

## The 12<sup>th</sup> ISPRS Student Consortium & WG VI/5 Summer School

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The 12<sup>th</sup> ISPRS Student Consortium & WG VI/5 Summer School was held in the University of Forestry, Yezin, Nay Pyi Taw, the new administrative capital city of Myanmar, from 1st to 5th of November 2014, with the theme “Geospatial Technology for Environmental Management and Monitoring”. This extensive, five-day summer school provided opportunity for the participants to update on the most recent advances in the field of GIS and remote sensing.

This summer school, which was participated by students and young researchers from Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines, consisted of series of lectures, including LiDAR processing, analyzing statistical data, mapping and modelling. Notable lecturers from their respective fields were invited to discuss. On the first day of the session and as an opening remark, Dr. Myint Oo, the university rector warmly welcomed all the participants to the University of Forestry, which is the only university in Myanmar specializing in forestry. This was followed by Professor Jun Chen, from the National Geomatics Center of China and ISPRS President, where he introduced *GlobeLand30<sup>a</sup>*, a web-based information platform providing high resolution land cover data which is available for browsing and download. Then, Dr. Emmanuel Baltsavias from ETH Zurich, gave lectures about photogrammetry and remote sensing techniques. The second day session was spearheaded by Dr. Martin Isenburg of rapidlasso GmbH. He introduced his *LASTools<sup>b</sup>* software, conducted hands-on sessions, and discussed extensively the LiDAR processing course. On the third day, the participants visited the vast zoological garden of Nay Pyi Taw. Moreover,

they also went to Uppatasanti Pagoda, a prominent landmark in Nay Pyi Taw and stands 99-meter tall. Myanmar is definitely very rich not only in resources, but also in history, tradition and culture which can be reflected in their gigantic, gold-plated pagodas, Buddhist carved statues and portraits and decoration around it. To continue the session, Dr. Moe Myint, research scientist, founder and Chief



**Participants together with the lecturers and organizing committee of the 12<sup>th</sup> ISPRS SC and WG VI/5 SS.**

Scientist of the Mapping and Natural Resources Information Integration of Switzerland, headed the fourth day of the summer school. Some of his discussions included land cover classification,



*The stunning Uppatasanti pagoda at night time.*

analyzing data, applications of geoinformatics in forestry, and how to create the field sampling design using statistical methods. On the last day of the summer school, Dr. Soe Win Myint, professor from Arizona State University, USA, delivered lectures on land use/land cover change with regards to regional climate change using a numerical modeling approach, urban heat island, crop type mapping, and

evapotranspiration modeling for agriculture in response to drought. The day ended by giving certificates of participation to the attendees of the summer school, led by Dr. Tin Aung Moe and Dr. Kyaw Zayar Htun, members of the local organizing committee.

Indeed, it was a successful event. It is one of the many workshops that should not be missed, because it serves as an avenue for young researchers to be more knowledgeable in utilizing GIS and remote sensing techniques in various disciplines as taught by the experts. Not only that, it also opened doors to meet fellow young researchers, who can be future collaborators. Hoping to see more people joining in the next international summer schools.



*One of the stone-carved portraits depicting Sumedha doing great charity (11<sup>th</sup> of the 24 Buddhas).*

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<sup>a</sup>For further information about GlobeLand30, please visit [www.globelandcover.com](http://www.globelandcover.com).

<sup>b</sup>For further information about LAsTools, please visit <http://rapidlasso.com/lastools/>.