

Report on the 15th ISPRS Student Consortium and Working Group VI/5 Summer School

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The 15th ISPRS Student Consortium and Working Group VI/5 Summer School was held at the Institute of Surveying and Mapping (ISM), Diyatalawa, Sri Lanka from October 22-26, 2016. The summer school theme, **“Geoinformatics for Disaster Risk Reduction: Application of Drones.”** The ISM is the leading mapping and surveying institute of Sri Lanka and is located in the central highlands of the country. This summer school continues the collaboration and cooperation of the ISPRS Student Consortium with the Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS), the AARS Student Group (ASG).

A total of forty (40) participants attended the summer school: nine (9) international participants and thirty-one (31) from Sri Lanka. The participants were welcomed by Mr. S.K. Wijayasinghe, Director of ISM and Ms. Sheryl Rose Reyes, who represented the ISPRS Student Consortium. Opening remarks were delivered by Prof. Kohei Cho, General Secretary of the Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS) and Dr. Lal Samarakoon, Director, Geo-informatics Centre of the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand at during the opening ceremony.

Dr. Cho opened the lectures by sharing his personal journey as an international scientist and how participation in international conferences and activities helped him pursue his career. He also gave a lot of insights on how friendships can foster international scientific collaboration. Moreover, he discussed how AARS and ISPRS are sister societies and the present structure of ISPRS.

This summer school consisted of the following intensive lectures:

- *Introduction to Remote Sensing and Data Acquisition* (Dr. Kohei Cho, AARS)
- *Geo-informatics for DRR: JAXA case studies and Geo-informatics for Emergency Mapping, IDC and Sentinel Asia* (Dr. Lal Samarakoon, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand)
- *Data Integration and Mapping: Commercial and Open Source Tools* (Mr. Chathura Hasanka Wickramasinghe, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia)
- *Datum Transformations and Coordinate Systems* (Mr. S.D.P.J. Dampegama, Survey Department of Sri Lanka)
- *Geo-informatics for DRR: A Sri Lankan Experience* (Mr. Srimal Samansiri of the Disaster Management Centre, Sri Lanka)
- *Introduction to Drones and Basic Drones, Introduction to Data Collection using Drones, Session Planning for Data Collection* (Mr. S.D.P.J. Dampegama, Survey Department of Sri Lanka)

The fieldwork included setting up control points using surveying techniques, and a familiarization activity on using drones. The students enjoyed a short trip to Ella, Rawana Falls, Nine Arch Bridges, and the Demodara railway loop.

The final day was spent for practical sessions: downloading data and processing, preparation of maps using data collected by drones and applications. The program concluded with a farewell dinner with many entertaining activities and performances by participating countries and groups. The participants were served with good Sri Lankan cuisine and a bonfire to celebrate learning and friendships.

During the closing ceremony, certificates of participation were awarded to the participants. This summer school was a great experience for both local and foreign participants, who were able to enjoy the culture of Sri Lanka, as well as the capabilities of the host country in remote sensing.