

With immense pleasure and gratitude, I Abhinav Galodha, a Commonwealth split-site scholarship awardee pursuing PhD at Newcastle University, completely vouch for budding future career researchers, early PhD's and Postdoc's to take the opportunity to apply for a "**The ISPRS Foundation (TIF) Travel Grant Scheme**". Personally, such a grant scheme opens avenues and opportunities, for networking, collaborations, interactions not just with fellow awardees, even the research scholars from all over the world. I spoke to scholars from Japan, Germany, Austria, India, Poland, Mauritius, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the UAE just to name a few and add to the perspective to the level of diverse sects of people were called for the gathering at the Dubai World Convention Centre, for ISPRS-GSW 2025 (06th-11th April, 2025). TIF Grant Evaluation Committee (GEC) sanctioned a respectable grant and also waived off the registration fee, this was a heartfelt gesture as I have been interacting with so many conference committee worldwide, and seldom do we see such an open gesture for PhD research scholars especially from Lower Developing Countries (LDC).

In addition, apart from the registration benefits this was my second conference, the first being ISRSE-40 at Farnborough, Hampshire, London. One of the major differences I saw between the both was that at ISPRS-GSW I observed a balance between exhibitors, industrial collaborators, industrial/enterprise advertisements and sessions benefitting academic and industrial research. The narrative was entangled well between the two, with a startling balance. I got the opportunity to interact with members from the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC); they spoke about the Mangrove plantation and carbon emission sequestration plan by the UAE government until 2035 and beyond. I got the idea about creating interactive dashboards using ArcGIS Pro, OpenStreetMap, and Leaflet.

I got the opportunity further to interact with Federal Geographic Information Centre, General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information (GEOSA), Geospatial World (Advancing Knowledge for Sustainability) and spoke to them about collaboration, networking and opportunities. Speaking to MSc students from American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates University (UAEU), University of Dubai especially regarding opportunities, with Post-Doctoral positions and Graduate teaching assistant positions.

Further, in the sessions during my presentation on the topic "**A 40-Year Journey: Eco-Hydrological Dynamics of Haiderpur Wetlands (EHDW) with Multi-Landsat, Sentinel- 2 Satellite Data using Google Earth Engine (GEE) and Machine Learning**". This was under the W15F: CCGR-Climate Change and Geospatial research: advanced geospatial research for a sustainable development through International Cooperation had been fruitful interacting with members from DLR Space Agency, Seoul National University and similar other researchers.

In conclusion, not just academically but personally I have been blessed with a wonderful memory in Dubai as my fiancée Deepika Sharma, travelled from India to present her poster on the topic "**Advanced ecosystem restoration: Blending phytoremediation with satellite-based imagery with remote sensing in the Himalayas of PIN Valley National Park, India**". This was under the session "W15A: CCGR-Climate Change and Geospatial research: advanced geospatial research for a sustainable development through International Cooperation". We actually met in Dubai after a period of 6 months staying separately miles apart, and ISPRS-GSW 2025 became the reason for a wonderful memory for life.

PS: Hoping to get a TIF grant for the ISPRS 2026 Chapter in Toronto, Canada next year ☺. A few pictures from the ISPRS GSW 2025 event!

Marhaba Dubai!



