

Memorandum of Understanding signed

In the framework of the ISPRS Centenary Celebrations held in Vienna on 3 to 4 July 2010 an agreement for close cooperation had been signed with three international remote sensing associations outside Europe. This is

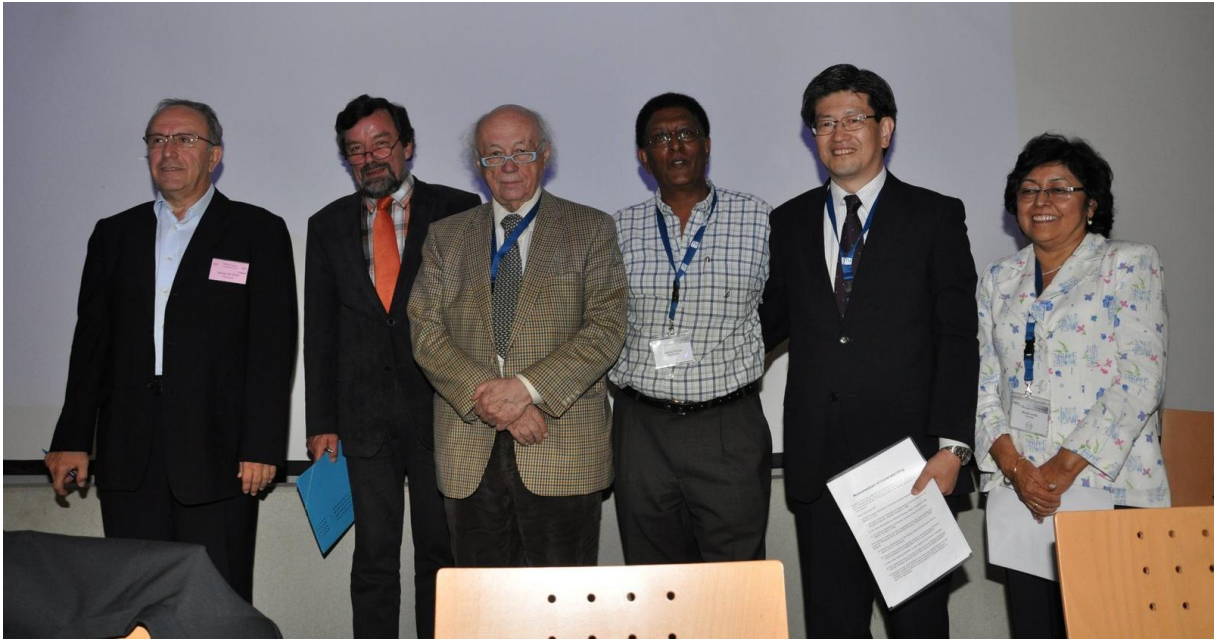
- the **“Sociedad de Especialistas Latinoamericanos en Percepcion Remota”, SELPER**. The association, situated in Bogotá, Colombia, represents 13 national remote sensing organisations in Central and South America. The XIV Simposio Internacional de SELPER will be organised on 8-12 November 2010 in Guanajuato, Mexico.
- the Asian **Association on Remote Sensing, AARS**. 30 national organisations in Asia and Australia are members, and seven European and American institutes and societies are associated members. AARS organises annual conferences on remote sensing, the 31st Asian Conference on Remote Sensing will be held on 1-5 November 2010 in Hanoi, Vietnam. Central office of the association is in Tokyo, Japan.
- the **African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment, AARSE**. 70 institutes from 37 African countries and are members of AARSE, and individuals and societies from 16 non-African countries are associated. The 8th AARSE Conference will be held on 25-29 October 2010 in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia. Central office is in Enschede, The Netherlands.

The memorandum, initiated by our Honorary President Gottfried Konecny, aims at bringing together EARSeL members and experts from Asia, Africa and Latin America, with the objective to promote international coordination and cooperation in the various fields of remote sensing. This shall be achieved by regular meetings during symposia, bringing together researchers interested in an exchange of information and in initiating multi-lateral projects in areas of common expertise. This shall cover all relevant topics from the development of new sensors up to their application in remote sensing programmes.

It has been agreed to prepare, as a result of a first meeting at the 31st EARSeL Symposium 2011 in Prague, a Work Programme which shall report on joint projects for the coming years. EARSeL members are invited to join this initiative which offers an excellent chance for fruitful cooperation in future!

More information on our partner associations can be found on the following websites:

- SELPER: <http://www.selper.org/>
- AARS: <http://www.a-a-r-s.org/acrs/>
- AARSE: <http://www.itc.nl/aarse/>



Ceremony of MoU signature at the ISPRS Centenary Celebration in Vienna, 3 July 2010. From left to right: Orhan Altan, ISPRS President; Rainer Reuter, EARSeL Chairman; Gottfried Konecny, Initiator of the Memorandum; Tsehaie Woldai, President of AARSE; Kohei Cho, General Secretary of AARS; and Myriam Ardila Torres, Vice Chairman of SELPER.



Tsehaie Woldai (AARS) and Rainer Reuter (EARSeL) signing the MoU. On the left: Orhan Altan and Ian Dowman (ISPRS).

Memorandum of Understanding

On July 3, 2010 the undersigned representatives of the four largest regional remote sensing organisations met during the 100th Anniversary of the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in Vienna, Austria.

These institutions are:

- 1) The European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories, EARSeL, founded in 1977
- 2) The Latin American "Sociedad de Especialistas Latinoamericanos en Percepcion Remota", SELPER, founded in 1980
- 3) The Asian Association on Remote Sensing, AARS, founded in 1981
- 4) The African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment, AARSE, founded in 1992

The meeting in Vienna has been suggested during the International Congress for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in Beijing in July 2008, because

- a) these four institutions are the largest research institutions of a regional nature in existence
- b) they are focal points for regional research and technology developments operating in an independent bottom up environment
- c) they unite national activities in their regions with annual meetings
- d) they realize the large potential of uses of remote sensing technology for their member countries and for the solution of global problems
- e) because of their local backgrounds these four organisations can particularly benefit from interchanges of experiences by creating a stronger and more effective global network in remote sensing science and technology

The representatives of these four organisations have discussed these common interests, and they have agreed to the following:

1. Their representatives will meet annually at scientific and technical events of remote sensing.
2. They will develop a work program for suggestions on how to improve the international standing of remote sensing.
3. The organisations will establish a small secretariat to follow up these activities to promote the standing and the contributions together with other institutions, including the international scientific societies or bodies, such as FIG, IAG, ICA, ISPRS and others.
4. They will furthermore investigate the possibility for the establishment of an International Scientific Academy of Remote Sensing to promote these efforts.

Signed in Vienna on July 3, 2010

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