

10th International Symposium on High Mountain Remote Sensing Cartography Concludes

11-Sep-2008, ICIMOD, Kathmandu

Kathmandu- The 10th International Symposium on the High Mountain Remote Sensing Cartography (HMRSC-X) was held successfully in Kathmandu from 8-11 September 2008. HMRSC-X was organised by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) with the support from the European Space Agency (ESA) and the GIS Development in collaboration with the International Cartography Association (ICA)- Austria, Graz University of Technology (TU Graz)- Austria, University of Graz (UNI Graz)- Austria and Eurasia Pacific UNINET- Austria.

More than 180 participants from 18 different countries including Afghanistan, Austria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, France, Japan, Germany, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America amongst others registered for this symposium which covered five specific themes during six different sessions. The themes covered were i) Remote Sensing Technology, Image Processing and Cartography, ii) Monitoring and Environment (two sessions), iii) Morphology and Hazard Mapping iv) Himalaya from Space and, v) Cryosphere and Water. Apart from these themes, there was a separate poster session and special sessions on: Brahmatwinn Project, Eurasia-Pacific Uninet and GIS Development.

Speaking on the opening session, Dr. Andreas Schild, Director General of ICIMOD highlighted the importance of the earth observation tools and techniques to generate information for better understanding and to solve the problems related to the climate change issues, disaster risk reduction and environmental management. Amongst other speakers, Dr. M S R Murthy from National Remote Sensing Centre of India highlighted the use of satellite remote sensing in high mountain ecosystem studies. Mr. Basanta Shrestha from ICIMOD highlighted the importance of earth observation in bridging the regional knowledge gap for climate change adaptation in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region. Dr. Manfred Buchroithner, founder of the HMRSC symposia series, International Cartography Association (ICA), Austria elaborated on the bi-annual journey of HMRSC since its inception in Schladming, Austria in 1990 and how this has contributed to the field of remote sensing and cartography in the mountainous regions. Dr. Jürg Lichtenegger from European Space Agency (ESA) explained the capabilities in the earth observation technology in various applications such as gravitational mapping from space etc.

There were two pre-symposium training programmes as a prelude to this symposium on earth observation awareness for teachers from different higher secondary school of Nepal, and another for the university teachers from five different countries of this region including Russia. Nepal GIS Society, EduSpace of ESA, Eurasia-Pacific UNINET and Austrian Academy of Sciences-GIScience from Salzburg, Austria were involved in these two training programmes. The HMRSC-X was followed by two field excursions, seven days trek to the Khumbu region from 12-19 September, and a day field trip to Kodari region on 12 September.

Although, HMRSC-X is the first international event of its kind to be held solely in Kathmandu, Nepal, it is not the first time for ICIMOD to host this event. In 1992, when the 2nd Symposium on High Mountain Remote Sensing Cartography (HMRSC-II) was held in Beijing and Lhasa, ICIMOD had the opportunity to host some parts of the oral presentation

sessions in Kathmandu. Therefore, it is after 16 years that the HMRSC has come back to Kathmandu coinciding with the 25 years anniversary celebration of ICIMOD.



From right: Mr. Basanta Shrestha, Dr. M S R Murthy, Dr. Juerg Lichtenegger, Dr. Andreas Schild, Prof. Dr. Manfred Buchroithner, Dr. Viktor Kaufmann, Dr. Wolfgang Sulzer



Director General of ICIMOD Dr. Andreas Schild giving his welcome address to participants of HMRSC-X



Prof. Dr. Manfred Buchroithner giving his opening remark and keynote presentation on HMRSC-X



Mr. Samjwal Bajracharya Geomorphologist/GIS Analyst of ICIMOD glances at the repeat photographs before the poster presentation session



Group photograph of the HMRSC-X participants
Please visit the following link to view the HMRSC-X photo gallery:

<http://menris.icimod.net/menris/GeneralContent/GeneralContentList.aspx?mTab=gc&gcid=38&gscid=43>

For Press Release, please visit:

<http://menris.icimod.net/menris/GeneralContent/GeneralContentList.aspx?mTab=gc&gcid=38&gscid=41>



Field excursion to Khumbu region.
Open-air breakfast at Tengboche (3867 m). Mt. Everest (8848 m), Lhotse (8501 m)
and Ama Dablam (6814 m) can be seen in the background. (Photo by V. Kaufmann)

For more photographs, please visit

<http://www.geoimaging.tugraz.at/viktor.kaufmann/HMRSC-X/photos/index.htm>