

Report of Regional Member
Activities of Asian Association on Remote Sensing(AARS)

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ABSTRACT

Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS) has been founded in 1981 with five member countries in Asia at the beginning but now 18 ordinary members and 5 associate members, under the Statutes as attached in Appendix.

AARS's roles are to organize Asian Conference on Remote Sensing annually in a Asian country in cooperation with the host country, UN/ESCAP, UNEP/GRID, NASDA and other sponsors, and to promote remote sensing in information and personnel exchange, publication and regional cooperation.

AARS has been admitted as a Regional Member of ISPRS in 1988 at Kyoto ISPRS Congress.

INTRODUCTION

Asian remote sensing scientists who participated in ERIM symposium in San Jose, Costa Rica in 1980 had an informal meeting to promote regional communication and cooperation among Asian countries. As the result of discussion, the first Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS) was held in Bangkok, Thailand in 1980 in cooperation with National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) with 159 participants.

At the second ACRS held in Beijing in 1981, Asian key members decided to establish Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS) under the Statutes, which needed three night meetings.

Since then, the author continue to contribute to AARS as the General Secretary responsible for organizing the ACRS and conducting other administrative works.

As there was no such organization nor periodical symposium in Asian region before the establishment, AARS and ACRS have become popular among Asian people which results in increasing members, participants, presented papers and exhibits.

1. AARS Members

There are three categories of AARS members.

- a. Ordinary Members; 100 US\$/year
Asian countries including near Asian Region
(Oceania or Pacific)

- b. Associate Members; 100 US\$/year
Other countries
- c. Sustaining Members; 300 US\$/year

Table 1 shows the AARS member list.

2. AARS Officers

The following two persons are the officers for 1991-1993.

- a. General Secretary : Shunji Murai (Japan)
- b. Deputy General Secretary : Suvit Vibulsresth
(Thailand)

3. Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS)

ACRS is a major event in a year which is organized by AARS.

Table 2 shows the ACRS's with respect to year, date, venue, number of participants and actually presented papers including oral and poster.

ACRS is almost the same or bigger size symposium as compared with ISPRS mid-term symposia.

ACRS provides Asian remote sensing scientists with a good opportunity to meet each other, communicate and exchange information, present papers demonstrate or visit commercial exhibits and promote regional/international cooperation.

Table 1 AARS members

Category	Country / Responsible Organization
Ordinary Member	1. Australia Remote Sensing Association of Australia
	2. Bangladesh Space Research & Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO)
	3. China China National Committee on Remote Sensing for AARS
	4. India Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
	5. Indonesia Ikatan Surveyor Indonesia
	6. Iran Iranian Remote Sensing Center
	7. Japan Japan Society of Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing
	8. Korea Korean Society of Remote Sensing
	9. Malaysia Ministry of Science Technology & Environment (MACRES)
	10. Mongolia Remote Sensing and Geoinformation Center
	11. Nepal Forest Survey & Statistics Division
	12. New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research
	13. Pakistan Space Upper & Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO)
	14. Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources
	15. Singapore Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers
	16. Sri Lanka Centre for Remote Sensing
	17. Thailand National Research Council
	18. Vietnam National Center for Scientific Research
Associate Members	1. Canada Canadian Remote Sensing Society
	2. France Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES)
	3. The Netherlands ITC
	4. Sweden Swedish Space Corporation
	5. Switzerland Institute for Geodesy and Photogrammetry, ETH
Sustaining Members	1. Hunting Technical Services (U.K.)
	2. SCOT CONSEIL (France)
	3. Mitsubishi Research Institute (Japan)
	4. MPA International Pty. (Australia)
	5. Swedish Space Corporation (Sweden)
	6. Remote Sensing Technology Center (Japan)
	7. Geocarto International Centre (Hong Kong)
	8. Technical & Field Survey (Australia)
	9. Bercha International Inc. (Canada)
	10. PASCOC Corporation (Japan)
11. National Space Development Agency (Japan)	

Table 2 List of ACRS's

	City, Country	Date	Countries	Participants	Papers
1st	Bangkok, Thailand	1980.11/5-7	12	159	42
2nd	Beijing, China	1981.10/29-11/4	16	167	95
3rd	Dhaka, Bangladesh	1982.12/4-7	17	169	60
4th	Colombo, Sri Lanka	1983.11/10-15	20	187	83
5th	Kathmandu, Nepal	1984.11/15-18	15	171	49
6th	Hyderabad, India	1985.11/21-26	12	342	109
7th	Seoul, Korea	1986.10/23-28	17	136	62
8th	Jakarta, Indonesia	1987.11/23-29	21	226	125
9th	Bangkok, Thailand	1988.11/23-29	30	478	113
10th	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1989.11/23-29	30	441	87
11th	Guangzhou, China	1990.11/15-21	22	513	162
12th	Singapore	1991.10/30-11/5	28	225	94
13th	Ulanbaatar, Mongolia	1992.10/7-11			
14th	Tehran, Iran	1993.			

4. Publication

In October, 1991 AARS has published a book as titled "Applications of Remote Sensing in Asia and Oceania -Environmental Change Monitoring-"

Edited by Shunji Murai

Printed by Geocarto International Center,
Hong Kong

Page: 372 pages including 145 color pages

Number of Applications: 50

Price: 30 US dollars per copy

Contents:

- Chapter 1: Global Monitoring
- Chapter 2: Agricultural Development
- Chapter 3: Deforestation
- Chapter 4: Vegetation Cover
- Chapter 5: Natural Resources
- Chapter 6: Desertification
- Chapter 7: Mapping from Space
- Chapter 8: Land Use
- Chapter 9: Disaster Monitoring
- Chapter 10: Mangrove
- Chapter 11: Coastal Changes
- Chapter 12: Ocean Resources
- Chapter 13: Snow and Ice
- Chapter 14: Geology

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Another book as titled "Remote Sensing Notes" will be published within 1992 as a text book for education and training.

Summary

AARS is expected to play the following roles for Asian remote sensing scientists.

- a. AARS should offer an opportunity to promote exchange of academic and technical information, presentation of technical papers, publication of proceedings or books, personnel exchange and regional cooperation, through Asian Conference on Remote Sensing.
- b. AARS should support and assist the developing countries in Asian region in education, training and technical transfer in cooperation with other international organizations such as UN/ESCAP, UNEP/GRID, UNCRD, UNFAO etc.
- c. AARS should contribute to global change monitoring by establishing the Asian regional data base with ground base observation data or statistics for calibration, validation and verification.
- d. AARS should play supplementary role in Asia to ISPRS because Asian remote sensing scientists will have more chance to attend the ACRS rather than ISPRS's activities most of which are organized in north America or Europe.