

Report on the 38th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing held in New Delhi, October 2017.

I was fortunate to attend the 38th annual conference of the Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS), held in New Delhi, India, in October 2017. The conference was held in the grand Ashok Hotel in the diplomatic belt of New Delhi from the 23rd to the 27th of October.



The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi

The conference was a great success with nearly one thousand delegates attending from 53 countries, with 442 orally presented papers and 238 poster papers around the theme “Space Applications – touching lives”. These were presented in 67 technical sessions and 8 parallel sessions, with 13 special sessions and 6 poster sessions, with all papers being of high standard. In addition, there were 32 industry and institutional exhibitors at the conference showcasing a wide range of equipment and products from India and internationally.

The conference was organized by the Asian Association on Remote Sensing (Australia is the only country outside Asia that is a member – see www.a-a-r-s.org), the Indian Society of Remote Sensing, the Indian Society of Geomatics, and co-hosted by the Indian Space Research Organization.

The annual meeting of AARS is held over two nights during the conference, which I attended as an invited Australian delegate, as well as a member of the Advisory Committee to the General Secretary, Professor Kohei Cho from Japan. One of the outcomes of these meetings is a decision on the next country to organize the conference, and a recommendation on a country for the following year. This resulted in Malaysia, and Kuala Lumpur, being accepted for the 2018 conference, with the conference being organized by the Malaysian Remote Sensing Agency at the Putra World Trade Centre (see www.acrs2018.mrsa.gov.my) in October. South Korea was proposed for the 2019 conference.

As many who have attended the Asian conference will know, it is one of the friendliest and warmest conferences you could attend with the now famous conference dinner where many of the countries’ younger members give a performance, some traditional and some more modern. These are then judged by three more senior scientists from outside Asia. Always a great night (see winners photo below).



Winners of the Country Performance (Indonesia)

One of the great pleasures of attending conferences in Asia is being able to spend some time enjoying the food and culture of an exotic country, as my wife and I did in India, travelling around the Golden Triangle and seeing the Taj Mahal for the first time. Kuala Lumpur, and Malaysia, with its mix of three cultures, Malay, Indian and Chinese, I'm sure will also offer a great experience for those who attend the conference this year.

Dr Bruce Forster

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