

Minutes of the 30th Asian Association on Remote Sensing Meeting

First General Conference, 20 October 2009

In pursuance of the 30th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS), the First General Conference (GC) was held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Qingxi Tong at Beijing Conference Centre, Beijing, China on October 20, 2009. On the opening statement of the Chairman, he welcomed all the delegates and wished to stay all the members as one family under the AARS umbrella. The following are the decisions and conclusion during the general Conference.

1. During the roll call by the General Secretary of AARS, representatives from thirteen Ordinary Members and four Associate Members were present in the GC. The list of delegates is given in Appendix-1.
2. The Agenda of the GC was approved.
3. Prof. Shunji Murai, General Secretary, AARS presented the General Secretary's Report of 2009.
4. Dr. Surachai Ratanasermping from Thailand presented the financial report of 2008-2009. The balance amount is recorded as US\$ 7352. The details of the report were given. He also mentioned that the expense of Asian Journal of Geoinformatics is not included in the report.
5. Dr. Chris Elvidge of Earth Observation Group, NGDC, NOAA/NESDIS, US Department of Commerce, USA applied for the Associate Member of AARS and the GC admitted the NOAA as an Associate Member of AARS from 2009.
6. The Chairman of the Supporting Committee Dr. Lal Samarakoon presented a draft proposal for the amendment of the Statutes of AARS, which was approved with some amendments. The amended Statutes are given in Appendix-2.
7. Resignation of Prof. Shunji Murai from the post of General Secretary of AARS was approved by the GC. The GC appreciated him for his great contributions to AARS for the past 30 years and expressed to receive his advices in the coming years also.
8. Prof. Kohei Cho from Japan was elected unanimously as the new General Secretary of AARS.
9. Prof. Xingfa Gu from China and Dr. Nguyen Dinh Duong from Vietnam were elected unanimously as the new Deputy General Secretaries of AARS.
10. Dr. Surachai Ratanasermping suggested that the AARS Office which had been located in GISTDA, Thailand will be moved to Japan Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (JSPRS) in link with the new General Secretary. This suggestion was approved by all the members. Accordingly the bank located in Thailand will be moved to a bank in Japan. Ms. Chiwako Fujino will be in charge of the finance.
11. Prof. Shunji Murai and Dr. Qingxi Tong were awarded Honorary Members of AARS.
12. China Taipei, Singapore and Thailand proposed to host the 32nd ACRS in 2011.

Second General Conference, 22 October 2009

The second General Conference(GC) was held on 22nd October 2009 at Beijing Conference Center, Beijing, China. The Chairman, Prof. Qingxi Tong opened the Second GC of Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS) in order to give continuity of the First General Conference.

11. On the opening statement of the new General Secretary of AARS, Prof. Kohie Cho mentioned that he is committed to work hard to give continuity of the heavy duties of past General Secretary. He also informed that he has the vision of promoting students and young scientists and for networking among the AARS Members as well as the experts from the other part of the globe. He stressed that he will set up an Executive Board to plan the activities of AARS in a strategic manner and the body will report the outcomes in the next AARS conference.

Dr. Nguyen Dinh Dong thanked AARS for selecting him as one of the new Deputy General Secretaries and promised to provide his service to the General Secretary to help in serving the needs of AARs and ACRS with his best ability.

Prof. Xingfa Gu, the newly elected Deputy General Secretary said that he will serve for the betterment of AARS and to the countries/regions of Asia by mobilizing the Chinese resources.

12. After consultation between the AARS members, Singapore and Thailand withdrew their proposal to host 32nd ACRS in 2011. China Taipei was endorsed as the Host of the 32nd ACRS in 2011.
13. A preliminary report on the statistics of the 30th ACRS was presented by Prof. Xingfa Gu.
14. Dr. Nguyen Dinh Dong, the Editor in Chief presented the report on Asian Journal of Geoinformatics and informed that US\$ 41 is the positive balance amount for the budget of the journal.
15. Dr. Lal Samarakoon, Chairman of the Supporting Committee presented a document for the terms of reference of the Committee and the GC endorsed the document.
16. Prof. Orhan Altan, President of International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) mentioned that AARS is one of the best organizations of Asia working under the umbrella of ISPRS for sharing information. He also informed that ISPRS distributed the information on e-highlights to its member countries and the availability of Travel Grant for developing countries to participate in the events of ISPRS.
17. A document to form Advisory Committee with seven members under the Chairmanship of Prof. Shunji Murai was presented and it was endorsed by the GC.
18. Provision of Shunji Murai Award for students and young scientists is included as article 13 sub article 3 in the Statutes of AARS.
19. The GC adopted the revised Statutes of AARS with some English grammar corrections.

20. The GC agreed to cancel Ordinary Membership of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Philippines and Associate Membership of Malaysian Remote Sensing Society. The justification is to consider in arrears of more than three years as well as no communication. The GC also agreed to welcome their re-membership when they fulfill their commitment.
21. A proposal for setting up of the AARS Foundation was presented by China and was adopted by the GC. Prof. Qingxi Tong and Prof. Shunji Murai were appointed as Co-chairs of AARS Foundation Board. GC endorsed the Bylaws for establishing AARS Foundation. The Bylaws are given in Appendix-3. The initial funds will be provided by the 30th ACRS organization Committee.
22. On behalf of all the Members of AARS, Prof. Shunji Murai expressed appreciations to the Organizing Committee of the 30th ACRS for their excellent arrangements for conducting ACRS in China.
23. Prof. Kohei Cho, the present General Secretary urged to receive support from all the AARS Members as usual during his tenure and also to get advises from the past General Secretary Prof. Shunji Murai for the continuity of the Association.
24. Finally, the Chairman Prof. Qingxi Tong thanked all the delegates attending the GC for their active participation and declared the closing of the GC.