

ISPRS SC Representation at the Geospatial Week 2025 Dubai

Laxmi Thapa, President, and Nicolas Pucino, Vice President of the ISPRS SC, attended the ISPRS Geospatial Week, held in Dubai, UAE, from 7th to 11th April 2025. The ISPRS SC hosted a booth in the exhibition hall, where Laxmi and Nicolas were supported by three other volunteers – Bikesh Bade from ESRI, Dristy Bajimaya from CIMMYT, Nepal and Bhavna Yadav, PhD student from Central University of Rajasthan, India. We received several visitors, including students and professors, who inquired about the activities we have been undertaking for students and young professionals. We also discussed potential collaborative opportunities, such as summer schools, student chapters, and other ways to get involved with us, whether as general members or volunteers. We were pleased to share ISPRS SC-related souvenirs with our visitors. Additionally, we had a fruitful discussion with Abdalla Alobeid, ISPRS Vice Regional Coordinator for the Arab States, regarding the possibilities of organising capacity-building initiatives for university students – an initiative we are enthusiastic about and look forward to collaborating on in the near future.



Figure 1: Left: Dristy Bajimaya and Bikesh Bade, our day 1 volunteers, middle: Bhavna Yadav, our volunteers for the day 2, 4 and 5, right: Abdalla Alobeid, ISPRS Vice Regional Coordinator for the Arab States at our booth after the meeting.

On 8th April, we had a meeting with the ISPRS Council, during which we presented the activities undertaken since our last briefing at the mid-term symposium in Brazil. We also outlined our planned activities for 2025 and discussed several agenda items, including the rebranding of the ISPRS SC's name and logo to make it more inclusive of early-stage professionals and researchers. We were greatly encouraged by the Council's supportive commitments to our agenda. On 9th April, we participated in the Student and Young Professionals (SYP) Event. During the opening ceremony, Laxmi delivered a presentation titled 'From Knowledge to Network: The Impacts of ISPRS SC on Students and Early-Stage Researchers' during the opening ceremony. The first half of the event, held at the GSW venue, was highly engaging, with panel discussions and presentations by students, young professionals, and professors. The second half comprised a tour of the Sharjah Academy of Astronomy, Space Sciences & Technology (SAASST). All participants had the opportunity to experience the SAASST Planetarium

and take part in a tutorial session, followed by dinner at the Academy. On 10th and 11th April, we continued engaging with visitors at our booth. We also held a meeting with Emeritus Professor Dr Armin Gruen, President of the ISPRS White Elephant Club. It was encouraging to have discussion about the activities that we could do together in future with their support.



Figure 2: Top left: ISPRS Council visiting the booth of the ISPRS SC. Top right: Em. Professor Dr Armin Gruen, President of the ISPRS White Elephant Club at our booth; Bottom left: Representatives of the ISPRS International Journal of Geo-information- MDPI publishers at our booth.

We are grateful to the ISPRS for providing financial support for our travel and souvenirs. In-person events like this are instrumental in showcasing the activities undertaken by the ISPRS SC across the globe and in facilitating interactions with our collaborators, members, the Council, and various ISPRS Working Groups, with whom we usually communicate virtually. Likewise, we extend our sincere thanks to our volunteers, who ensured the ISPRS SC booth was handled by knowledgeable representatives to keep visitors informed about our initiatives. A detailed report will be published in our upcoming newsletter – Spectrum.

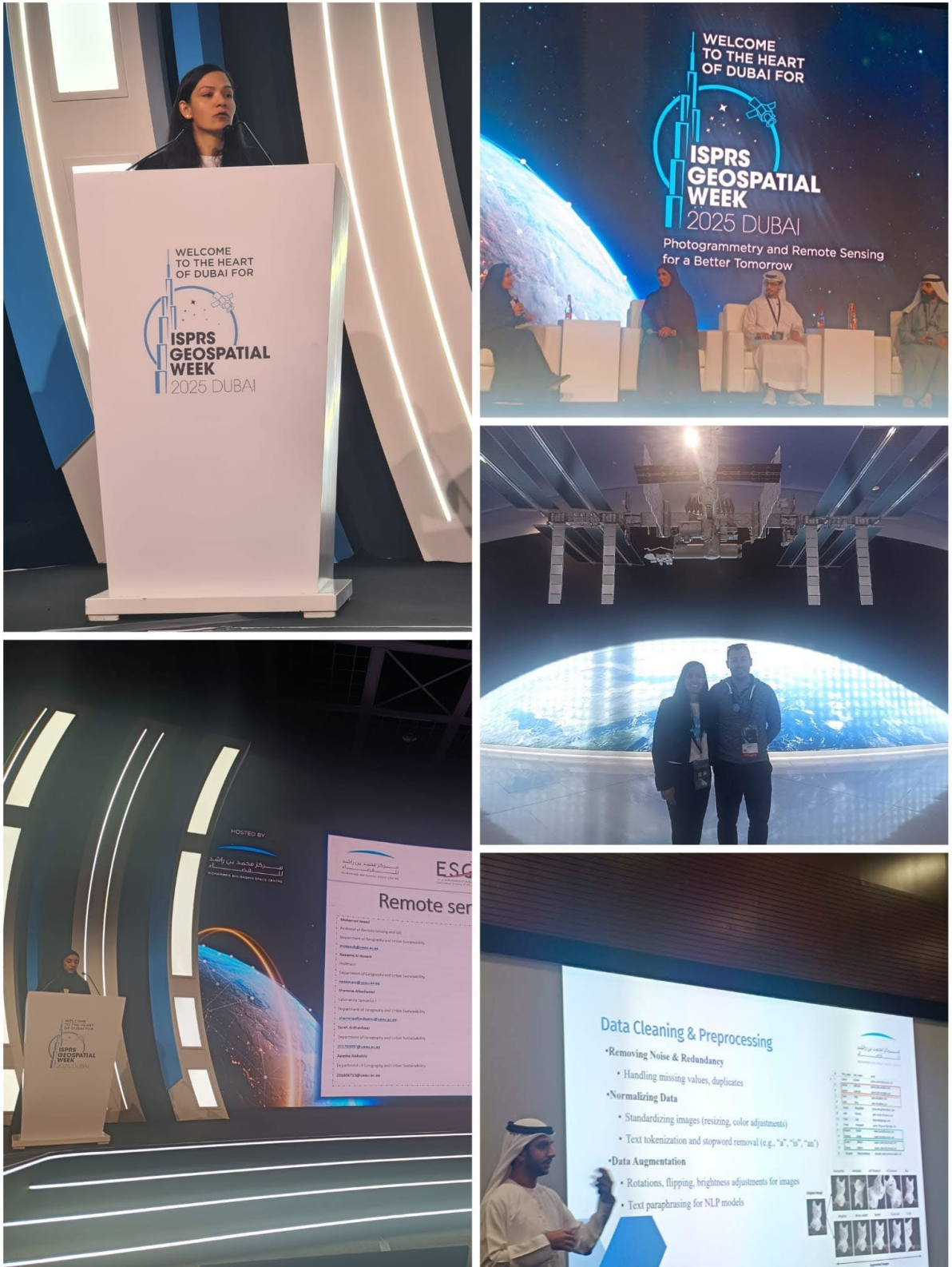


Figure 3: Pictures from the YSP Day.