

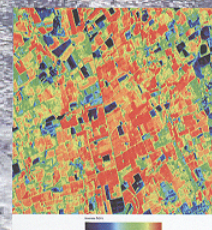


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The RSPSoc Newsletter

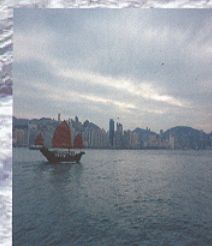
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Featured Science Articles include: G-STEP – Boosting Business from Space



Plus meeting reports including: RSPSoc 2011, the Society's Annual Conference in Bournemouth, UK

The First International Conference on Sustainable Urbanization



and IGARSS 2011 in Vancouver



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RSPSoc: the UK's leading society for Earth Observation and Photogrammetry

The First International Conference on Sustainable Urbanization, December 2010, Hong Kong, China By Tomas Holderness

The first International Conference on Sustainable Urbanization (ICSU) was hosted by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and held in the sumptuous Harbour Grand Kowloon Hotel, overlooking Hong Kong harbour. The conference aimed to provide an international forum for the scientific and engineering community to examine and address the challenges of finding sustainable solutions to meet the demands of rapid global urbanization. The conference comprised of 10 mini-symposiums and 17 parallel sessions running over three days. The sessions covered a diverse range of topics, including a half-day mini-symposium on remote sensing of the urban environment. Other sessions during the conference included managing air pollution in mega-cities, applications of renewable energy and modelling for sustainable urban transportation.

The remote sensing symposium, organised and chaired by Professor Janet Nichol from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University was split into two sessions. The first focused on applications of remotely-sensed data within studies of the urban environment. The second was centred on the development of remote sensing techniques for the collection and interpretation of data for urban environments.

The keynote speaker for the first session, Dr Gilbert Rochon, Purdue University, USA opened the symposium with an insightful presentation on the development of Earth observation with respect to urban studies, including the integration of remotely-sensed imagery with ancillary spatial datasets for urban analysis. Dr Rochon also highlighted the need for research collaborations using remote sensing to focus on developing nations, where current rapid growth and urbanisation mean that urban sustainability is a pressing issue. Other presentations in the



session introduced studies on a range of interesting topics including a number on the urban heat island effect and urban ventilation in Hong Kong.

The second session of the afternoon was opened by keynote speaker Professor Paolo Gamba, University of Pavia, Italy who presented a methodology for the use of multispectral and hyperspectral remote sensing for urban mapping applications. This set the stage for the remainder of the session, where presentations introduced development of various techniques, including my own entitled, "An Evaluation of Thermal Earth Observation for Characterising Urban Temperature Dynamics".

The symposium was without doubt a success and provided an invaluable opportunity to present and engage with members of the urban remote sensing community. Such was the intensity of discussion at the end of the symposium, participants and presenters were invited back to the nearby Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics to continue



discussions further. A special edition of the International Journal of Remote Sensing is currently being developed from the work presented during the mini-symposium.



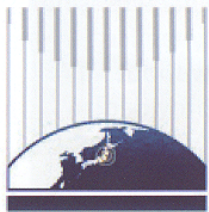
Meeting Reports



The conference and the mini-symposium were well worth the trip, and special thanks must go to Professor Janet Nichol, the Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics and the Faculty of Construction and Land Use at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University for their hospitality and organising the conference. I must also thank the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society for their travel bursary to help cover the costs of the trip.

Tomas Holderness. Newcastle University, School of civil Engineering and Geosciences. 2nd March 2011

2011 IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium



VANCOUVER 仙台2011
IGARSS
24-29 July, Vancouver, Canada



IGARSS 2011 by Raghavendra Bhalerao RSPSoc Travel Bursary recipient

IGARSS 2011, the annual conference of IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing society was scheduled to be held at Sendai Japan from 1-5 August, but due to Tsunami and after hazards of nuclear radiations the conference was shifted to Vancouver BC Canada. Vancouver is one of the world's most spectacular cities surrounded by the waters of the Georgia Strait and nestled alongside the Coast Mountain Range. The venue of the conference was Vancouver Convention Centre, which is situated in the heart of the beautiful downtown of Vancouver.

The conference was held from 25-29 of July with a pre tutorial on 24 July. The conference theme was 'Beyond the Frontiers: Expanding our Knowledge of the World'. The technical sessions were divided as Advances in Analysis

Techniques, Land, Atmosphere, Environmental Applications, Sensors and Platforms, Data Management, Dissemination, Education and Policy.

The conference began with welcome speech by Dr. Motoyuki Sato, General Chair, Dr. Jón Atli Benediktsson, President, IEEE GRS Society, Dr. Moshe Kam, President, and IEEE. There were two special sessions, one on 'The great earthquake of East Japan on March 11, 2011' and other on Remote Sensing in Canada. In all 1496 papers were accepted for the conference and were further divided into 248 sessions. 173 oral sessions contained 5 papers in each session and 75 poster sessions containing 12 posters in each session. There were more than 1500 delegates from around the world with various backgrounds as researchers, scientists, students and others.