

Considering the Roles of International Academic Societies Under the Pandemic Crisis

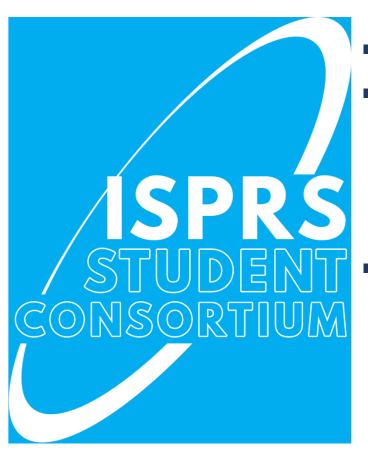


Sheryl Rose Reyes
President, ISPRS Student Consortium
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About the ISPRS SC





- The official representation of the youth to ISPRS
- To link students, young researchers and professionals worldwide, interested in photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information science and to promote their scientific and professional developments
- Advocate imaging and geospatial science for informed, scientifically valid, and technologically sound observations of Earth conditions and trends that lead to improved and effective decision-making

"The youth is our future."

Organizations like the ISPRS Student Consortium (and ISPRS) carry an important responsibility – we play an essential role in shaping our future leaders and experts in the profession.

Our generation are considered *digital natives* and some of us have been born with the technology right at our fingertips.

Many of us struggled with the *personal and professional* issues influencing our future and careers in this time of uncertainty.

Challenges for the Youth during this Pandemic

- Isolation and Loneliness far from friends, family and loved ones
- Less Support professors and mentors seem too out of reach due to university closures and online learning
- Low Productivity and Lack of Motivation with everything that is happening around the world, many students and young professionals were finding it more difficult to be productive and focus on their research/work as well as finding motivation and inspiration at a time when everything seems uncertain
- Increased Anxiety and Uncertainty a feeling of not seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and worrying too much (personal and professional)

The Roles of International Societies

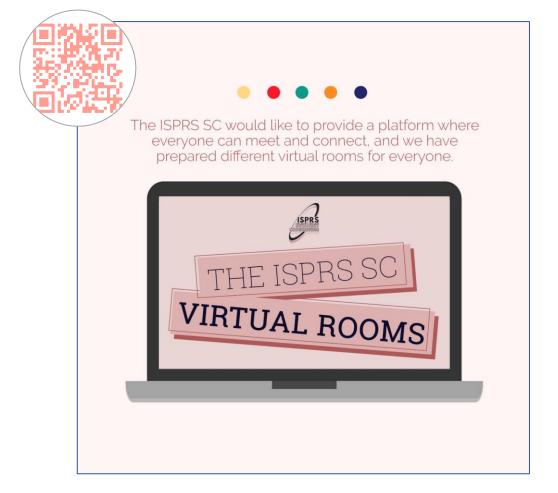
•As a **scientific platform** and continuing our efforts on education and capacity building

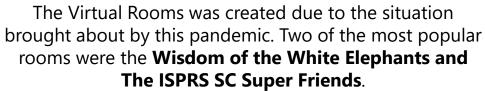
Our role in our members' character
 building – understanding oneself and connecting to your community on a more personal level

As a **scientific platform**, we must:

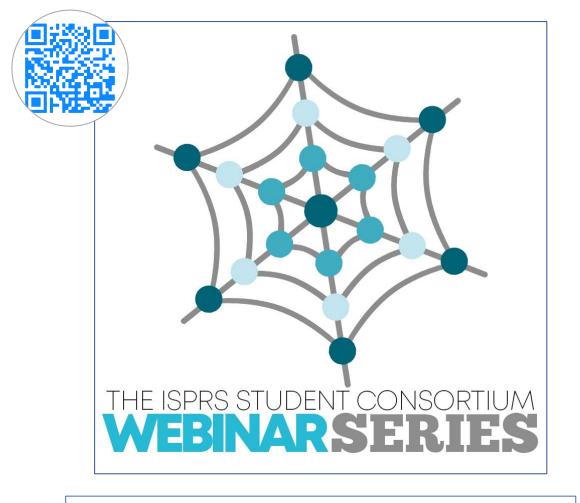
Connect. Communicate. Collaborate.

The Consortium has been hosting and developing many online activities and events, which helped many of our members to cope during this pandemic. The next slides are some of the efforts that demonstrate how the Consortium has been trying to work on connecting, communicating and collaborating.





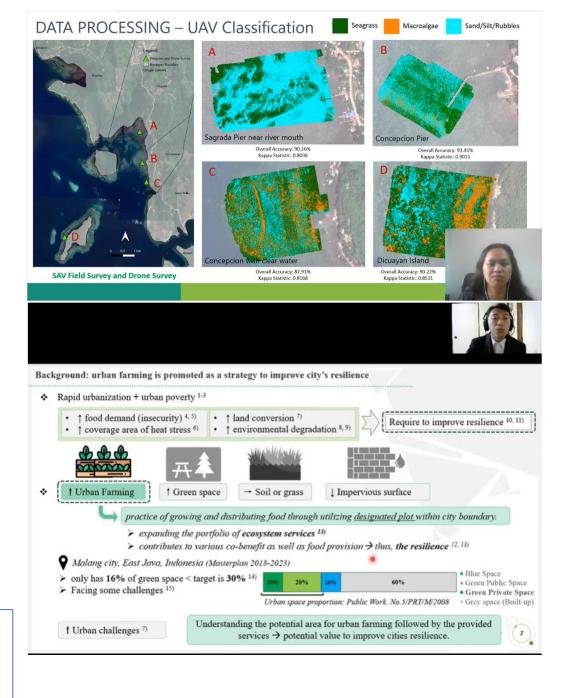
Many of our members have met experts within and outside ISPRS and we're able to connect to them during the Virtual Rooms – from personal development to professional advice, this initiative allowed us to go beyond providing technical lectures.



The Webinar Series proved to be a **great resource** for many students who have been working from home, when libraries and colleagues are sometimes out of reach. Our videos for the deep learning theme is reaching about a thousand views on our YouTube channel.



In addition, the ISPRS Congress Virtual Event continued to provide a platform for the youth to share their research, something they seriously worked hard for. It was encouraging to still get the chance to communicate the work you have done for years in this virtual event.



We also continued to publish our official Newsletter – which we decided to repackage as SpeCtrum in hopes of fostering collaboration in our profession as well as with other disciplines. This had been our way of communicating recent developments and progress the fields of remote sensing, photogrammetry and geospatial information. In addition, we had also started publishing special issues related to advocacy or socially relevant topics.

During this pandemic, we had a special issue focusing on COVID-19, where we called for contributions from experts as well as our members.





This ongoing summer school that is in collaboration with the IEEE GRSS Young Professional and lead by the local organizers in Brazil is one of the best demonstrations of collaboration between two international organizations. As Dr. Gamba mentioned during the plenary session this ACRS2020, this is a time for collaboration, not competition.

























Our role in our members' **character building**, we must impart to them the following values, especially in times of crisis:

Patience. Humility. Gratitude. Generosity. Kindness.

The Consortium as an organization for the youth, may be more focused on developing and nurturing professional relationships among our members. The next slides are some experiences that demonstrate these values and in our deepest hopes, that our members will carry on, especially when it is their turn to pay it forward.



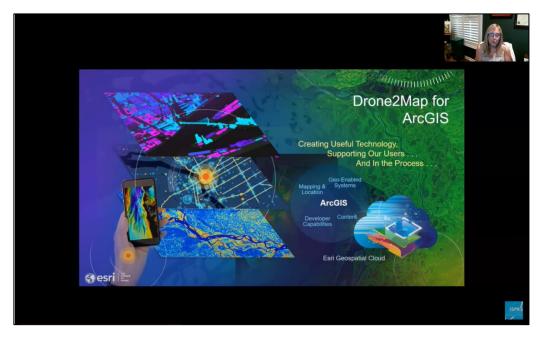
This photo illustrates the values of humility and patience.

The ISPRS White Elephant Club were so willing to learn the technology in order to participate in our Virtual Rooms so that they can share their knowledge (and advice) to our members. Many consider them the legends of remote sensing and photogrammetry and yet, they continue to share with us their knowledge in every way possible.

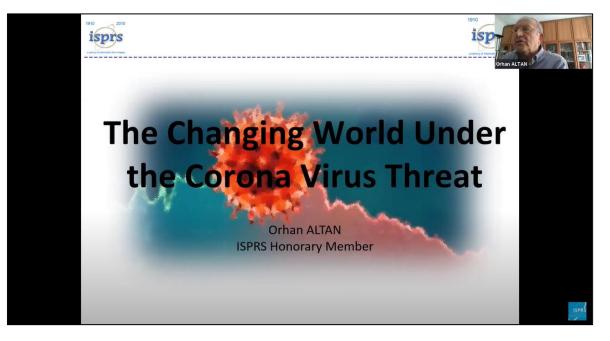
This opportunity also allowed the Consortium to bridge the generation gap.



Dr. Konecny's birthday celebration was an act of gratitude – **gratitude for the life of a person who has contributed immensely to the profession, a lifelong mentor and friend, and an inspiring family member**. It was also a demonstration of what goes beyond scientific collaborations – a life of friendship and fantastic travels!









During the virtual rooms we also experienced many people's generosity – the response of the people we invited to speak and their willingness to join us in these events were truly humbling. We had people from ESRI, the Group on Earth Observations, Women in Geospatial +, UNOSAT/UNITAR, projects on space technology sharing their experiences and advice to our members and many others.

Have a lot of patience for the non-digital natives. As we transition to a new normal of online meetings and more dependence on use of digital tools, the younger generations (us!) need to have more patience for those who are more challenged in using these online tools (our older colleagues). I think it would benefit both sides if we hold them by the hand and teach them some tips and tricks to make using the tools easier and more efficient for them, as it does for us. Some of them really do not have the instinct on how to make these digital things work for them so I think it would be nice to get out of our way to help them out.

Trixie Estomata GIS Specialist, GIZ Philippines

This pandemic has inspired me to think about our health more than anything. So, when everything goes back to normal or this whole situation of using sanitizers, washing hands and using masks become the new normal, we need to take a pause, take care of our health and others, too, along with our work.

Uday Chandra Chakma Geodetic Survey Expert, Department of Land Records & Surveys, Ministry of Land Bangladesh Changes, no matter how good or bad they are, they are always for the better and always contribute to development. One must be able to benefit in any situation, also in crisis. The word "crisis" from the Japanese language meaning "the possibility of danger". And we should try to take the opportunity from this situation too. The crisis we are facing does not depend on us, so we are obliged to accept this and find new ways and continue to move forward with a positive attitude and save a realistic outlook on life. Therefore, I wish you to always be strong and wise in order to be able to love this life with all its minuses and pluses. Good luck to everyone!

Sona Guliyeva Ph.D. student, National Aviation Academy Azerbaijan

"Be better", that's all I want to say, better to your family while you finally have such a nice time staying with them, better to the earth and nature while she is the one protecting and feeding us, better to yourself, better to future, better to time, learn new knowledge, make new friends.

Anonymous

In the special issue of SpeCtrum on COVID-19, the Consortium's official Newsletter, we interviewed some of our members to share their experiences during this pandemic and to give some encouragement to their fellow youth.

These words are words of kindness – to non-digital natives, to others, to ourselves and to this only planet we live in.

I would like to wrap up this discussion by sharing the following excerpt. The two roles I discussed here allow us to support, encourage, uplift and look after each other – that we can all improve in doing science but we MUST also do better as a friend, as a family member, as a colleague and as human beings on Earth

Horrible in itself, disaster is sometimes a door back into paradise,

the paradise at least in which we are who we hope to be, do the work we desire, and are each our sister's and brother's keeper.

PARADISE BUILT IN HELL

Rebecca Solnit