

1995 Annual Report - Regional Member Activities 1994

ISPRS REGIONAL MEMBERS

[AARS - Asian Association on Remote Sensing](#)

AARSE - African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment

[EARSeL - European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories](#)

OEEPE - Organisation Européenne d'Etudes Photogrammétriques Expérimentales

PAIGH - Pan American Institute of Geography and History

SELPER - Sociedad de Especialistas Latinoamericanos en Percepción Remota

ASIAN ASSOCIATION ON REMOTE SENSING (AARS)

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AARS ACTIVITIES DURING 1995

The main activity of AARS in 1995 was to have organized the 16th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS) at Suranaree University of Technology, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, from the 20th to the 24th, November 1995. On behalf of AARS, I would like to express our respect and honor to Her Royal Highness the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn for inaugurating the opening ceremony, in which the first gold medal; the "Dr. Boon Indrabarya Medal" -Remote Sensing for Mankind- was presented to two Asian scientists; Dr. Kaew Nualchave and me for contributions to the advancement and promotion of remote sensing in Asia. The total number of conference participants was 358 from thirty-one countries, while the total number of presented papers including poster papers was eighty.

The keynote speech was lectured by Prof. Armin Gruen with the title of "Advanced Technologies in Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing."

At the two general conferences in conjunction with ACRS, the following items were decided.

- Laos, Jordan and China Taipei were admitted to join AARS as an ordinary member. The total number of ordinary members is now 20: Australia, Bangladesh, China, China Taipei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.
- Shunji Murai and Manu Omakupt were elected as General Secretary and Deputy General Secretary respectively for 1996/1997.

- Sri Lanka was elected as the host of the 17th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing. The date and venue will be from the Monday the 4th to Friday the 8th of November 1996 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Three Working Groups were approved to continue their activity for 1996/1997.
 - *Working Group 1 - "One-Kilometer Land Cover Data Base in Asia"* Chair: Dr. Ryutaro Tateishi, Chiba University, Japan
 - *Working Group 2 - "GIS Textbook"* Chair: Dr. Ryosuke Shibasaki, Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo, Japan
 - *Working Group 3 - "GIS Software for Education"* Chair: Dr. Kohei Cho, Tokai University, Japan
- It was reported that the remote sensing text book; "**Remote Sensing Notes**" is now being translated into local languages for Thai, Persian, Indonesian and Mongolian versions. English, Japanese and Chinese versions have been already completed.

In conclusion, the activities of AARS through the annual conference of ACRS and its three working groups are very active and successful, particularly in forming human networks and promoting regional cooperation among Asian remote sensing and GIS scientists.

Finally I would like to express our thanks to the UN ESCAP, Space Technology Application Section for having organized a Workshop on "Regional Spatial Information Networks" in conjunction with the 16th ACRS. The Workshop brought about 30 Asian scientists to Nakhon Ratchasima. In addition, AARS was one of eight co-organizers of "GIS, AM/FM, ASIA'95 Conference" which was held in Bangkok, Thailand with 230 participants. It will be followed by the "GIS, AM/FM ASIA'96 Conference" in Taipei, 1996.

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REMOTE SENSING LABORATORIES (EARSeL)

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The EARSeL Council, at its 3 September 1995 meeting, voted to renew the mandate of the present Bureau for a further term of two years, until the General Assembly 1997. The Bureau therefore remains as follows:

Chairman:

Prof. Dr. Gottfried Konecny
University of Hannover, Germany

Vice-Chairman:

Prof. Dr. Manfred Buchroithner
University of Dresden, Germany
Secretary-General:
Dr. Roeland Allewijn
Rijkswaterstaat, Delft, The Netherlands
Treasurer:
Dr. Robin Vaughan
A.P.E.M.E., University of Dundee, U.K.

Twenty-one new member laboratories were admitted during the General Assembly, which taking into account some resignations, brings the membership to 296 institutes and eight observer members.

EARSel ACTIVITIES DURING 1995

Since the last General Assembly held in Göteborg, Sweden during 6-8 June 1994, the Association has organized three high-level scientific Workshops:

- *"Remote Sensing and GIS for Coastal Zone Management"*
24-26 October 1994, Delft, The Netherlands
The Proceedings have been published and a selection of papers have been peer-reviewed and have now been printed in the **EARSel Journal "Advances in Remote Sensing."** (ISBN 2-908885-13-1 - ISSN: 1017-4613)
- *"Remote Sensing and GIS for Pollution Monitoring"*
15-18 May 1995, Brandys-nad-Labem, Czech Republic
The Proceedings have now been published. (ISBN 2-908885-12-3)
- *"Satellite Meteorology and Hydrology"*
6-7 September 1995, Basel, Switzerland
Papers presented are to appear along with the Proceedings of the annual Symposium, to be published by Messrs. Balkema, Rotterdam, The Netherlands in Spring 1996.
- The annual EARSel Symposium was held in Basel, Switzerland, from 4-6 September 1995. Papers will be published in the Spring of 1996 by Messrs. Balkema, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, in Spring 1996

EARSel also participated in the organization of a Symposium on the "Modular Optoelectronic Multispectral Stereo-Scanner (MOMS-02)" held in Kijöln, Germany, from 5-7 July 1995, and is publishing the Proceedings.

Likewise, EARSel participated, together with Commission VII Working Group VII/1 of ISPRS, in the organization of an International Colloquium on "Photosynthesis and Remote Sensing", held in Montpellier, France, from 28-30 August 1995. The Proceedings are now being printed (ISBN 2-908885-16-6).

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF EARSel DURING 1995

Activities and guidelines for participating in EARSel activities are included in the EARSel Multi-Year Programme available from the Secretariat.

Last year a new mechanism was introduced for getting the EARSel members more actively involved in the work of the association. So called "Special Interest Groups"

(SIG's) were formed. In these SIG's, institutes are grouped which are interested in specific application fields.

At the EARSeL Symposium in Basel an important step forward was made since seven groups are now active and three more groups are expected to be formed in the near future. These groups are:

- Land ice and snow
- Marine waters, inland waters and coastal zones
- Atmosphere
- Land use and forestry
- Developing countries
- Hydrology and water management
- Geology
- Disaster management
- Landslides and mudflows
- Imaging Spectroscopy

General Objectives and Activities of SIG's

Although these may vary slightly between the different groups the objectives and activities of the SIG's are focused on three main topics:

- Information exchange and network building
- Organization of meetings
- Projects and study contracts

Foreseen Activities of the SIG's

- During their meeting at the Basel Symposium the SIG on "Land, ice and snow" expressed the wish for a "list server" on Internet, using a central address which automatically distributes the information to the members of the SIG. Furthermore, the SIG wants to organize a workshop on snow and land ice monitoring. They are still looking for an institute which is willing to organize such a workshop.
- In the *EARSeL Newsletter* of June 1995 the SIG on "Land use and forestry" was announced. One hundred replies have been received in the meanwhile. Based on these replies and following from the discussions in Basel the group has decided to focus their activities on forestry, agriculture and urban areas. Their plans for the future consist of an annual circular in the *EARSeL Newsletter* and the preparation of a handbook with demonstration examples. This handbook may lead to the definition of a European Union project proposal.
- The objectives of the SIG on "Marine waters, inland waters and coastal zones" have already been described in the December 1994 issue of the *EARSeL Newsletter*. As a follow up of the successful workshop on coastal zone management, held in October last year in Delft, members of this SIG will participate in the workshop on "the application of remotely sensed data for monitoring coastal processes" to be held in Dundee, 19th and 20th of December 1995. During the discussions in Basel it was concluded that as far as

projects are concerned, demonstration projects and cost-benefit analyses are of the highest priority in this field.

- In Basel the future activities of the SIG on "Atmosphere" were discussed. It was concluded that institutes which are involved in remote sensing for atmospheric applications are already well organized. So, first it will be evaluated what the added value of a SIG on atmosphere could be before further activities will be performed.
- The objectives of the new SIG on "Developing countries" are given in the September 1995 issue of the *EARSeL Newsletter*. As this SIG is not concerned with one type of application a large diversity of interests is present in this group. Internet facilities were seen as a good opportunity to advertise remotely sensed and other types of data available at different institutes working in developing countries. The EARSeL Symposium to be held in May 1996 in Malta, was seen as an important step for this SIG, as network building between institutes from Southern Europe and Northern Africa is one of the main topics of this Symposium.
- The old EARSeL working group on hydrology was revitalized at the Basel Symposium in the new SIG on "Hydrology and water management." The first step of this group will be to bring in new members. In this they are not only looking for remote sensing specialists but also for environmental managers interested in applied satellite hydrology. Furthermore, they are aiming at organizing a "water related session" at the Malta Symposium.

EARSeL MEETINGS PLANNED FOR 1996

- General Assembly and Symposium on the theme of "Integrated Applications for Risk Assessment and Disaster Prevention for the Mediterranean" including Round-Table discussions "Towards creating Euro-Med Remote Sensing Networks" - to be held in Malta, 20-23 May 1996.
- Specialist Workshop on "Lidar Remote Sensing of Land and Sea" to be held in Tallinn, Estonia, 26-28 September 1996.
- EARSeL is also coordinating a meeting on "The Role of Earth Observation Data in Forecasting, Managing and Recovering from Natural Disasters" to be held in London, UK, 8-10 July 1997.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH ISPRS

As reported above, EARSeL assisted Commission VII Working Group VII/1 in the organization of a Colloquium on "Photosynthesis and Remote Sensing," held in August 1995. EARSeL will also co-sponsor the next Symposium on "Spectral Signatures of Objects in Remote Sensing" to be held in Courchevel, France, in 1997, which is to be organized by this ISPRS Working Group.