

Youth Activities at the XXIII International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Congress (ISPRS Congress 2016)

The XXIII International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Congress (ISPRS Congress 2016) was held in July 12-19, 2016 in Prague, Czech Republic. The organization of this quadrennial event was led by Congress Director, Dr Lena Halounava and ISPRS.

The ISPRS 2016 Congress hosted a number of student activities: (1) Summer School, (2) Youth Forum, (3) Panel Discussion and (4) General Assembly.

Summer School

The Summer School was held in Telč, Czech Republic from July 5 -11, 2016, with a theme, “Natural Resource Management: From Data Processing to Web Publishing.” The Summer School was organized by Ing. Eva Matoušková, Summer School Director for the ISPRS Congress. The participants came from different continents: North and South America, Africa, Europe and Asia. The lecturers were comprised of Dr. Martin Isenburg (rapidlasso GmbH), Dr. Norbert Pfeifer (TU Wien), Mr. Jáchym Čepický (OSGeo), Mr. Martin Landa (Czech OSGeo and GRASS Project, Czech Technical University) and Mr. Arnošt Müller (Czech Technical University). The Summer School provided a great opportunity for participants to experience intensive lectures and practical sessions along with the fantastic discovery of the sceneries and local attractions of Telč.

Youth Forum

The Youth Forum was divided into 3 oral sessions and a poster session. A total of 17 papers were presented. The sessions were chaired and co-chaired by the ISPRS SC board members and members of the Working Group VI/5. Leica Geosystems sponsored the awards for the Youth Forum, providing prizes for the Best Youth Forum Paper and Best Youth Forum Presentation. The Best Paper award was given to Xinxin Liu, Huanfeng Shen, Qiangqiang Yuan, Liangpei Zhang and Qing Chen from Wuhan University, China for their paper entitled, “A novel removal method for dense stripes in remote sensing images.” The Best Presentation was granted to Maarten Bassier, Maarten Vergauwen, Bjorn Van Genechten and Guido Kips of KU Leuven, Ghent, Belgium for their paper on “Standalone terrestrial laser scanning for efficiently capturing AEC buildings for as-built BIM.”

Panel Discussion

The Panel Discussion was focused on the question, “Industry or Academia – Where do I fit in after graduation?” Invited speakers were Dr Marguerite Madden of the University of Georgia, USA, Dr. Clive Fraser of the University of Melbourne, Australia, Dr. Shunji Murai of the University of Tokyo, Japan, Dr. Kohei Cho, General Secretary of the Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS) and Dr. Emmanuel Baltsavias of ETH Zurich, Switzerland. The speakers gave insights on what to consider when choosing your career, possibilities and sacrifices in deciding which path to take after graduation. The discussion also talked about how finances and service to others influence our lifelong decisions, either as an industry professional or an academician/researcher.

General Assembly

Lastly, the General Assembly gathered the members of the ISPRS SC present in the Congress. The ISPRS SC board members presented a summary of the achievements of the organization for the past 4 years and provided brief introductions for the nominations to the incoming term. The new board members elected were Sheryl Rose Reyes (United Nations University, Japan) for Chair, Jacky Chow (University of Calgary, Canada) for Co-Chair/Secretary, Angelica Kristina Monzon (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom) for Newsletter Editor-in-Chief, Angela Rodrigues (Wetfälische Wilhelms University of Münster, Germany) for Web Administrator, Mustafa Ustuner (Yildiz Technical University, Turkey) for Social Media Coordinator, and Charles Jjuuko (Makerere University, Uganda) for board member.

Aside from these sessions within the ISPRS Congress programme, a Young Scientists Ice Breaker party was also organized and an outdoor soccer match to foster friendship and camaraderie among the youth and to get to know other individuals involved in remote sensing, photogrammetry and geospatial information sciences coming from all across the globe.

The ISPRS Congress 2016 was another great event to meet old friends, colleagues and new people working in the same disciplines and to envision a future of collaboration.