summarised version of activities we did during the rest of the mid-term symposiums.

**Event Date and Location:** 11-14 June 2024 – Las Vegas, USA

**ISPRS SC Representation:** Dr. Chukwuma Okolie

Our ISPRS SC Board Member, Chukwuma Okolie attended the ISPRS TC II symposium held in Las Vegas from June 11-14, 2024. The ISPRS SC had a stall at the exhibition room, just beside the ASPRS table, where Chukwuma was assisted by Caleb Ogbeta, a PhD Student at Oregon State University. We received several visitors at our table, and we were able to share information about the consortium and activities we have been doing. We also shared souvenirs with several attendees. Chukwuma encouraged graduate students to get involved with the consortium and encouraged Professors/lecturers to share the information with their students. Several members of ISPRS Council also visited our stand including Lena Halounová (President), Christian Heipke (Past President), Treasurer (Stewart Walker) and Derek Lichti (Congress Director). We are grateful to Prof Alper Yilmaz, TC II President and the local organising team for arranging us a table at the exhibition area and helping us to interact with the symposium attendees.



Figure: From L-R (Top Row): ISPRS TCII President, Prof Alper Yilmaz; ISPRS Treasurer, Dr Stewart Walker; ISPRS President, Prof Lena Halounová; Congress Director, Prof Derek Lichti; and ISPRS SC Board member, Chukwuma Okolie; second picture ISPRS TCII President, Prof Alper Yilmaz; ISPRS Past President, Prof Christian Heipke; ISPRS Treasurer, Dr Stewart Walker; ISPRS President, Prof Lena Halounová; and ISPRS SC Board member, Chukwuma Okolie. From L-R (Bottom Row): ISPRS Board member, Chukwuma Okolie; and ISPRS TCII Secretary, Dr Rongjun Qin; second picture: ISPRS Board member, Chukwuma Okolie; ISPRS TCII President, Prof Alper Yilmaz; and Oregon State University PhD Student, Caleb Ogbeta.

**Event Date and Location:** 6-8 August 2024 – Manila, The Philippines

**ISPRS SC Representation:** Ms. Laxmi Thapa and Mr. Miguel Luis R. Lagahit

Likewise, Laxmi Thapa, President and Miguel Lagahit, the Social Media Coordinator of the ISPRS SC attended the TC V Mid-Term Symposium in Manila, the Philippines from August 6-8, 2024. Laxmi gave a presentation on recent activities of ISPRS SC during the White Elephant Session and we had a poster demonstration during the second day of the event. Moreover, Laxmi and Miguel had a productive meeting with the council members present at the symposium, namely Lena Halounová (President), Christian Heipke (Past President) and Derek Lichti (Congress Director). They also discussed about possible student activities that could be organised during the ISPRS Congress 2026 with Dr. Lichti, the Congress Director. They also attended the ISPRS TC V business meeting. Additionally, Laxmi and Miguel interacted with symposium attendees and explained to them the activities that ISPRS SC has been doing, both virtually like webinars and in-person like summer schools. We were excited to receive interests to organise events in Vietnam and Saudi Arabia. We are grateful to Dr Gay Jane Perez, TC V President and local organisers for waiving the registration fees of both of our board of directors and providing space for the poster. The symposium was followed by the ISPRS SC summer school and networking hour session.



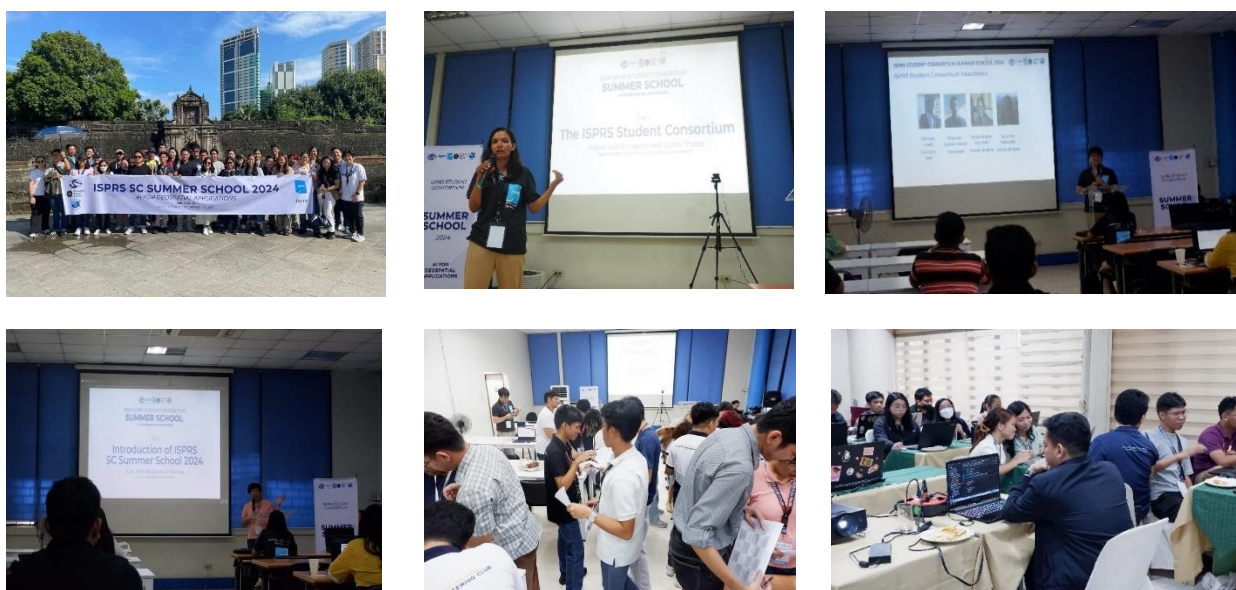
Figure: ISPRS SC Representatives with ISPRS Council and ISPRS TC V President, Dr Gay Jane Perez

## ISPRS SC Summer School 2024 in the Philippines: Artificial intelligence (AI) for Geospatial Applications:

The ISPRS SC Summer School 2024 on GeoAI, with the theme AI for Geospatial Applications, was held at the University of the Philippines Diliman Campus in Quezon City, Philippines, from August 9 to 13, 2024. Organized as a post-event to the ISPRS TC V Symposium, this Summer School received partial funding support from the ISPRS Foundation (TIF). It was hosted by the University of the Philippines Department of Geodetic Engineering (UP DGE) in collaboration with the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) Student Consortium, the Philippine Space Agency, and the Philippine Geosciences and Remote Sensing Society (PhilGRSS). A total of 42 participants (20 female and 22 male) from various academic institutions, government agencies, and private companies in the Philippines attended the event.

The five-day Summer School featured technical sessions led by one international speaker and three local geomatics experts, all with extensive experience in research and technical projects involving AI applications. The participants were welcomed by the ISPRS Student Consortium (ISPRS SC), represented by its President, Laxmi Thapa, and Social Media Coordinator, Miguel Luis Lagahit, who shared insights on the ISPRS SC's activities and the objectives of the Summer School. The Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, Asst. Prof. Roseanne Ramos, provided a detailed introduction to the event and outlined the expectations for participants. The technical sessions included lecture presentations and hands-on exercises aligned with the theme, while other activities such as a networking session, social night, cultural tour around Manila, and industry sessions with partner companies enriched the program. A key highlight of the event was ideathon, a group activity designed to foster collaboration among participants. On the final day, participants presented their ideathon outputs, which reflected their understanding of AI, ethical considerations, and the feasibility of implementing their ideas based on the knowledge gained during the technical sessions and industry presentations. The event concluded with the awarding of Certificates of Completion. Miguel Luis Lagahit represented the ISPRS SC at the closing ceremony.

A detailed report on the Summer School, including participant experiences, will be featured in the upcoming issue of the ISPRS SC Newsletter, Spectrum.



*Figure: Pictures captured during different activities organised at the ISPRS SC summer school at University of the Philippines Diliman Campus.*

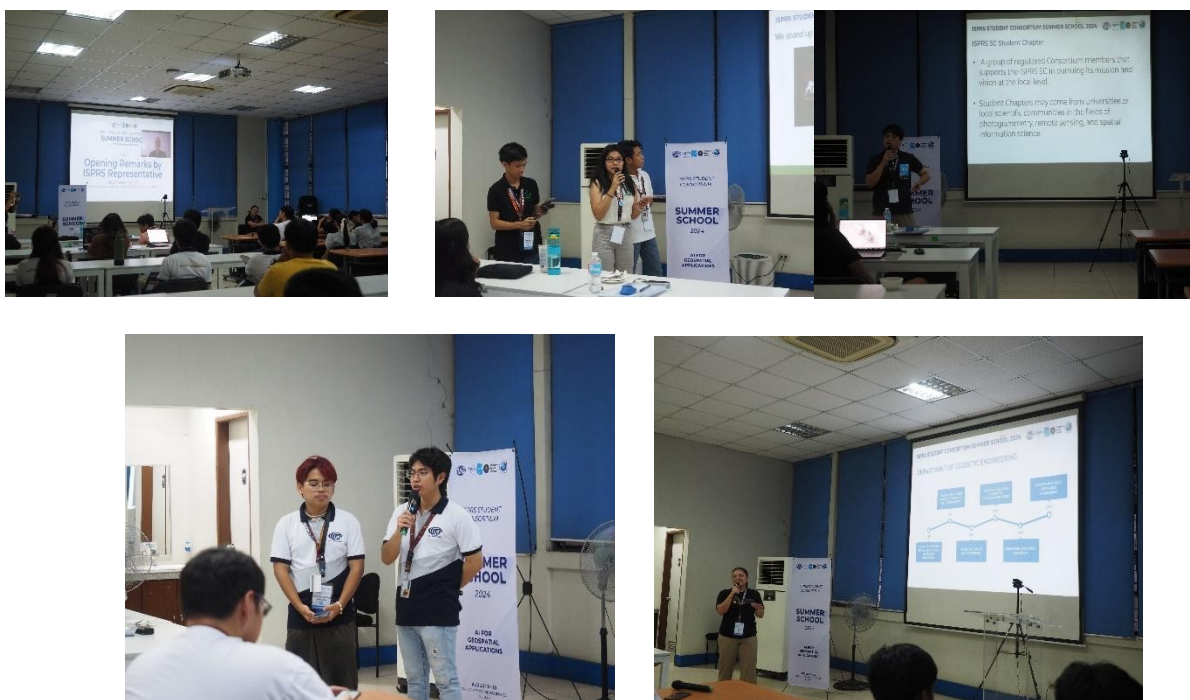
## ISPRS SC Networking Hour:

On the first day of the Summer School, we hosted a hybrid event called the ‘*ISPRS SC Networking Hour*’, with approximately 45 in-person participants and 8 virtual attendees. This marked the first-ever networking hour organized by the ISPRS Student Consortium (ISPRS SC), aimed at providing an interactive platform for students, young professionals, and ISPRS SC board members attending the symposium. The event aimed to raise awareness about various student organizations, their activities, and ways to get involved. ISPRS Past President Christian Heipke delivered virtual opening remarks, highlighting the significant role ISPRS SC plays within the broader ISPRS community. This was followed by a presentation by Erica Erin Elazegui, a faculty member from the University of the Philippines, and further presentations by representatives of the UP GE Club and UP GEOP.

Miguel Luis Lagahit then introduced the concept of student chapters, outlining their potential benefits, as well as the procedures to establish them. ISPRS SC President Laxmi Thapa elaborated on key points raised in the presentation and offered additional insights. The event transitioned into a social evening, providing further opportunities for interaction through casual conversations and games. ISPRS SC sponsored pizzas during the promotional event, with arrangements efficiently handled by the local organizers.

The positive reception of the networking hour led to a follow-up virtual meeting on September 8th, where students addressed additional queries to prepare their applications for student chapter formation. Building on its success, the ISPRS SC Networking Hour was incorporated into the agendas of two subsequent symposiums, where it continued to receive enthusiastic appreciation from attendees.





*Figure: Activities during the ISPRS SC Networking Hour at the University of Philippines-Diliman, Philippines.*

**Event Date and Location:** 22-25 October 2024 – Fremantle, Perth, Australia

**ISPRS SC Representation:** Mr. Miguel Luis R. Lagahit

Our ISPRS SC Social Media Coordinator, Miguel Luis R. Lagahit attended the ISPRS TC IV symposium held in Perth, Australia. ISPRS SC was given a separate booth throughout the symposium, and we are grateful to the organisers for this arrangement. This space allowed us to interact with participants, share our mission, and actively engage with the community. We had made a volunteer call to our members attending this symposium and we were thrilled to welcome four dedicated volunteers who responded to our volunteer call (from left to right): My-Thu and Eva from San Diego University, Ishtiaq from IIT Roorkee, and Yang from University of Western Australia. This initiative not only encouraged engagement but also allowed us to foster a deeper connection with our members. Also, these volunteers helped us to achieve several meaningful goals; they helped us reach out to symposium attendees, promote the Student Consortium's activities, and spread awareness about our membership benefits. We are thankful for their contributions.



*Figure (from L-R): My-Thu and Eva from San Diego University, Ishtiaq from IIT Roorkee, and Yang from University of Western Australia.*

Likewise, we organised an ISPRS SC networking hour on the second day of the symposium that was quite successful. This event served as an interactive space for attendees to learn about the various student organizations, showcase ongoing activities, and explore opportunities for involvement within these organizations. We hosted speakers from ASPRS San Diego State University Student Chapter, Mr. Bruce Markman and representative from Western Australian Spatial Science Student Association. Their insights and experiences enriched the event, inspiring participants to consider membership and explore collaborative opportunities with us. Likewise, Miguel presented about the activities of ISPRS SC and our recently launched initiative- ISPRS SC Student Chapter; he discussed the motive of these chapters, requirements to form and benefits the local institution can have through various engagements. ISPRS Council also attended this event, which added significance to the event and underscored the importance of creating a collaborative and supportive network within the broader ISPRS community.



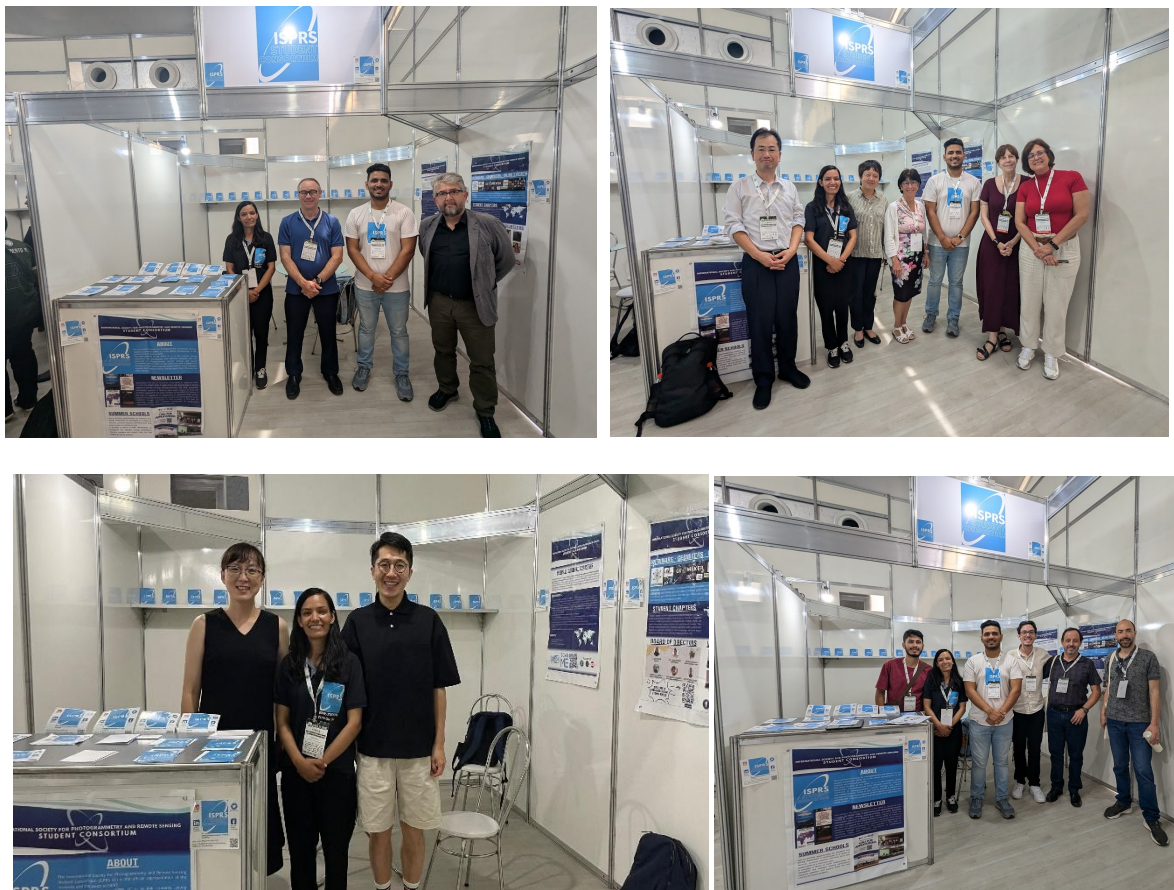
*Figure: Activities during the ISPRS SC Networking Hour in Perth, Australia*



**Event Date and Location:** 4-7 November 2024 – Belem, Brazil

**ISPRS SC Representation:** Ms. Laxmi Thapa and Mr. Yogender Yadav

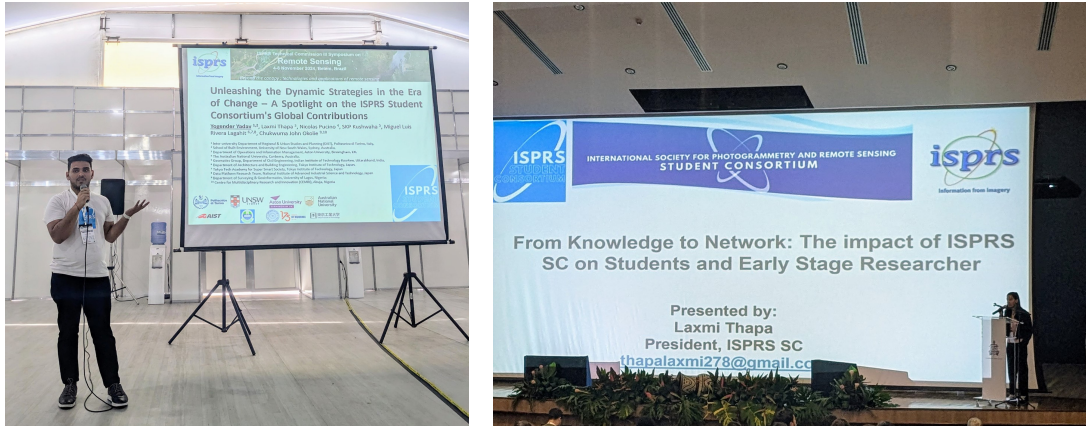
Laxmi Thapa, President and Yogender Yadav, website administrator of the ISPRS SC attended the TC III Mid-Term Symposium in Belem, Brazil from November 4-7, 2024. Both of them actively participated in different events and interacted with symposium's participants through various activities while showcasing different initiatives of ISPRS SC. ISPRS SC had a dedicated booth set up at the 'VILLAGE' exhibition area during the symposium. The booth served as a hub for students, young professionals, and other attendees to learn about various activities and opportunities offered by the ISPRS SC. The focus during the interaction with visitors was on promoting career growth and engagement in photogrammetry, remote sensing, and spatial information sciences. Laxmi and Yogender also explained to the visitors about different ways of getting involved with ISPRS SC, their upcoming events, freely available educational resources through ISPRS SC and possibilities of collaborative projects.



*Figure: ISPRS Council and SELPER Team (Top Row) and Participants at our booth*

On the third day of the symposium, Yogender delivered a presentation on the activities of ISPRS SC during the industrial session, based on the ISPRS SC's paper accepted for this symposium. Additionally, during the plenary session, Laxmi presented a talk titled From Knowledge to Network: The Impact of ISPRS SC on Students and Early-Stage Researchers. On the fourth day, ISPRS SC organized a hybrid networking event attended by members of the ISPRS Council and interested symposium participants. The event aimed to provide a

platform for students and young professionals to connect with peers, learn about the activities of ISPRS SC, and share their experiences in the field. Prof. Lena Halounová, President of ISPRS, gave opening remarks, followed by Dr. Derek Lichti, who spoke about ISPRS Congress 2026 activities designed for students and young researchers. Laxmi then presented various ways to engage with ISPRS SC and highlighted the benefits of involvement. She also explained the concept of ISPRS SC student chapters, detailing the requirements for establishing chapters and the advantages they bring within the ISPRS community.



*Figure: Yogender (left) and Laxmi (right) presenting during the industrial and plenary sessions respectively.*

The event included the official announcement of the first list of ISPRS SC student chapters; Prof. Lena announced the name of these chapters established by the students from four different universities, namely University of Tehran (ISPRS SC Iran - University of Tehran Student Chapter) Tribhuvan University-Pashchimanchal Campus (ISPRS SC Nepal- GESAN Student Chapter), Wuhan University, and Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture (ISPRS SC China - BUCEA Student Chapter). Representatives from these chapters introduced their groups and outlined their planned activities for the next one to two years. The session was well-attended and fostered an environment of knowledge exchange and collaboration. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions, discuss research interests, and gain insights into contributing to the ISPRS community.





*Figure: Attendees of the ISPRS SC Networking Session (Top Row) and ISPRS President Prof. Lena Halounová and ISPRS SC president Ms. Laxmi Thapa at the launch of the first list of ISPRS SC student Chapters (Bottom Row) during the 'ISPRS SC Networking Hour' in Belem, Brazil.*

In the afternoon, Leticia Rosim Porto, a PhD student from São Paulo State University (Unesp, Brazil), volunteered at the ISPRS SC booth. Her support in disseminating information about ISPRS SC to a broader audience was greatly appreciated. The symposium provided an excellent opportunity to showcase ISPRS SC's activities, including workshops, summer schools, newsletters, webinars, and other collaborative outreach programs. These initiatives are aimed at building a global community of young researchers, and they were effectively communicated to a wider audience through various presentation platforms offered at the symposium. We are grateful to Dr. Laurent Polidori, President of ISPRS TC III, and the local organizers for waiving Laxmi's registration fee and giving ISPRS SC significant visibility through these activities.



*Figure: Leticia Rosim Porto, our volunteer on the fourth day afternoon.*

## Gratitude for Financial Support from The ISPRS Foundation (TIF)

The ISPRS Student Consortium (ISPRS SC) extends its heartfelt gratitude to The ISPRS Foundation (TIF) for generously funding the travel of all board members to attend these important symposiums. This financial support has been instrumental in enabling ISPRS SC to actively participate in and contribute to these events, furthering its mission to empower students and young researchers within the ISPRS community.

The presence of the ISPRS SC board at these symposiums provided several critical benefits:

**Enhanced Visibility:** The board members' participation strengthened the visibility of ISPRS SC's initiatives, such as workshops, summer schools, webinars, and student chapters, among a global audience of researchers and professionals.

**Networking Opportunities:** Face-to-face interactions with symposium attendees, including students, early-stage researchers, and professionals, fostered meaningful connections and collaboration opportunities.

**Strengthening Collaboration with ISPRS Leadership:** The direct interaction with the ISPRS Council, who generously dedicated their time to attending ISPRS SC events, visiting our booths, and engaging in discussions, reinforced the collaborative relationship between ISPRS SC and the ISPRS leadership.

**Promotion of ISPRS SC Activities:** The symposiums served as a platform to showcase the Consortium's ongoing and upcoming initiatives, attracting interest and participation from the global community.

**Knowledge Exchange:** Board members actively participated in technical sessions and networking events, gaining valuable insights into the latest developments in photogrammetry, remote sensing, and spatial information sciences. This knowledge will inform and enhance ISPRS SC's future activities.

The financial support also underscores the commitment of TIF and ISPRS to fostering professional development and capacity building for young researchers. Such investments in student-led initiatives significantly contribute to the growth and sustainability of the ISPRS community.

We also express our sincere appreciation to the ISPRS Council for their unwavering support, active participation in ISPRS SC events, and continued interaction with our team throughout the symposiums.

A detailed report highlighting the outcomes of these engagements and the experiences of the board members will be published in the upcoming issue of ISPRS SC's official newsletter, Spectrum.

## ISPRS SC Summer School 2024 on Smart Cities at BUCEA, Beijing

The ISPRS SC 2024 Summer School on Smart Cities was held from July 14–22, 2024, at the premises of Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture (BUCEA) in Beijing, China. This event was jointly organized by the ISPRS Student Consortium (ISPRS SC), ISPRS Working Group V/2, BUCEA, and the Belt and Road Architectural University International Consortium (BRAUIC). The Summer School aimed to equip students and young professionals with knowledge and skills in methods and technologies related to smart cities.

Since 2018, ISPRS and BUCEA have been collaborating annually to organize Summer Schools, and this year saw a record-breaking attendance of 150 participants. Among them, 82 international attendees represented 12 universities and institutions across eight countries. The nine-day program featured ten academic lectures, five architectural and cultural tours, and a variety of practical activities. These sessions encompassed a broad range of topics, including urban planning, remote sensing, environmental engineering, digital technology, and architectural heritage conservation.

The event was enriched by a diverse group of lecturers specializing in various dimensions of smart cities. During the opening ceremony, ISPRS Secretary General Prof. Jiang Jie delivered a welcome address on behalf of ISPRS. Additionally, ISPRS SC President Ms. Laxmi Thapa gave a lecture highlighting the impact of ISPRS SC in capacity building and professional networking. At the closing ceremony, Ms. Thapa and Prof. Yang Jianwei, Vice Dean of BUCEA, presented certificates of appreciations/attendance to the volunteers and participants.

BUCEA, as the local organizer, played a pivotal role in initiating, organizing, and providing robust support for the Summer School. Every international student received a scholarship of approximately 300 Euros, while several lecturers were provided financial assistance for international travel and local accommodations; Laxmi's travel and stay were also funded by the organisers. A full report of the Summer School, including participant experiences, will be featured in the upcoming issue of the ISPRS SC Newsletter, Spectrum.



Figure: Pictures captured during different activities organised during the summer school at BUCEA.

## ISPRS TCs' Webinars

ISPRS SC technically supported webinars organised by different technical commissions. The ISPRS WG III/7 organised weekly webinar series on the theme - '*Remote Sensing for the Hydrosphere and Cryosphere*' from June 26 till August 21, 2024 (Webinar on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August rescheduled to 26<sup>th</sup> September) by inviting subject experts on different research areas within the webinar's theme. During the webinars, Dr. Laurent Polidori, President, ISPRS TC III delivered introductory remarks on the webinar themes and Dr. Praveen K. Thakur,



Chairman and Dr. Vaibhav Garg, Secretary of the working group moderated the sessions. Nicolas Pucino, Vice President of ISPRS SC supported the webinar technically.

Likewise, ISPRS SC supported the webinar series organised by ISPRS WG III/9 on the theme: Environmental and Health Concerns: Geospatial Technology on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2026. The webinar had two speakers presenting on the topics: *Generative Applications: Health Perspectives* and *Hyperspectral Data for Improved LULC Classification with Specific References to Closely Resembling Classes*. The one and half hour session was moderated by Dr. Murali Krishna Iyyanki, Chairman of the working group while the opening remark was given by Dr. Laurent Polidori, President, ISPRS TC III.

Additionally, ISPRS SC also supported the webinar series by ISPRS WG III/4 on the theme: Landuse Landcover Change Detection on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October and 30<sup>th</sup> of October. Each webinar had two speakers presenting on their research works within the webinar's theme and lasted for around one and half hours. Dr. Patricia Wanjiku Mwangi, Co-Chair of the working group moderated the sessions.

Dr. Laurent Polidori, President, ISPRS TC III delivered opening remarks in both of these webinars organised by ISPRS WG III/4 and WG III/9. Laxmi Thapa, President of the ISPRS SC provided technical support for both of these virtual events. All the recorded videos of these webinars are available on the youtube channel of ISPRS SC: @ISPRSSC.