One of humankind’s greatest challenges is to achieve an appropriate balance between developing natural resources and maintaining an optimal natural environment. To meet this challenge, we need detailed and reliable geo-information and geo-information management tools.

At the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), knowledge of earth observation and geo-information management is not only readily available but is also being developed and extended. By means of education, research and project services, we contribute to capacity building in developing countries and emerging economies. These countries are often referred to as ODA (Official Development Assistance) countries, based on a statistic compiled by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development to measure aid. In doing so, considerable attention is paid to the development and application of geographical information systems (GIS) for solving real-world problems. Such problems can range from determining places at landslide risk, mapping forest fires and biodiversity, planning urban infrastructure, implementing land administration systems, monitoring and analysing food and water security, to designing a good wildlife management system or detecting environmental pollution.

The key words characterizing our activities are geo-information management, worldwide and innovative. We concentrate on earth observation, the generation of spatial information, and the development of data integration methods. Furthermore, we provide tools that can support the processes of planning and decision making for sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty in developing countries and emerging economies.

My name is Nino Kheladze and I come from Georgia. I decided to study at ITC to improve my theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of geo-information science and earth observation. The first time, I did the professional master’s with a specialization in Land Administration and now I am an MSc Graduate in Governance and Spatial Information Management (GSIM). What I liked most of all is that the organization and management related to living and studying at ITC are at a very high level, while there is also a great opportunity to acquire as much significant knowledge and information of interest as possible during the study period. In my opinion, Enschede is a very nice place to stay while studying. It’s very safe and quiet, and there are facilities and areas for entertainment at weekends – but not so many that you become distracted from the study. I’ve had the opportunity to study for a second master’s and I’ve made the same choice – and I am very happy about that.

Nino Kheladze
MSc Graduate Governance and Spatial Information Management
SPACE FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCING THE UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE
On 1 January 2010, the International Institute of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) became a faculty of the University of Twente. The merger has been implemented in a way that preserves the distinctive character and mission of ITC. As a university faculty, ITC is more firmly embedded in the Dutch academic education system. Furthermore, the integration with the University of Twente will lead to innovative research and education in areas such as energy, environment, climate change, water, geo-information and earth observation, and disaster management. The University offers degree programmes within its six faculties in fields ranging from engineering and natural sciences to behavioural and management sciences.

ASSOCIATED INSTITUTION OF UNU
ITC is an associated institution of the United Nations University (UNU). The cooperation between ITC and UNU is directed at developing and carrying out a Joint Programme on Capacity Building in Disaster Management and in Land Administration, and at disseminating knowledge of these and directly related issues. The programme activities are accommodated in two schools:
- School for Disaster Geo-Information Management
- School for Land Administration Studies.
For more information, visit www.itc.nl/unu.

ORGANIZATION
ITC is organized on the basis of process management principles, with a transparent organizational structure, and is managed by a directorate headed by a rector and a managing director. The core activities are executed by staff of the six scientific departments covering ITC’s knowledge field:
- Department of Earth Observation Science
- Department of Earth Systems Analysis
- Department of Geo-Information Processing
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-Information Management
- Department of Water Resources.

KNOWLEDGE FIELD
The knowledge field of ITC is geo-information science and earth observation, a field that consists of a combination of tools and methods for the collection (through aerospace survey techniques), storage and processing of geospatial data, and for the dissemination and use of these data and of services based on these data.

REMOTE SENSING AND GIS
Remote sensing is the collection and analysis of scientific data about phenomena at, above or below the Earth’s surface without coming into physical contact with them. There are a variety of ways of collecting such data, for example by using conventional aerial photography, radar, and airborne electronic scanning devices. And naturally satellites have been playing an increasingly significant role over the last few decades. Such remote sensing techniques and the images they produce can be used, for example, to monitor environmental changes and meteorological disturbances, determine the existence of certain mineral deposits, and detect the build-up of pressure along the faults in the Earth’s crust. The uses are many and various and to some extent have already unobtrusively entered our daily lives. With such huge quantities of data involved, some help is needed at ground level. And this is where geographical information systems (GIS) come in. Central to every GIS is the database, which stores the data on which the eventual output depends. The application of these data to real-world problems is a function of the specific software designed to manipulate the data. The software enables the database to be accessed, transformed and manipulated for such purposes as studying trend patterns, examining environmental issues, or simulating the outcomes of project proposals or planning procedures. Skilled personnel with the appropriate expertise are needed to effectively manage the information and opportunities provided by these new technologies. Exciting prospects for those willing to take up the challenge!

KEY FIGURES 2010
- Newly registered students: 1398
- Academically acceptable applications: 3539
- Degrees / diploma’s / certificates awarded: 523
- Scientific publications: 205
- Promovendi registered in the Graduate Programme (31 December): 151
- Promotions: 14
- External projects: 85
- Staff members: 190 fte
I HAVE ALWAYS HAD AN INTEREST IN FURTHER EXPLORING GIS AND INTRODUCING IT INTO THE TOOLS I USE IN MY DAY-TO-DAY CHALLENGES IN BUILDING A BETTER KIGALI.

My name is Liliane Mupende Uwanziga and I come from Kigali-Rwanda. I left my country in September 2009 to come and study here at ITC for a period of 18 months. My undergraduate in Urban Planning formed a good basis for my work at the City of Kigali, where until my departure for ITC I worked as the director of land use management and GIS. I have, however, always had an interest in further exploring GIS and introducing it into the tools I use in my day-to-day challenges in building a better Kigali. One could ask, why ITC? Well, I had heard from a number of people that ITC is well-known and is ranked as one of the best institutes for pursuing a degree in GIS. Furthermore, its courses are tailored to developing countries. I must say that so far I have really enjoyed my time here at ITC. The workload can sometimes be challenging, but the opportunity to work with different great minds in order to succeed has been an exciting experience in its own right. Meeting so many people from different countries makes you feel that you have travelled the world and experienced it through their eyes. As we share our knowledge and skills, we are lucky to receive guidance from tutors that value our contribution and nurture us to even higher dexterity. From the moment I arrived in Enschede, the hospitable atmosphere was overwhelming; everyone made an effort to make me feel comfortable and welcome. Over time, I have made many new friends – some originally from Enschede, some visiting students like me. After my graduation, I returned to my country with much more than I came with, including better experience and, as I often say, a network much like that of the UN. I intend to put all this to the best use in contributing to building a better Kigali ... a better Rwanda. I invite you all to visit so that I can reciprocate the experience I have had here at ITC and in Enschede.

Liliane Mupende Uwanziga
MSc Graduate Urban Planning and Management

NAME CHANGES
1950 International Training Centre for Aerial Survey (ITC)
1966 International Institute for Aerial Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC)
1985 International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC)
2001 International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)
2010 Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation of the University of Twente (ITC)
RESEARCH PROGRAMME
TAILED TO THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

ROLE OF RESEARCH AT ITC
As a centre of excellence in the forefront of knowledge discovery, the Faculty carries out research within the framework of a coherent research programme that addresses specific development-related problem fields in geo-information science and earth observation. This yields new tools and methods for the collection, storage and processing of geospatial data and pioneers new applications of geospatial data to societal problems, particularly in developing countries, in which geo-information science and earth observation play an important role. The Research programme also contributes to ITC’s capacity building mission in developing countries and emerging economies by training junior researchers from institutes and organizations in these countries.

INTERLINKED RESEARCH THEMES
The ITC Research programme defines the scientific scope of knowledge development, which is underpinned by the scientific expertise of ITC and tailored to the international research agenda. It addresses problems related to the management of space and resources, and problems related to the provision of relevant, timely and reliable geospatial information through the execution of demand-driven research projects in its research themes:

- Geo-information Processing
- Earth Observation Science
- Earth Systems Analysis
- Natural Resources
- Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-information Management
- Water Resources

ORGANIZATION OF RESEARCH
Research leading to the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is pursued through registration in the ITC Graduate programme. The research topic of each PhD student constitutes a project under one of the six research themes resorting under a department, and an interdisciplinary theme. In this way the PhD student benefits from membership of a research team, as well as from receiving expert supervision and attending research-supporting advanced courses. Research leading to a PhD thesis at ITC normally takes about four years. The doctoral degree is granted by the University of Twente. The total number of registrants in the Graduate programme at the end of 2010 was 151. In 2010, 14 doctoral candidates successfully defended a doctoral thesis.

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS
ITC’s Research programme is carried out in collaboration with a range of partners in the Netherlands, Europe and other countries worldwide that have a complementary expertise base. The resulting agreements range from general principles such as memoranda of understanding and framework agreements to partnership agreements supporting specified PhD students. For more information about research at ITC, visit www.itc.nl/research.

ACADEMIC OUTPUT 2006-2010

<table>
<thead>
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<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tr>
<td>ISI (Institute for Scientific Information) journal articles</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>145</td>
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<td>Other refereed journal articles</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Book chapters</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>112</strong></td>
<td><strong>124</strong></td>
<td><strong>148</strong></td>
<td><strong>176</strong></td>
<td><strong>205</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference proceedings – full papers</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific and professional publications</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>81</td>
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<td>Presentations</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>91</td>
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Remote sensing is a powerful tool for mapping the quantity and quality of wildlife habitats. This is shown by the study of Tiejun Wang, PhD student at ITC. He worked in China’s Qinling Mountains, where giant pandas still live in the wild. He obtained his doctorate on 25 June 2009 at Wageningen University and Research Centre. The research was made possible partly due to the World Wildlife Fund. Giant pandas are obligate bamboo grazers. The bamboos favoured by giant pandas are typical forest understorey plants. Therefore, the availability and abundance of understorey bamboo are a key factor in determining the quantity and quality of giant panda food resources. However, there was little or no information about the spatial distribution or abundance of bamboo underneath the forest canopy.

The objectives of this study were to develop innovative methods in remote sensing and GIS for estimating the giant panda habitat and forage abundance, and to explain the altitudinal migration and the spatial distribution of giant pandas in the fragmented forest landscape.

Overall, the study has shown the potential of satellite remote sensing to map giant panda habitat and forage (i.e. understorey bamboo) abundance. The results are important for understanding the foraging behaviour and the spatial distribution of giant pandas, as well as for evaluating and modelling giant panda habitat in order to guide decision making on giant panda conservation.
OUR COURSES
Over the years, ITC has developed a wide selection of courses in its degree, diploma and certificate programmes in geo-information science and earth observation. These courses are offered in the Netherlands, online and abroad by ITC itself or by ITC in collaboration with reputable qualified education organizations (joint courses). Our courses aim at providing in-depth study of a particular set of problems in developing countries and emerging economies. They attract young and mid-career professionals with an interest in development-related issues.

PROGRAMMES IN GEO-INFORMATION SCIENCE AND EARTH OBSERVATION:

Graduate programme (3½ to 4 years)
- Research leading to the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is pursued through registration in the ITC Graduate programme

Degree programmes
- Master of Science (MSc) degree programme (18 months)
- Master degree programme (12 months)

Diploma programmes
- Postgraduate diploma programme (PGD) (9 months)
- Undergraduate diploma programme (9 months)

Certificate programmes
- Certificate course programme and individual modules (3 weeks to 3 months)
- Distance education programme (6 weeks)
- Refresher programme (2 weeks)

Eight courses are offered in the degree and diploma programmes in Geo-information Science and Earth Observation:
- Applied Earth Sciences (MSc, PGD)
- Environmental Modelling and Management (MSc)
- Geoinformatics (MSc, Master, PGD, Undergraduate diploma)
- Governance and Spatial Information Management (MSc)
- Land Administration (MSc, PGD)
- Natural Resources Management (MSc, PGD)
- Urban Planning and Management (MSc, PGD)
- Water Resources and Environmental Management (MSc, PGD)

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE
The majority of the programmes are modular in structure, facilitating a multi-disciplinary approach to problem solving for development purposes, and considerable emphasis is placed on remote sensing and GIS. A module deals with one subject or related subjects and lasts for three weeks. Modules are grouped together in blocks that form a coherent part of the course.

EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS
To address the increasing demand for flexibility in education, ITC has entered into partnerships with reputable organizations and universities in different countries. Current partnerships have been expanded and intensified within the Netherlands, within Europe (Sweden, the UK and Poland) and within other continents. Part or all of an education course accredited by ITC is conducted by these organizations. In this way, the ITC education programme contributes to human resources development within production organizations and education and academic institutes. Outside Europe, joint education programmes have already been implemented in Bolivia, China, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Vietnam. For more information about education at ITC, visit www.itc.nl/study.

STUDENT STATISTICS

<table>
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<td>Degree/diploma joint education</td>
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<td>123</td>
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<td>Contract education on site / refresher courses</td>
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<td>834</td>
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<td>Total newly registered</td>
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<td>1725</td>
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DATA ON STUDENT NUMBERS

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<td>ITC degrees/diplomas/certificates awarded</td>
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<td>Registrants for the Graduate programme</td>
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<td>114</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>151</td>
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FINANCING

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<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NFP fellowships</td>
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<td>168</td>
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<td>295</td>
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<tr>
<td>DGIS project fellowships</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multilateral and national organizations</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students financed from other sources*)</td>
<td>1140</td>
<td>1536</td>
<td>1332</td>
<td>1519</td>
<td>1014</td>
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</table>

*) This includes students financed by their own government, university or employer or by ITC.
OUR STUDENTS
More than 20,000 students from over 175 countries have completed ITC courses since 1950. The origins and backgrounds of ITC course participants have a significant influence on the educational processes. The majority of these participants are professionals in their respective fields, with prior academic training and (often) professional experience.

STUDY TRIPS
Excursions form an integral part of some teaching modules and provide participants with the opportunity to see relevant applications in the Netherlands, to be instructed in (ground) data acquisition, and to visit companies or government offices involved in geo-information and earth observation.

IT IS A WELL-KNOWN INSTITUTE AND HAS GREAT CONTENT IN ITS DIFFERENT MASTER’S PROGRAMMES.

My name is Ivar Ledezma Casablanca and I come from Bolivia, a very beautiful country at the heart of South America. I graduated as a civil engineer in my home country. I have been working only a little in geoinformatics, which is a pity because it is a field that I find incredibly interesting. Many years ago, I realized that some topics from the geosciences were not widely used in Bolivia, but then mostly by civil engineers. This motivated me to continue with an MSc programme in Geoinformatics. When it came to continuing my studies, my choice fell on ITC, because it is a well-known institute and has great content in its different degree programmes. I can say that this was the right decision and my expectations have been more than fulfilled. A unique characteristic of ITC is the fact that it attracts people from all around the world, and this makes your experiences highly enriching at different levels: technical, cultural and social. Another good characteristic is its location: Enschede, a relatively small city situated in the eastern part of the Netherlands. It is a very well planned city, with some really nice places to go to, such as parks, restaurants, discos, cafés, shops. These certainly make it a good place for students.

Finally, I would like to say that, if I were given the chance to do it all over again, I would definitely do so!

Ivar Ledezma Casablanca
MSc Graduate Geoinformatics

RECOGNITION OF DEGREES
Higher education in the Netherlands enjoys a worldwide reputation for high quality. This is achieved through a national system of regulation and quality assurance. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) is responsible for legislation pertaining to education. The Master and Master of Science degrees are formally recognized by the Ministry of OCW, based on accreditation of the programmes by the Netherlands-Flemish Accreditation Organization (NVAO), and are listed in the Central Register of Higher Education Programmes (CROHO).
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF THE CORE MISSION OF ITC

PROJECT SERVICES
ITC’s project services are geared to solving problems of developing countries and emerging economies. A second aim is the generation of income to help ITC in accomplishing its mission to support development. Project services are carried out in relation to all of ITC’s research themes (see section on research) and their main focus is capacity building and the development and application of new technology. To accommodate the rapidly changing demand for capacity building and institutional strengthening, ITC offers a flexible package of training and project services tailored to the needs of its clientele in terms of content, duration and location.

OUR EXPERTISE
ITC’s multidisciplinary and problem-oriented approach focuses on the use and provision of geo-information and earth observation.

TYPES OF SERVICES
The types of project services offered are:
- advisory services
- contract research and development
- institutional development
- contract training.

CLIENTS AND PARTNERS
Through its project activities, ITC actively contributes to implementing the goals and objectives formulated by all major multilateral and bilateral donor agencies (e.g. the UN Millennium Development Goals). Over the years, ITC has carried out assignments in Asia, Latin America, Africa, Europe and the Middle East. When it comes to executing large-scale projects, ITC is often part of a consortium of project partners. ITC maintains a network of partners with whom it regularly teams up to acquire and implement projects. ITC’s main clients are development cooperation agencies, multilateral organizations, international financing institutions, national and local governments, NGOs and private companies. For more information about project services at ITC, visit www.itc.nl/services.

A SELECTION OF ITC’S PROJECT PARTNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Partner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erasmus Mundus</td>
<td>University of Lund (Sweden), University of Southampton (UK), University of Warsaw (Poland) and University of Iceland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>DHV Consultancy and Engineering, Royal Haskoning, Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster), Delft University of Technology, University of Utrecht, Wageningen University and Research Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Centre for Environment, Agriculture and Development (CEAD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>International Water Management Institute (IWMI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS

CYCLING ACADEMIC NETWORK.
The Cycling Academic Network (CAN) was established to carry out research on themes that relate to cycling-inclusive city and transport planning, with a focus on cities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The research aims to contribute to development goals regarding poverty alleviation, emission reduction strategies, and sustainable spatial planning and design. The research network includes the University of Twente and universities in India, Brazil and South Africa. The specific goals of CAN are to:

• develop a research agenda
• provide applied and scientific state-of-the-art research
• act as an innovative and motivating research environment for young researchers
• contribute to capacity building through knowledge dissemination to practitioners.

TIGER CAPACITY BUILDING FACILITY
The TIGER Capacity Building Facility (TCBF) was established to support 20 African institutions in carrying out their TIGER research projects on earth observation applications for water management. After a successful first phase, the second phase (2009-2011) of the TIGER initiative was endorsed by the African Ministerial Council on Water. The TCBF is run by a consortium consisting of ITC (lead), Delft University of Technology, ISEGI-UNL and VITO. Furthermore, three African regional institutions are involved. The main objective of the TCBF is to provide supervision and training to the project holders. TCBF activities include:

• management, coordination and reporting
• supporting the TIGER regional offices
• delivering training sessions
• tailored capacity building activities
• communication and promotion
• resource mobilization.
After completing a study at ITC, students (now alumni) will leave with a degree, diploma or certificate, but also with something more – a thriving network of international contacts. The highly valued refresher courses that seek to update the knowledge and proficiency of alumni who graduated five or more years ago may also owe something of their popularity to the chance of renewing these contacts on a personal basis.

ITC alumni belong to a worldwide community of over 20,000 individuals, who together form an extensive network of international contacts, a network that includes UN organizations, universities, research groups, resources survey and mapping production services, and various international professional associations. There are many reasons for alumni to stay in touch with ITC and fellow alumni, and the opportunities to do so are many and various:

- ITC provides alumni with opportunities to expand their knowledge base and to access refresher courses and short tailor-made training
- Contact details of alumni can be found on the secure ITC website
- Social and business events are organized throughout the world
- In many countries there are ITC alumni associations that organize all kinds of professional and social activities
- Alumni have access to the ITC (digital) library and the services of the library staff
- Alumni accounts are free personal e-mail accounts offered by ITC for life. They serve as a means of facilitating communication between alumni and ITC.

For more information about the ITC alumni network, visit www.itc.nl/alumni.
STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS
1951 First certificate issued
1952 First diploma issued
1990 First PhD degree issued
1991 10,000th student registered
1996 1,000th MSc degree issued
2003 100th PhD graduate
2009 20,000th student registered

ORIGIN ITC STUDENTS
Since its foundation, more than 20,000 students from 175 countries have completed courses at ITC.
They are distributed among the continents as follows:
Europe: 3122
Asia: 8924
Africa: 6412
America: 2107
Australia & Oceania: 182
FACILITIES AT ITC

ACCOMMODATION
ITC provides accommodation in well-furnished rooms or apartments at the ITC International Hotel (IIH) as an integral component of a study at ITC. The hotel and its annexes are located in the centre of Enschede, close to the ITC main building and close to the railway station, shopping centre and market. For more information, visit www.itc.nl/iih.

MEALS
From Monday to Friday, a variety of moderately priced meals and snacks are available at lunchtime from the self-service restaurant on the ground floor of the ITC building. Course participants living in single rooms at the International Hotel can make use of common kitchens; those living in apartments have small individual kitchens (crockery, cutlery and kitchen utensils to be provided by the occupant).

STATE-OF-THE-ART COMPUTER FACILITIES
Computers play an essential role in ITC’s courses, and basic lessons are offered on computer skills. Most courses also include modules on GIS, remote sensing and modelling, where the use of computers is indispensable.
ITC’s high-speed network (wired and wireless) ensures that accessing the ITC network and internet is easy and convenient. The computer clusters have long opening hours to ensure facilities are available when most needed. All course participants are issued with their own lifelong @itc.nl e-mail account. To make the purchase of notebook computers easier and more affordable, ITC has introduced the ITC Notebook Programme. More information is available at www.itc.nl/study.

LIBRARY
The ITC faculty library is a scientific library that contributes to the effectiveness of the education provided and the research conducted at the Faculty ITC. The library helps students and staff to find relevant information as efficiently as possible and to present their expertise in the form of academic publications clearly displayed on the ITC library web pages. The scientific collection covers geo-information science and earth observation using remote sensing and GIS. The metadata of the collection are available through the catalogue, which is in the public domain. More information and the catalogue are available at www.itc.nl/library.

GEOSCIENCE LABORATORY
ITC has a number of in-house laboratory facilities to provide services in the fields of its educational programmes and MSc, PhD and staff research projects. These facilities are equipped with a wide range of instrumentation for IR spectrometric determinations, inorganic geochemical water and soil analysis and sample preparation. More information is available at www.itc.nl/Pub/GeoScience_Laboratory.html.
One of humankind’s greatest challenges is to achieve an appropriate balance between developing natural resources and maintaining an optimal natural environment. To meet this challenge, we need detailed and reliable geo-information and geo-information management tools.

At the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), knowledge of earth observation and geo-information management is not only readily available but is also being developed and extended. By means of education, research and project services, we contribute to capacity building in developing countries and emerging economies. These countries are often referred to as ODA (Official Development Assistance) countries, based on a statistic compiled by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development to measure aid. In doing so, considerable attention is paid to the development and application of geographical information systems (GIS) for solving real-world problems. Such problems can range from determining places at landslide risk, mapping forest fires and biodiversity, planning urban infrastructure, implementing land administration systems, monitoring and analysing food and water security, to designing a good wildlife management system or detecting environmental pollution.

The key words characterizing our activities are geo-information management, worldwide and innovative. We concentrate on earth observation, the generation of spatial information, and the development of data integration methods. Furthermore, we provide tools that can support the processes of planning and decision making for sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty in developing countries and emerging economies.