

The 39th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from the 15th to the 19th of October, 2018. The conference was sponsored by the Asian Association for Remote Sensing and the Malaysian Remote Sensing Agency and was held at the Renaissance Kuala Lumpur Hotel. Strategic conference partners were AIRBUS and MDA. A total of 865 participants from 35 countries attended the conference, and there were 415 papers (324 presented and 91 poster). The conference was opened by the Minister for Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change, Yeo Bee Yin, a remarkable young woman who has a Master of Engineering degree, and who gave an interesting and challenging address to the participants.



The papers were presented in technical sessions covering a wide range of earth observation/remote sensing theory and applications, with eight different sessions running concurrently, with several special and commercial sessions. There were four Plenary Sessions covering Wealth Creation and Prosperity, Remote Sensing and Good Governance, Humanising Technology and Data and a final session on future challenges in using remote sensing to enable prosperity. Dr Bruce Forster, Honorary Secretary of the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Commission of SSSI, was a Chairman and invited speaker of the second plenary session, Wealth Creation and Prosperity. Other invited speakers were Professor Christian Helpke, President of ISPRS, Mr Patrice Galey, AIRBUS Intelligence, Dr Orbita Roswintiarti, Deputy Chairman for Remote Sensing Affairs, LAPAN, and Mr Gordon Staples, Project Manager, MDA. All papers can be accessed via the website acrs2018.mrsa

One of the highlights of the week was the students' entertainment, presented at the gala dinner. The prize being won by two young woman from India with a traditional dance.



The General Conference of the Asian Association for Remote Sensing was held over two days, the evening of the 16th of October, and a lunch meeting on the 18th of October. Dr Bruce Forster attended as the Australian delegate. The main decisions of the meetings were to review the membership fees, which per country are currently only US\$ 150.00, and to nominate the host countries for the 40th and 41st conferences which are to be held in 2019 in South Korea, and 2020 in China. Professor Armin Gruen of Switzerland was made an Honorary Member of the Association for his contributions over many years. It was the first time this honour had been given to a person outside Asia.



At the closing ceremony on the 19th of October, it was announced that Professor L C Chen, from Taiwan, had won the prestigious Chen Shupeng Award, and Dr Nattapon Mahavik, from Thailand, the equally prestigious Shunji Murai Award.

Bruce Forster 5th October 2018