My Experience at the ISPRS-SELPER Technical Commission III Symposium in Belém, Brazil (November 4-8, 2024)

The ISPRS-SELPER Technical Commission III Symposium held in Belém, Brazil, was an unforgettable experience for me as it was my first international conference. The symposium greatly enriched both my academic and cultural perspectives. The event brought together a global community of researchers, professionals, and students to discuss innovations in remote sensing and geospatial sciences. With its focus on tropical environments, particularly the ecologically diverse Amazon region, the symposium highlighted the importance of geospatial technologies in addressing critical issues like environmental conservation, disaster resilience, and climate adaptation.

Presenting My Research:

I had the privilege of delivering an oral presentation on my research titled:

"Enhancing Forest Canopy Height Mapping in Kaziranga National Park, Assam, by Integrating LISS IV and SAR data with GEDI LiDAR data Using Machine Learning"

This study showcased how high-resolution datasets and machine learning techniques could be integrated to develop accurate canopy height

models. I highlighted significant changes in forest canopy heights over time attributed to flood-induced succession and subsequent regrowth phases. The presentation received encouraging feedback, sparking discussions on the innovative use of LISS IV data for forest monitoring, which is being applied for the first time in such studies. These interactions offered new insights and ideas to further refine my research.

Symposium Highlights:

The symposium featured an inspiring mix of keynote lectures, oral and poster presentations, and panel discussions. I attended oral sessions on 'Forest Monitoring (I and II)', 'Environmental Applications', and 'AI for LULC', along with the poster presentation sessions, which provided valuable perspectives directly relevant to my work. The keynote by Dr Thelma Krug on satellite observations for climate change, Prof. Jianya Gong on Satellite advances in China and Prof. Jaime Hernandez on the challenges of remote sensing in South America were particularly impactful, emphasizing the transformative role of geospatial data in addressing global challenges.

Beyond the academic sessions, the conference organizers also ensured that the participants had an opportunity to experience Brazil's vibrant culture. From traditional music and dance performances to savouring authentic Brazilian cuisine, these experiences added a delightful cultural dimension to the event.

Networking with the ISPRS Student Consortium:

One of the highlights of the symposium was attending the ISPRS Student Consortium networking hour. It was inspiring to learn about the initiatives undertaken by the consortium to engage students in geospatial research and foster global collaborations. Interacting with council members and fellow students motivated me to volunteer for the consortium, furthering my commitment to contributing and being a part of the ISPRS community.

Exploring Brazil:

After the symposium, I extended my stay to visit the lively cities of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, each offering a unique perspective on Brazil's diversity. From São Paulo's dynamic urban energy to Rio's breathtaking landscapes, the trip was a perfect blend of professional enrichment and personal exploration.

Reflections and Gratitude:

This symposium was a turning point in my academic journey. It allowed me to share my work on an international stage, receive constructive feedback, and connect with experts and peers worldwide. The knowledge I gained from the technical sessions and discussions will significantly enhance my ongoing research on forest monitoring and resilience.

I am deeply thankful to the **ISPRS-SELPER organizers** for their outstanding hospitality and to **The ISPRS Foundation (TIF)** for their financial support, which made participation in my first international symposium possible. This experience has not only broadened my technical expertise but also inspired me to pursue international collaborations to address global geospatial challenges.

Thank you once again!

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