

ISPRS Activities for Students at the XIII Selper Symposium, Habana, Cuba, 22-26 September 2008

The XIII Selper Symposium (Sociedad de Especialistas Latinoamericana en Percepción Remota, a regional member of ISPRS) took place at Habana, Cuba on 22th – 26th of September 2008 and focused on the capabilities of remote sensing technology and its role in sustainable development. In cooperation with the organizers of the XIII Selper Symposium, ISPRS organized a two-day workshop on airborne laser technology and data processing. The workshop focused on students and young researchers. ISPRS supported thirteen non-Cuban students, including the two regional ISPRS Student Consortium coordinators, to attend both the workshop and the symposium as part of the promotion of the profession to students, and partly another sixteen Cuban workshop participants.



Dr. Manos Baltasvias, chair of the ISPRS WG VI/5, and organizers of the XIII Selper Symposium at the Lidar workshop on September 20-21, 2008. On the right, Dr. Eloy Perez, new Selper President.

Dr. Manos Baltasvias explained the mission and importance of the ISPRS Student Consortium and the Working Group VI/5 in promoting the training of students in cutting edge technologies.



Dr. Irineu da Silva and Ing. William Kim (2nd and 3rd from left) lecturers of the

Lidar workshop, Sandra Gonzalez (right), main local organiser.

The two-day workshop on airborne laser technology and data processing was taught by Dr. Manos Baltsavias from the Institute of Geodesy and Photogrammetry, ETH Zurich, Dr. Irineu da Silva from São Carlos School of Engineering, University of São Paulo, Brazil and Ing. William Kim, consultant for Leica, Brazil. The first day of the workshop consisted of a theoretical approach to Lidar technology and the second day focused on practical examples for Lidar data acquisition and data pre-processing. In the practical examples, data were acquired with the Leica ALS60 Airborne Laser Scanner (© Leica Geosystems) in an Amazonian rainforest. Software packages included FPES (Flight Planning & Evaluation Software for estimating optimal flight parameters), Leica IPAS Pro (flight post-processing software) and Terrasolid (classification and mapping of Lidar data).

The Selper Symposium focused on different applications of remote sensing technologies, including natural resources and environment, agriculture, natural disasters and risk assessment, health studies and GIS in education amongst other topics. Students both attended and presented talks in the symposium. In the opening plenary session, presentations were made by ESA, ISPRS, CONAE (Argentina) and INPE (Brazil).



Mexican member of ISPRS Student Consortium presenting at the Symposium on digital image processing.



ESA presentation at the Opening Plenary session of the SELPER symposium.



Participants of Lidar Workshop.

The ISPRS-sponsored Lidar workshop and XIII Selper Symposium were a great opportunity to establish contacts with researchers and remote-sensing professionals from all over Latin-America. This interaction was the seed for further initiatives of collaboration, such as the initiative to create a WEBSITE specific for the region, under the framework of ISPRS Student Consortium.

Acknowledgements to:

- All Cuban students and organizers for their kindness and hospitality, especially Sandra Gonzalez, main local organiser
- The lecturers
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