

# Report on 30<sup>th</sup> Asian Conference on Remote Sensing

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**Key words:** Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS), Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS), China National Committee on Remote Sensing (CNCRS), Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

**Abstract:** The Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS) is the prestigious annual event organized by Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS). The 30ACRS2009 was held at Beijing Conference Center in Beijing, China from 18 to 23 October 2009. This paper provides information on preparation, organization and other important aspects of the 30ACRS2009.

## 1、 Introduction

Year 2009 had a special meaning in the Asian remote sensing history – the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ACRS since the first conference held in Bangkok Thailand in 1980.

After having successfully held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> ACRS respectively in Beijing in 1981 and in Guangzhou in 1990, and the 20<sup>th</sup> ACRS in Hong Kong China in 1999, the 30<sup>th</sup> ACRS was held in Beijing again from 18 to 23 October, 2009 at Beijing Conference Center. This event was organized by Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS) and China National Committee on Remote Sensing (CNCRS), jointly hosted by Institute of Remote Sensing Applications CAS (IRSA), Center for Earth Observation and Digital Earth CAS (CEODE), China Aero Geophysical Survey and Remote Sensing Center for Land and Resources (AGRS), and National Remote Sensing Center of China (NRSCC). As a member of Asian remote sensing family, China has

demonstrated their achievements and progress during the development of remote sensing technologies and applications in the conference.

As a united and coordinated Organization, China National Committee on Remote Sensing (CNCRS) welcomed ardently all participants from Asia and other countries of the world and did its best to organize a successful conference in Beijing.

## **2. Roadmap of the Major Events of 30<sup>th</sup> ACRS**

Local Organizing Committee realized that timely action should be taken for the important events. Therefore, led by Academician Tong Qingxi (General Secretary of CNCRS), Prof. Gu xingfa (Co-chair of 30ACRS2009), and Prof. Wang Jinnian (Co-chair of LOC), detailing schedule of the activities of organizing conference was prepared and it was revised frequently. Major events of the roadmap are given below.

<b>Final date</b>	<b>Event</b>
At 29 <sup>th</sup> ACRS November 2008	30 <sup>th</sup> ACRS host was handed over from the Colombo, Sri Lanka to Beijing , China
January 2009	CNCRS held the fist preparatory meeting for the 30ACRS2009
Before March 2009	Inspected and chose conference venue & welcome party venue
March 2009	Secretariat office of 30ACRS2009 was established at IRSA
April 2009	Meeting of LOC with Prof. Shunji Murai, Secretary General of AARS to settle the framework of 30ACRS2009. Conference venue was decided.
April 2009	International Steering Committee, International Organizing Committee and Local Organizing Committee were set up. Call for papers for 30ACRS 2009
April 2009	Website opened, domain name of the website and e-mail address of the 30 <sup>th</sup> ACRS published. Established secured, dedicated and high capacity e-mail account to receive

	e-mails, paper abstracts and later full papers.
May 2009	Attracting sponsors for commercial booths and other events.
May 2009	Attracting international media partners (web publishers, magazines, etc) to publish information about 30ACRS2009.
20 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	Deadline for Submission of Abstracts
15 <sup>th</sup> July 2009	Notification of Acceptance of abstract and began to accept full paper
31 <sup>st</sup> July 2009	Online E-map was open
August 2009	Dealing with issues of registration, meals, refreshments, opening ceremony, poster sessions, commercial booths, general conferences, closing ceremony, conference secretariat, internet facility, welcome dinner and cultural show and capital image DVD.
2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2009	Professor Kohei Cho (former deputy general secretary, now the general secretary of AARS) visited Beijing and promoted the prepare work of LOC. Welcome party location was decided.
10 <sup>th</sup> September 2009	Online Registration of Participation and hotel reservation was open
September 2009	Published visa procedures in the web and e-mail invitations Fixed sponsors and exhibition booths Identified keynote speakers, invited them and got confirmation Identified papers for Plenary keynote sessions and got confirmation from presenters Invited Boon's award & contributory award winners Invited Chinese leaders to attend opening ceremony
9 <sup>th</sup> October 2008	Scheduled student, oral & poster paper presentations of Technical sessions and informed the schedules to presenters.

9 <sup>th</sup> October 2008	Prepared conference kit including proceedings booklet and DVD
17 <sup>th</sup> October 2009 (one day before conference)	Opened conference secretariat at the Hotel and commenced registration

The visit of Prof. Shunji Murai and Prof. Kohei Cho had helped a lot to the 30ACRS preparatory work.



### 3. Receipt of Paper Abstracts and Full Papers

LOC had designed a template for paper abstracts. Hence, everyone can submit abstracts in the format classified by the author information and abstract information, without missing important information such as title of the paper, topic of the paper, name(s) of author(s), e-mail address to communicate, etc. Two ways were accepted to submit the abstracts respectively, on the web or via email. Authors could login the web of [www.acrs2009.org](http://www.acrs2009.org) to enter the online Abstract Submission System (ASS). Submission could only be accepted when all requested information was completely filled in. An Abstract ID Number was generated automatically once the abstract was submitted successfully. This ID number was asked to keep for checking the status of the paper in future. The email submission was only accepted when any difficulties happened to the server. Once we received the letter, a confirmation and abstract ID number were sent to the corresponding author via E-mail too. Information submitted with template of the paper abstract was stored in a database to avoid duplication of same abstract. Total number of abstract received by the deadline was 564. Even though we received more than enough abstract, LOC knew that not all of them will be

attending the conference due to financial problems and some other reasons. Therefore, LOC decided to classify papers at two stages. At the first stage, paper selection committee reviewed all the abstracts and classified them into oral and poster sessions as author's wills, and this work was completed after one week of Abstract submission deadline. Second stage was implemented after receiving full papers after 20 Sep, 2009. If any author did not submit full paper for the abstract identified for oral session, his/her paper was removed from the schedule. We were always in touch with authors by communicating through e-mails. Finally 386 papers, 284 paper for the oral sessions and 102 papers for poster sessions, were received for the conference.

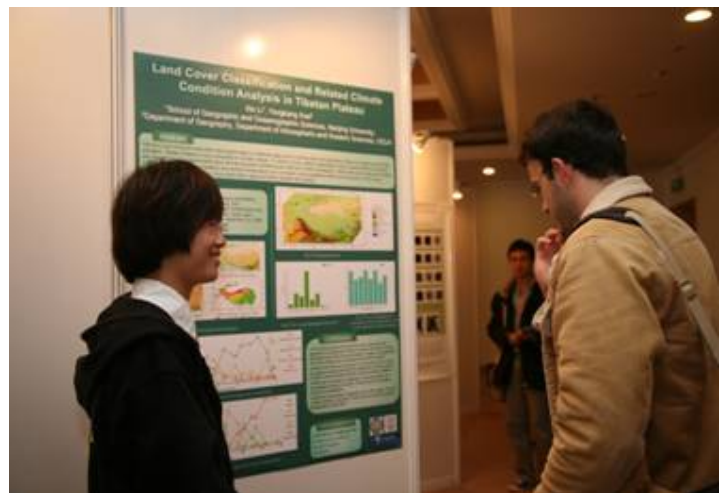
#### 4. Presentations

Besides the Student Session on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 7 invited speeches were given by Academician Xu Guanhua, Prof. Orhan Altan, Mr. Yukihide Hayashi, Dr. Chris Elvidge, Prof. Paolo Gamba, Prof. Guo Huadong, and Dr. Jayaraman during the opening and closing ceremony, which really enhanced the conference. And every morning from 20--22 October, 5 keynote sessions, focused on Environment & Global Change, Geospatial Information Science and Technology, Remote Sensing & GIS for Human Health, Remote Sensing Science and Environmental Applications and Microwave Technology and Applications, were held with 29 speeches. 33 oral sessions with 130 speeches and 72 poster presentations were given. Presentation summary is given below.

**Summary of Presentations**

Country/ Region	Abstracts Received		Withdrawals		Scheduled		Actually presented		Percentage	
	Oral	Poster	Oral	Poster	Oral	Poster	Oral	Poster	Oral	Poster
Australia	8	0	5	0	3	1	2	1	66.67%	100.00%
Bangladesh	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Canada	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0.00%	0.00%
China	126	63	61	26	65	42	31	25	47.69%	59.52%
China Taipei	65	37	21	11	44	27	27	18	61.36%	66.67%
Egypt	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Germany	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	100.00%	0.00%
China Hong Kong	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	100.00%	0.00%
India	9	1	7	1	2	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%

Indonesia	7	2	5	2	2	1	1	1	50.00%	100.00%
Iran	14	6	6	4	8	3	3	3	37.50%	100.00%
Ireland	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Italy	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	100.00%	0.00%
Japan	51	10	12	6	39	8	22	7	56.41%	87.50%
Jordan	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Korea	24	17	14	16	10	5	6	4	60.00%	80.00%
Kuwait	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	100.00%	0.00%
Malaysia	4	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	50.00%	0.00%
Mongolia	18	4	9	2	9	3	4	3	44.44%	100.00%
Myanmar	8	2	2	2	6	1	1	1	16.67%	100.00%
Netherlands	1	3	1	1	0	3	0	1	0.00%	33.33%
Philippines	5	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	100.00%	0.00%
Russia	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100.00%	100.00%
Saudi Arabia	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Singapore	6	2	1	0	5	2	5	1	100.00%	50.00%
Sri Lanka	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Sweden	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Switzerland	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Thailand	32	6	11	1	21	5	16	5	76.19%	100.00%
UK	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	100.00%	0.00%
US	3	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	100.00%	0.00%
Vietnam	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Invited Speeches					7	0	7	0		
White Elephant					10	0	10	0		
Keynote Speeches					29	0	29	0		
UN Gaid eSDDC					4	0	4	0		
Total	408	156	176	74	284	102	180	72	0	0

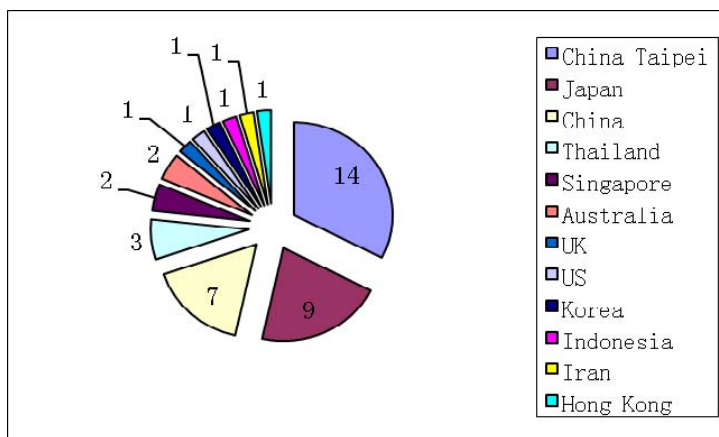


## Summary of Best Paper Award

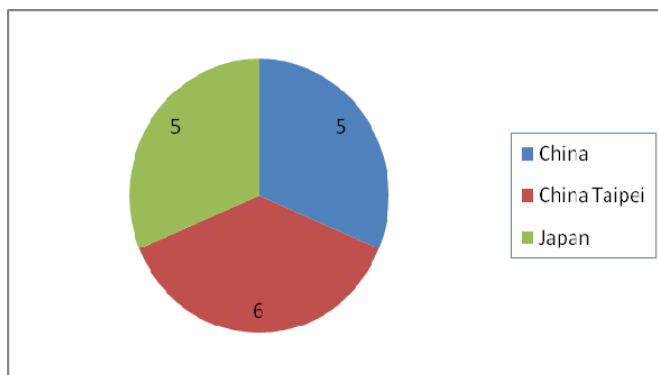
Totally 43 oral and poster presenters as well as 16 students were granted Best Paper award. 3 were JSPRS Best Speakers (Technical session) and 3 were JSPRS Top Best Paper (Student Session). The summary is as following.

### Technical Session

Country/Region	Number
China Taipei	14
Japan	9
China	7
Thailand	3
Singapore	2
Australia	2
UK	1
US	1
Korea	1
Indonesia	1
Iran	1
Hong Kong	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>



Country/Region	Number
China	5
China Taipei	6
Japan	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>



### JSPRS Best Speaker (Technical Session)

Country/Region	Number
China	1
China Taipei	1
Korea	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>

### JSPRS Top Best Paper (Student Session)

Country/Region	Number
China	1
China Taipei	1
Japan	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>

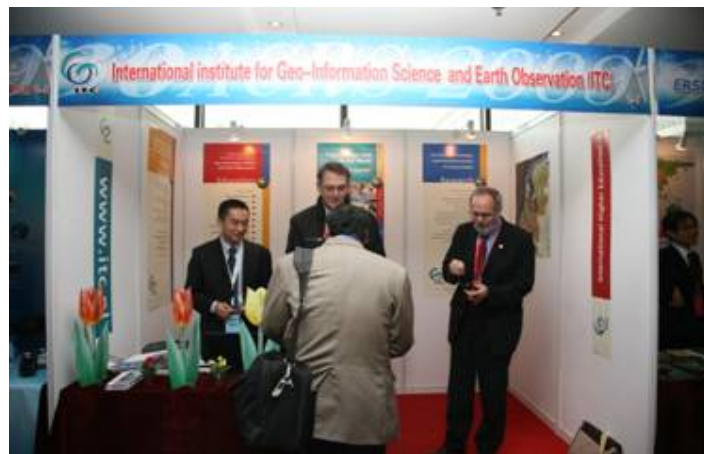
## 5. Commercial Exhibition

30ACRS2009 had attracted 28 Chinese and international sponsors and exhibitors as well as 3 Cooperate magazines to join in the conference for exhibition.

<b>Exhibitors</b>
Institute of Remote Sensing Applications, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Center for Earth Observation and Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences
China Aero-Geophysical Survey and Remote Sensing Center for Land and Resources
Center for Space Science and Applied Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences
DMC International Imaging Ltd. Beijing Twenty-First Century Science & Technology Development Co., Ltd.
SinoSCI Geoinformatics Co., Ltd.
The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
State Key Laboratory of Remote Sensing Science
State Key Laboratory of Information Engineering in Surveying Mapping and Remote Sensing
Beijing Institute of Space Mechanics & Electricity
The Research Institute of Petroleum Exploration & Development(RIPED), Petro China
China Trans Geomatics Co., Ltd.
China Land Surveying & Planning Institute
Earth Remote Sensing Data Analysis Center (ERSDAC)
Beijing Earth View Image Inc.
Xiamen Kingtop Information Technology Co., Ltd.
Beijing Golden Way Scientific Co., Ltd.
Key Laboratory of Optical Calibration and Characterization, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Shanghai Institute of Technical Physics , Chinese Academy of Sciences
Center for Applications of Spatial Information Technologies in Public Health
Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan (RESTEC)
Shenhua (Beijing)Remote Sensing &Geo-Engineering Company Ltd.
Beijing Space Eye Innovation Technology Co., Ltd.
PCI(Beijing)Technology Co., Ltd.



International institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)
Redbird Helicopter service Co., Ltd.
Beijing Oriental Titan Technology Co., Ltd.
Cooperate magazines: Coordinates Magazine China Institute of Geological Environmental Monitoring (CIGEM) Journal of Remote Sensing



## 6. Attendance

Countries and Regions	Participants	Students included
Australia	3	1
Canada	1	
China Taipei	85	47
Germany	2	
Hong Kong, China	3	
India	2	
Indonesia	4	1
Iran	6	2
Japan	59	23
Jordan	1	
Korea South	15	10
Malaysia	1	
Mongolia	6	1

Netherlands	1	
Philippines	1	
Russia	2	
Saudi Arabia	1	
Singapore	3	
Sri Lanka	4	
Switzerland	1	
Thailand	31	2
USA	6	1
Vietnam	4	
Nepal	1	1
Kuwait	1	
Turkey	1	
UK	1	
International Participants	246	89
China	458	265
<b>Total</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>354</b>
<b>Countries and Regions</b>		<b>28</b>

## 7. Facilities Provided to the Participants

The registration fee was US \$100 per person, covering – 1 welcome dinner admission, 7 lunches & dinners, 5.5 whole day tea breaks, internet access area, and a kit of conference materials. The conference also provided the printing and copying services to participants.

A student Session had been held before the opening ceremony. In order to encourage more students to join in the conference, the registration fee had been reduced to US \$50 per person, covering the same level service.

## 8. Opening ceremony & Closing ceremony

### Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony of 30ACRS2009 was held at the conference hall, Beijing

conference center on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 from 9:00 to 10:30. This event lasted for 5 days with the theme "Asian Onward Space Age". Prof. Academician Tong Qingxi was the chair of this ceremony. Prof. Gu Xingfa invited Prof. Zhao Zhongxian, the vice president of China association for science and technology to announce the opening of the 30ACRS2009. Prof. Xu Guanhua, former minister of Ministry of science and technology and Mr. Xu Deming, vice Minister of Ministry of national land resources, attend the opening ceremony and gave great speech. Also we glad to hear the congratulation speech from ISPRS, IEEE and SPIE.



Academician Tong Qingxi invited Prof. Suvit Vubulsresth to host the Boon's Medal Award and granted 12 people who did great contributions to ACRS. They were: Armin Gruen, A.J.Chen, Darasri Dowreang, Guo Huadong, Kohei Cho, Lal Samarakoon, Li Deren, M.Saandar, Nguyen Dinh Duong, P.S.Roy, V.Jayaraman, Yoshifumi Yasuoka



Later part for the opening is the Celebration on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ACRS. Director of IRSA, Prof. Gu Xingfa and Prof. Kohei Cho were the chairs of this ceremony. Prof. Shunji Murai reviewed the development of ACRS and announced the

contribution award to Prof. Armin Gruen et al., 24 persons. They were: Armin Gruen, A.J.Chen, Bruce Forster, Chiwako Fujino, Choen Kim, Chen Shupeng, Chen Weijiang, Deekshatulu, D.N.D. Hettiarachchi, Jaffar Ahmad, Kohei Cho, Lal Samarakoon, Leong Keong Kwoh, Lin Hui, Manu Omakupt, M.Saandar, Nguyen Dinh Duong, Nik Nasruddin Mahmood, Rabin Sharma, Ryutaro Tateishi, Sarath Jayathilaka, Shunji Murai, Suvit Vibusresth, Tong Qingxi.



### **Closing ceremony**

The closing ceremony of the 30th ACRS was held at the conference hall, Beijing conference center on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2009. Prof. Xingfa Gu reviewed the 30th ACRS, After refreshment, it was the closing ceremony and announcement of ACRS 2010 hoster, chaired by Prof. Tong Qingxi. The delegate from Vietnam, where the next ACRS would be hosted, gave an introduction about the 31<sup>st</sup> ACRS.



### **9. Conclusion**

The 6 days conference concluded successfully, though due to there were several other

international remote sensing conferences, the size of the 30ACRS had been affected to some degree. Through the careful plan and organization of the organizing committee, more than 700 people came to join in the conference, which proved that Asian Association on Remote Sensing had united an expert participant team to promote the Asian remote sensing careers. CCTV -1 reported the 30ACRS conference in the evening news on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009, which proved the conference a real success.

The highlights were: (1) A special student session (under doctoral degree) was held to provide young scholars an exchange platform. (2) New generation of General Secretary and Vice General Secretaries had been elected. (3)The setting up of the foundation of the Asian Association on Remote Sensing had been decided to support various activities of the association including the support of the scientists from the under developed areas to join in ACRS. (4) A specially reduced registration fee had been set for students to encourage them to participate.

One of the difficulties for the LOC was that some members of CNCRS also joined in the preparatory work for the Digital Earth conference which was held in Beijing in Sept. 2009. Therefore it was until early September that all staffs began to work fully for 30ACRS. But with the diligent work, the whole conference was not influenced by that. Besides, for the conference venue, the Beijing Conference Center had been chosen after many times of investigation. Beijing Conference Center was a 4 star garden hotel, which contained the functions of conference, accommodation and food together. 373 rooms had been used during the conference. The conditions in Beijing Conference Center were generally good, except for the transportation. In order to deal with this problem, the organizing committee rented 12 coaches and 4 cars to transport conference participants. In general, all participants were satisfied with the service provided by the LOC.

In a whole, 30 years of ACRS is a witness of great success and progress of the development of Remote Sensing achieved in Asia and in the World as well!