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introduction

What's the first thing that springs to mind when you think of the Netherlands? Dykes, windmills, tulips or perhaps even *Hollandse Nieuwe*, that typical Dutch delicacy usually accompanied by raw onions (many times a student has been caught on camera consuming this herring in traditional style at the market in Enschede). Well, perhaps not the first thing then, but surely the bicycle must feature on everyone's list. So the ideal country to engage in research on cycling-inclusive urban planning. Recently, ITC acquired a large project in this respect, which will involve working together with the Centre for Transport Studies of the University of Twente to coordinate the international Cycling Academic Network. If you turn to page 2, you can read all about this new venture.

Naturally, it won't have escaped your notice that the cooperative ties between ITC and the University of Twente are becoming increasingly closer. However, some joint initiatives date back quite a number of years. A case in point is the International Course on Rural Energy (see page 11), a short course that, while still being known as the ICREP, has taken many twists and turns throughout its history to reflect the changing needs of its participants and the world we live in. Since 2001, the course has focused on formulating proposals for clean development mechanisms - no doubt finding favour with the Cycling Academic Network. Next year the course celebrates its 25th anniversary, so it must be doing something right!

In April, three ITC staff members visited Uganda and Mozambique to learn about training requirements and explore the possibilities for collaboration in these countries (see page 24). With the help of ITC alumni, they were able to cover an intensive 10-day programme, and the benefits will be seen in follow-up activities and improved education. In the meantime, collaboration with the United Nations University continues to bear fruit (pages 18 and 20), while the Schokland Agreement (page 16) calls on Dutch society at large to cooperate in striving towards those formidable Millennium Development Goals. Time is pressing, and 2015 is creeping ever nearer.

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Transport Research at ITC: Cycling Academic Network Launched

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The urban infrastructure knowledge field of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-Information Management is concerned, among other things, with studying the application of geo-information in urban transport system planning and management. Non-motorised transport, particularly cycling, can play an important role in sustainable urban development.

Recently, ITC acquired a large project to conduct academic research into cycling-inclusive urban planning and, together with the Centre for Transport Studies of the University of Twente (UT), to coordinate the international Cycling Academic Network. Initially, the network will consist of the two Dutch partners and three Southern partners (i.e. IIT Delhi-TRIPP (Department of Transport Planning), India; the University of Cape Town (UCT, Department of Civil Engineering), South Africa; and Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (School of Engineering), Brazil), but it will soon be extended to include more university partners that are interested in research in this field.

The transport system in the Netherlands is renowned worldwide, thanks to the high proportion of bicycle transport (in Enschede about a 30% share of all journeys), its integrated bicycle-train transport system, and a cycling culture (independent of personal status) and awareness in civil and professional society. Developing and developed countries alike consider the Netherlands a role model for modernisation and sustainable development where the enormous demand for transport among urban populations can be mitigated without ever-increasing congestion and pollution. It holds out a promise of urban and economic quality, with controlled use of public space and investments, as well as the prospect of reducing the greenhouse emissions, accidents and health impacts caused by motorised transport. Based on this argument, the Utrecht-based NGO Interface for Cycling Expertise (I-ce) was founded in 1996 as an interface between the interna-



tional demand for cycling expertise and the cycling practice rooted in Dutch society. Having acquired a large project funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I-ce has requested ITC and the UT to set up and coordinate the Cycling Academic Network as part of the project.

Bicycle Partnership Programme

The Bicycle Partnership Programme supports cities and civil society organisations in Africa, Latin America and Asia in their ambition to establish cycling-inclusive city and transport planning, e.g. to assist:

- cities in the cycling-inclusive planning and design of infrastructure and facilities
- civil society organisations in their stakeholder role and in project execution.

The four-year Bicycle Partnership Programme will run until 2010, and will play a part in the three intervention strategies for development cooperation in the Netherlands: (i) society building, (ii) policy influence and (iii)

direct poverty alleviation. Society building consists of capacity building and a concerted effort of all relevant actors to ensure quality investments in affordable and sustainable transport. Policy influence concerns the acknowledgement of the benefits of cycling and the need for cycling-inclusive planning in order to achieve economic, social and ecological aims. The contribution of the programme to direct poverty alleviation stems from the premise that increased bicycle usage increases opportunities for income generation and participation in education and social life, accessibility of services (e.g. healthcare services), and other chances to increase the quality of life.

Within the framework of the Bicycle Partnership Programme and the intervention strategies of Dutch development cooperation, the Cycling Academic Network will synthesise, further develop, and disseminate knowledge on the role of cycling in sustainable urban development.

Cycling as an opportunity for income generation (Tanga, Tanzania)



Cycling Academic Network (CAN)

The overall aim of the Bicycle Partnership Programme is to contribute to mobility opportunities for all people, reduce the negative impact of the traffic system on health and the environment, and enhance the sustainable development of cities. CAN has been established within this context and will focus on non-motorised transport systems in integration with sustainable urban transport development. This network will act as an innovative and motivating research environment for young researchers, and will contribute to:

- developing a research agenda
- knowledge acquisition based on the scientific generalisation of best practices
- providing state-of-the-art applied and scientific research
- capacity building through knowledge dissemination to practitioners
- setting up an e-learning knowledge base by developing course material.

To effectuate the research component, a Young Researcher Programme has been initiated in which six PhD studies will be carried out with CAN partners in Brazil, South Africa and India in relation to the following themes:

- identification of cycling demand needs, behaviour and potential
- impact assessment of travel demand management related to cycling
- contribution of cycling to poverty alleviation and social inclusion
- interaction between urban form, transport networks and cycling
- establishment of a pro-cycling argument related to environmental and safety factors
- cycling-inclusive methods and processes
- design of cycling facilities
- vision on sustainable cities and the role of cycling.

All PhD studies will be conducted partly in Enschede (through UT/ITC collaboration), with the Netherlands functioning as a cycling laboratory and, as such, being the perfect place for North-South and South-South knowledge exchange.

In a sequence of scientific workshops, publications and training sessions, research results

will be disseminated and peers invited to help in further developing cycling research as a discipline within urban planning and management, and transport planning.

The CAN agreement was signed by I-ce, ITC and UT representatives in a ceremony held at ITC on 19 June, which was attended by delegations from Brazil and Botswana.



Left to right: Ir Jaap Rijnsburger and Drs Roelof Wittink (directors I-ce), Professor Martien Molenaar (rector ITC) and Professor Eising (dean UT faculty of Engineering Technology) signing the CAN agreement



Transport planning should include cycling among the various modes (Ahmedabad, India)



Meeting at the University of Cape Town in February to discuss CAN inception top, left to right: Professor Toni Lindau (UFRGS, Brazil), Dr Mark Zuidgeest and Ir Mark Brussel (ITC), Dr Marianne Vanderschuren and Dr Roger Behrens (UCT); bottom, left to right: Professor Geetam Tiwari (IIT, Delhi), Ir Tom Godefrooij (I-ce), CAN chairman Professor Martin van Maarseveen (UT) and I-ce director Drs Roelof Wittink

5th International Symposium for Spatial Data Quality

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From 13 to 15 June 2007, we organised the 5th International Symposium for Spatial Data Quality at the ITC building in Enschede. It was organised jointly with ISPRS Commission II, Working Group 7, and was attended by more than 120 participants.

They came from 28 countries, spanning all of the five continents. The symposium brought together experts from around the world to present the latest developments in quantitative and qualitative approaches and information theory concerning spatial data quality. There were five main themes: geo-information theory, spatial statistics, applications, quality in geo-information acquisition, and dissemination/fitness for use. Each session was opened and closed by a keynote speaker who was a leading scientist in the field.

At the opening plenary session, Professor Martin Hale, vice-rector of ITC, Professor Wolfgang Kainz, president of ISPRS Technical Commission II, and Professor Alfred Stein, symposium chair, welcomed the participants. The vice-rector emphasised the long tradition of ITC (including its truly international nature) in the field of geo-information science and earth observation, while the other speakers underlined the collaboration between the two bodies ISPRS and ITC.

The opening keynote speaker, Professor Lotfi Zadeh from UC Berkeley, USA, gave an exceptional address under the title "Granular computing: computing with uncertain, im-

precise and partially true data," which provoked many stimulating discussions among participants during the symposium. It was exceptional in the sense that it reflected 50 years of scientific work, introduced many new elements, and was delivered in an extremely transparent and accessible way.

The technical committee of the symposium had reviewed and selected the oral and poster papers from full papers previously submitted. Owing to the number of high-quality contributions, parallel sessions were organised. On the first day of the symposium, two parallel sessions were organised: on geo-information theory and spatial statistics. In order to discuss the subjects relating to geo-information theory and spatial statistics in greater detail, the same parallel session structure was followed after the keynote speech by Professor Shi from Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Professor Shi emphasised the importance of data quality in space and time and presented developments and trends in this field. Eight oral papers were presented in the geo-information theory session. Speakers mainly discussed the necessity of uncertainty determination and propagation in application areas such as infrastructural development, seismic assessments and 3D city models. The parallel session on spatial statistics presented new geostatistical approaches and their applications in varying fields. Potential usage of geostatistics in image classification was discussed, with results showing that performance and accuracy are increased. Geostatistical methods have been tested on applications in such fields as cadastre, air quality and mobile radioactivity monitoring networks, and the results were discussed.



Professor Lotfi Zadeh and conference chair Professor Alfred Stein during the opening hour of the symposium

The poster session included more than 30 posters and attracted many participants. The posters were evaluated by the scientific committee on the basis of scientific content and presentation, and Ms Yan Gao from the Geography Institute of Mexico received the award for best poster during the closing ceremony.



Professor Alfred Stein presenting the best poster award to Ms Yan Gao from Mexico for her poster on optimised image segmentation and its effect on classification accuracy

The third keynote speech was given by Dr Gerard Heuvelink from Wageningen University and Research Centre, the Netherlands. It was on the data uncertainty engine in real-world applications, namely spatial planning and water basin management. Four other parallel sessions were held: on geo-information theory, applications, spatial statistics, and quality in geo-information acquisition. The spatial quality of remotely sensed data is the main focus of several applications, and the logical consistency of spatio-temporal objects and relations was discussed in several studies, with possible solutions being presented.

The fourth keynote speech was given by Professor Wolfgang Förstner and covered challenges in modelling uncertainty of GIS data. Three parallel sessions were held: on applications, dissemination/fitness for use, and quality in geo-information acquisition. The same parallel session structure was followed afterwards.

Professor Michael Goodchild from the University of California, USA, gave the closing keynote speech. He described the challenges in spatial data quality, specifically in metadata. Emphasis was laid on the forthcoming user-centric, rather than producer-centric, description of data quality. The research and progress over the last decade in



Conference delegate Valentyn Tolpekin from ITC during one of the parallel sessions

spatial data quality were briefly described, with the problem of research moving beyond the standards being introduced and discussed.

The symposium was an interesting opportunity for both leading international scientists and young researchers to learn from one another. As one delegate put it: "Apparently the field of spatial data quality has come to maturity, and the conference as now organised can compete with the main geo-informatics conferences in the field." This highly condensed scientific programme was combined with a social outing organised by Dr Wietske Bijker and Ms Saskia Tempelman. During the visit to Ootmarsum and the conference dinner at De Watermolen, participants took the opportunity to build new networks and strengthen existing ones.

Proceedings of the meeting are available on CD, and will soon be published in hardcopy. Selected papers will also be published in a book (CRC Press) in order to share the gained experiences with all those interested in the field of spatial data quality but unable to be present.



Keynote speaker Professor Michael Goodchild taking a break in front of the ITC building

education news

'Participatory GIS for Effective Land Management under Transitional Conditions' A Short Course in South Africa

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The Centre for Environment, Agriculture and Development (CEAD) at the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN) in Pietermaritzburg and ITC in Enschede Netherlands, have recently collaborated in a two week short course in "Participatory GIS for Effective Land Management under Transitional Conditions" in July 2007.

The joint coordinators were Denis Rugege (ITC PhD alumnus) of CEAD and Michael McCall and Jeroen Verplanke of ITC. Twenty five participants from Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania Kenya, and Uganda, as well as South Africa attended the course held at UKZN. The majority were graduate alumni of ITC where they took Masters or PhD degrees sometime in the past 10 years with fellowships from the Netherlands Government under NUFFIC. They came from a range of government and Local Authority departments, NGOs, and the private sector. The South African participants were from municipalities in KwaZulu Natal (KZN) and research students at UKZN.

Their mutual interest was in participatory use of geospatial information with local people addressing problems of land allocation and land management where the land tenure regimes are in process of changing. In many southern and eastern African countries there are ongoing programmes and processes of land tenure reform and/or land redistribution. In South Africa this includes the Communal Land Rights Act of July 2004 (CLARA) on the claiming and legitimisation of communal land rights,

and the Extension of Security of Tenure Act on the land rights of farm workers in commercial farming areas. Geo-spatial information about boundaries and competing land claims is clearly vital to these programmes of changing land ownership. Moreover most of the programmes, in South Africa and elsewhere, have some requirements towards sustainable land management and improved land planning which will need reliable and acceptable geographical information.

Participatory GIS (PGIS) is special because it is intended to respect the importance and special qualities of the community's local spatial knowledge about livelihoods, farming systems, land resources, and customary land claims and boundaries. PGIS includes information about local interests and priorities; it represents social communities, as well as individuals; it supports people's participation in information identification and selection; it contributes to capacity-building and empowerment; it elicits local (and indigenous) knowledge; and it has the potential to represent the mental or cognitive maps of people.

The course therefore began with basic revision in essential GI tools of GPS and mapping including GIS. Then it introduced the participants to new tools of 'mobile GIS' and 'participatory 3-D modelling' (P3DM). Mobile GIS combines GPS with a hand-held computer (PDA or iPaq) running a reduced version of the basic GIS programme, ArcGIS, via a Bluetooth connection. Mobile GIS

thus allows the local community to map their physical and socio-economic landscapes and to identify the boundaries on a more equal footing with spatial planners and surveyors. P3DM is the participatory construction and interpretation of large geo-referenced 3-D models of the landscape. P3DM provides a unique platform for people to discuss issues around land use and land tenure, literally creating different perspectives as people move around the large scale physical model and use the extra dimension of height.



Mobile GIS exercise

The course discussed the issues of changing land tenure in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The participants made country-specific presentations about land issues in their own countries. The South African contribution to this debate in the course came from a key Govt. of

South Africa policy advisor, Dr Siphosiphiso Sibanda, Chief Director, Policy Legislation Development, Dept. of Land Affairs, as well as staff from UKZN.

An eye-opening field work was taken in Empandwini community in the Umbumbulu area nearby Pietermaritzburg to participate with community members engaged in working on an Integrated Land Management plan. The specific interest of many farmers there is in expanding sugar cane production. The task for the course participants was given as: "The Farmers' organisation of Empandwini community has identified sugar cane growing as one of their priorities for community economic development. It is important to know which areas are suitable for growing cane and which areas are considered not suitable. Different groups and individuals have different views about these locations, and different criteria – social, economic and cultural, as well as agro-ecological - by which they choose the locations."

The community requested the course participants to work with them in constructing parts of a P3DM. People's local knowledge of the area and of land suitabilities for cane-growing, and the socio-cultural and institutional constraints were elicited from participatory work with enlarged aerial photographs and conventional maps, and with cognitive sketch maps. These techniques



Showing the boundaries



Group photo

brought out concerns over converting communal grazing lands into private cane fields, and the limits to economic field sizes, as well as local knowledge of soils and flood hazards. The people engaged included farmer organisation leaders, women farmers, youths, and technicians. And for the course participants, a highlight was the wonderfully energetic and musical display of a Zulu *ngoma* which the community generously gave us. The conclusion of 'our' PGIS in Empandwini was a feedback discussion with the community about the course participants' analysis of the spatial situation and further proposals.

UKZN-ITC's short course combined theory and practice, both of the core issues of land tenure issues, especially where customary common property land are being revised or reformed, in half a dozen Southern and Eastern African countries; and also combined the methodology and implementation of the geospatial tools which reinforce the use of local spatial knowledge for the benefit of the community, whilst meeting scientific criteria for geo-location.

Geospatial Information, Governance, Participatory Management, and PGIS

The UKZN course is the most recent example of on-going developments in PGIS and participatory mapping at ITC, mainly from the PGM Department; additionally the NRS, GIP, and ESA departments also work with aspects of PGIS. PGIS is a logical development within ITC, given the core mission of handling geospatial information within a development context, especially in the current imperative of responding to governance issues and strengthening good governance. An essential component of good governance is the participation of people at many levels and in many aspects of planning, policy advisory and decision-making in the good management and use of space. Participation itself is a contested term, with different interpretations, but its core elements of involvement, legitimacy, accountability, and mutual respect are widely accepted. These are all essential elements in PGIS which is an emergent practice in participatory spatial planning and management. PGIS therefore encompasses the processes of participation of various stakeholders and actors in the acquisition, interpretation, analysis, applications, and ownership questions of geospatial information. PGIS deals with the actual spatial information

techniques, tools, products and outputs which are appropriate to a participatory approach and for use by 'non-professionals'. Using such appropriate technologies also empowers disadvantaged peoples by developing their digital capacities.

PGIS is made distinct and adds value to standard GIS because: it includes information about local interests and priorities; in particular it elicits local (and indigenous) knowledge; it can represent social communities as well as individuals; it involves multiple processes of people's participation in information identification; it contributes to capacity-building of groups involved in PGIS processes; and it has potential to represent cognitive maps of people (including the cultural and spiritual relationships between people and their landscapes, especially important amongst indigenous peoples).

PGIS Applications and Tools

There is rapidly-growing worldwide interest in PGIS topics. An on-going survey of applications finds over 1,500 examples of PGIS activities whose deep goals are to enable and empower communities in developing countries or amongst indigenous peoples. These PGIS applications promote practices towards the effective involvement of local people in the identification, acquisition, analysis, representation, security, and communication of their spatial knowledge

and values. They are deeply rooted in participatory politics, principles and practice, and they place high value on local or indigenous knowledge. They utilise methods of image interpretation, computerized mapping, spatial analysis and locational technologies, to varying degrees in a participatory manner to complement the traditional PRA spatial tools of sketch maps and aerial photos.

The major applications, to date more commonly rural than urban, have been for putting forward legal land and resource claims, for community natural resource management including ecological conservation issues, for rural or urban community-building and protection, for analysing environmental and spatial equity, for community disaster risk management, for conflict analysis and management, for awareness and preservation of cultural heritage, and towards community empowerment. Some typical examples of community PGIS are: Brazilian Indians using Google Earth to monitor the appearance of new gold mines; Maori communities designing a GIS to preserve secret knowledge for intergenerational transfer; village forest groups in the Himalayas using GPS and PDAs to map biomass stocks to market carbon credits under the Kyoto Protocol; forest-dwellers in the Philippines constructing P3D models to manage conflicts between villages and National Parks. In Cambodia, local

farmers work with NGOs to recognise and map landmine hazard areas. Children in India map and investigate environmental hazards in their neighbourhoods. The Coast Salish people in Canada and indigenous forest-dwellers in the Philippines and Kenya use mapping technologies to claim rights for their traditional lands and resources.

PGIS is a development out of Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) and Participatory Learning & Action (PLA), therefore with participation and inclusivity as the first and last component of the methodology. Thus PGIS applies a variety of information acquisition, analysis and synthesis tools according to their utility and sustainability for specific local needs. These include the common PLA tools of open-ended interviews, discussion groups, community and cognitive sketch maps. But PGIS has introduced digital tools: participatory use of GPS, mobile GIS, participatory aerial photo or satellite image interpretation, anaglyphs, and P3DM. PGIS also works in appropriate visualisation graphics to better represent local interests and mental map configurations of resource knowledge, dynamic GIS for representing process, and hyper-linking to photos, narratives and sounds, to reflect the multiple dimensions of cognitive space.

PGIS in ITC

PGIS has been developing at ITC for 5 years or so. It received a boost with the GISDECO Conference on 'Governance and the Use of GIS in Developing Countries' held at ITC in Enschede in 2002, with a follow-up GISDECO Conference in Johor in 2004. A significant activity was major support and involvement in the 'Mapping for Change' conference on PGIS and PMapping in Nairobi in September 2005, where ITC linked with the main sponsor, CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation) and IIED, London. The Conference was the largest PGIS



Aerial photo mapping with community



Constructing the 3D model



Building a 3D model

meeting and the first in a South country, bringing together nearly 200 participants from all parts of the world, including representatives of indigenous nations in North America. It resulted in influential publications translated into 12 languages, an extensive ongoing accessible bibliography, and a dynamic on-line discussion group <http://www.iapad.org/ppgis/>. There is now a parallel discussion group operating in Spanish.

ITC is engaged in training, research and advisory services in PGIS and participatory mapping as the key approach and significant methodology and tools in participatory spatial planning. Activities include short courses in ITC and other countries, research into tools and applications and theoretical issues, and publications output.

Only one PhD to date at ITC, that of Peter Minang 2007, has researched into PGIS, but there are others in the pipeline. A dozen or so MSc theses, and also IFA topics, have focused on PGIS tools and/or approaches, and ITC has generated a good number of scientific and professional publications in PGIS.

Apart from Elective courses at ITC over the past five years, ITC has collaborated with partners in Refreshers and Short Courses in PGIS applications to: local spatial planning, NRM, community carbon forestry, urban community planning, resource entitlements and land management, and community disaster risk preparedness and management; as well as specific training in mobile GIS and participatory mapping techniques. These courses have been given in México, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Senegal, Colombia, and Uttaranchal, India, and are proposed for Thailand, Zimbabwe and Latin America. Partners in these courses have included universities in these countries, international training institutes and local consultancies.

The PGIS field links the PGM department to other departments in ITC and to key universities and institutions in Netherlands and globally, including to CTA, Wageningen, IAPAD, Philippines <http://www.iapad.org>, ERMIS-Africa, Kenya, and UKZN South Africa.

Where next with PGIS?

In the field of PGIS developments in general, and in ITC in particular, there are exciting research issues, made more complex and challenging by the inseparability of theory and practice in participatory research topics. These include: Investigating the ontologies of spatial knowledge in cog-



Community member explaining the 3D model

nitive maps, and especially of local or indigenous spatial knowledge; Handling the complex ethical issues of participation in spatial planning through PGIS; Designing institutional structures for PGIS in planning to make it more institutionally sustainable, yet still close to the community; Testing and developing an array of new technologies including mobile GIS with Tablet PCs, dynamic GIS, multi-media, full-scale displays (e.g. MapTalk), Developing visualisation software which is appropriate to the user-specificity, and ambiguity and inherent uncertainty in cognitive maps; and finally Evaluating the effectiveness of further applications of PGIS, such as in resource claims, NRM, disaster risk management, urban neighbourhood spatial management, and to 'counter mapping' with children.

For more information:
<http://itc.pgis.googlepages.com/home>



The community made 3D model

Short Course on Developing and Writing Proposals for CDM Projects under the Kyoto Protocol for Developing Countries

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At the beginning of March, energy experts from all over the world came to ITC for five weeks to participate in the annual short course **Formulating Proposals for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Projects**, which is organised by ITC's Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-information Management and the Technology and Sustainable Development (TSD) section of the Center for Clean Technology and Environmental Policy, University of Twente (UT).

This course is one of the oldest joint initiatives of ITC and the UT. It was held for the first time in 1983 and since then has evolved in response to changing circumstances. Energy has always been the core focus and the course is still known by its original acronym: ICREP (International Course on Rural Energy Planning). In the beginning, the course ran for nine weeks and took as its main theme rural energy and environmental planning. At that time, ITC had an MSc specialisation in Rural Energy and Development with a shared professor from UT which produced 30-40 graduates. In the early 80s, renewable energy technologies were starting to emerge as a serious alternative to fossil fuels, but the technologies were virtually unknown in developing countries, so there was a high demand from government and NGO professionals to learn more about the options. Not only did the course participants want to know the advantages and disadvantages of different renewables, but they also wanted to know how to assess the resources and the social, economic and environmental impacts. The remote sensing and GIS skills for land use planning and biomass assessment

and knowledge about environmental impact assessment (a topic also in its infancy in those days) were particular strengths of ITC, while TSD provided inputs on a range of topics, including project planning, criteria for technological assessment, and dissemination of technologies.

It is not surprising that over 20 years the training requirements of the target audience have changed. There is a lot more experience with renewable energy technologies, and so there are new demands emerging to meet changing circumstances. Energy sector liberalisation was very much the topic of the 90s, so the ICREP took as its focus rural electrification. More recently, climate change has globally come to the forefront, politically and scientifically, and thus both the UT and ITC are currently developing their research and training capacities in global climate change issues.

TSD has an extensive six year 'climate change' research project contracted by DGIS. TSD's main partner in the Netherlands in this project is ITC, together with university and NGO partners in Tanzania, Nepal (ICIMOD), India, Senegal (ENDA), Mali and Guinea Bissau. The research, training and policy advice activities are aimed at developing carbon sequestration finance opportunities for local forest communities under the Kyoto Protocol and other carbon modalities. Developing countries lack sufficient capacity to deal with the opportunities the Kyoto protocol offers, particularly in terms of CDM finance. A major challenge is training in proposal writing - not so much in terms of project ideas for funding but rather in terms of formulating such ideas in the manner required the

CDM. So since 2001, the course has focused on formulating proposals for CDM finance. This new topic also brought another change in its wake. ITC and TSD teamed up with the UNEP Risø Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development to offer the course. UNEP Risø at Roskilde in Denmark supports UNEP in its aim to incorporate environmental aspects into energy planning and policy worldwide, with a special emphasis on assisting developing countries. UNEP Risø's mission includes developing institutional and human capabilities required to formulate and implement CDM projects, so joining forces with the Enschede team makes good sense.

This year, 16 course participants from 10 different countries came to Enschede to learn about the causes and effects of climate change, current international policy concerning climate change, possible solutions to combat climate change, funding regulations related to CDM, project formulation for CDM projects, calculating the possible CO₂ savings of a project, and general aspects of proposal writing. After these sessions given by TSD, UNEP Risø and ITC staff, and from a wide range of visiting lecturers from key institutions in the Netherlands and abroad, the participants had the task of writing their own CDM proposal with feedback from course staff and fellow-participants.

The background of the participants has changed. There has been a growth in the private sector, with small local companies springing up, so there are also representatives of the private sector among the participants. The ICREP therefore deals with

the involvement of both the public and the private sectors in energy, environmental and climate change projects.

The length of the course has also changed. Employers are more reluctant to release staff for long periods, and funding agencies are not always willing to pay for more than two months of training in the Netherlands. Therefore ICREP has now been reduced to five weeks. This makes for very intensive training and the course organisers work at making the programme as varied and interesting as possible with field visits and social activities. These short course participants have always appreciated the working facilities offered in the ITC building, and especially the social and cultural opportunities of mixing with compatriots and dozens of other nationalities in the ITC 'family' in the ITC International Hotel (IIH), something they would miss if staying on the UT campus.

A new feature this year was the "Twente Protocol". Here, the participants took part in a role-playing exercise where they were required to negotiate new agreements on CDM. This exercise was acted out in a very competitive manner, but at the same time it was a lot of fun to have a participant from China playing the part of the delegate from the USA and someone from India playing the delegate from a small Pacific island. Nevertheless, not only are there serious learning objectives about understanding the other point of view, the exercise also reveals just how difficult it is to get a consensus – even when it is only for "fun"!

The training ITC and the UT offer is valued by the participants. Many recommend colleagues for the training, and the two institutions have built up strong relationships with a number of organisations over the years. For example, Mr Henagge Sunil Somathilaka was visiting Enschede for the second

time. Mr Somathilaka lives in Ratnapura, Sri Lanka, where he works as a chief engineer for the Ceylon Electricity Board. His research interests in energy and water are carried out in cooperation with the International Water Management Institute in Sri Lanka. Mr Somathilaka was particularly interested in this course because, within the Ceylon Electricity Board, at the Samanalawewa Power Station where he works, there are many opportunities for CDM projects, such as mini hydro projects, water diversion to the Samanalawewa reservoir, reduction in irrigation releases from the dam, and watershed management projects. His employers were so pleased with the outcome of the training he received during another short course offered by TSD and that they were prepared to release him again to come to Europe, and to send other staff members.

Another course participant, Ms Robinah Nanyunja, is a project supervisor for Pilot International and for Save Our Planet Earth in Kampala, Uganda. This was her first visit to the Netherlands and she made an important sacrifice to attend the course – she had to leave behind her two-year-old son.

Ms Nanyunja explains why she was prepared to make that sacrifice: "My goal is to improve my skills in proposal writing, especially for fundable CDM proposals. I hope to improve the contribution of my organisation to sustainable development, as well as to the field of environment, energy and climate change in Uganda. The training course is necessary because there are still very few countries that attempt CDM projects. Potential investors for these kinds of projects are hard to find. When I return to Uganda, I intend to train my research assistants and community development officers so they can improve their skills in proposal writing as well."

Participants are generally impressed by the amount of attention given to energy management and the environment in the Netherlands. Ms Nanyunja describes the situation in Uganda: "At the moment it seems that only the people who have studied the environment care about it. However, it is becoming more important in our country. A positive development is that our children are learning at school to be more conservative towards the environment." Mr Somathilaka justifies the relative lack of attention shown in Sri Lanka:



Short course participants hailing from India, Indonesia, Rwanda, Ghana, Uganda, Sri Lanka, China, Colombia, Tanzania and Kenya, including Mr Somathilaka (front row on the stairs, fourth from top), Ms Nanyunja (standing below at the back, fourth from left), and course director Joy Clancy (front row on the stairs, second from top). (Photo: Arjan Reef)

"In developing countries there is more attention to economic and political issues. In underdeveloped countries we still have to deal with corruption, hunger and poverty. People who have to cope with these issues survive by the day; they cannot afford to use their energy to think about the future."

The ICREP has been running for more than 20 years now, and an extensive alumni network has been built up. The network ensures that there continues to be a steady flow of participants for the course, and also that other opportunities develop. For example, TSD has submitted a research

proposal on Jatropha as a diesel fuel substitute with the Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organisation TATEDO, the director of which participated in the ICREP in 1985 and continues to send staff members. Next year, there is the possibility of giving a refresher course in Nepal for alumni from Asia, and a special joint course of ITC and TSD is under consideration with ITC's partner institutes in Bolivia.

Next year is an important year for the ICREP: 2008 marks its 25th anniversary and special celebrations are planned. During the course, the intention is to invite back a number of ICREP alumni to give lectures; one

alumnus from the World Bank has already agreed. On 10 April, a special seminar will be held by UT and ITC which will look at how capacity building in the energy sector has changed over the 25 years and how ITC and TSD can continue to work together in the future. There will be debates on climate change and biofuels to profile the expertise of the two institutions with regard to current issues. We hope to see more of you there!

Erasmus Mundus: External Cooperation Window for Iran, Iraq and Yemen

Ali Abkar

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The European Union (EU) has launched a scheme that provides 110 scholarships for students and nine for academic staff from Iran, Iraq and Yemen to study at European higher education institutions, as well as nine scholarships for EU nationals to study at partner universities in these three countries.

The EU's new Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window offers more than 1,300 scholarships to Russia, Central Asia, Iran, Iraq and Yemen for purposes of studying, training or carrying out research abroad in the academic year of 2007-2008. The scholarships are targeted at undergraduate, master's, doctorate and post-doctoral levels, as well as at the exchange of academic staff for teaching, training and research purposes.

ITC is coordinating this special Erasmus Window programme for the implementation of the 119 scholar-



EM7: ITC has formed a partnership of 10 European universities (holding an Erasmus Charter) located in 10 different European countries and 10 universities located in Iran, Iraq and Yemen (and associations and networks of universities)

ships (Euro 3 million). ITC has formed a partnership of 10 European universities (holding an Erasmus Charter) located in 10 different European countries and 10 universities located in Iran, Iraq and Yemen (and associations and networks of universities). A list of the partner institutions is given below.

Consequently, students or scholars from Iran, Iraq and Yemen can now apply via the website <http://www.erasmusmundus7.net/> and choose from a wide variety of academic fields. They have the choice of a number of study levels, as well as the option to study at 10 leading European Universities. The programme will finance mobility expenses (i.e., travel costs, subsistence allowances, tuition fees, and insurance costs).

For more information:
<http://www.erasmusmundus7.net>

	Organisation	Country
Coordinator	International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)	Netherlands
Partner 1	University of Bordeaux I	France
Partner 2	Free University of Berlin	Germany
Partner 3	University of Warsaw	Poland
Partner 4	University of Algarve	Portugal
Partner 5	University of Deusto	Spain
Partner 6	Lund University	Sweden
Partner 7	Erasmus University of Rotterdam	Netherlands
Partner 8	Middle East Technical University	Turkey
Partner 9	University of Southampton	United Kingdom
Partner 10	University of Dohuk	Iraq
Partner 11	IBB University	Yemen
Partner 12	Sana'a University	Yemen
Partner 13	Thamar University	Yemen
Partner 14	University of Tehran	Iran
Partner 15	Shahid Beheshti University	Iran
Partner 16	Islamic Azad University	Iran
Partner 17	Shiraz University	Iran
Partner 18	Ferdowsi University of Mashad	Iran
Partner 19	Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz	Iran
Associate 1	Dutch Council for Refugees	Netherlands
Associate 2	Scholarship Department and Overseas Students Affairs, Ministry of Science, Research and Technology	Iran
Associate 3	Agricultural Research and Education Organisation	Iran
Associate 4	Water Research Institute	Iran
Associate 5	Iranian Hydraulic Association	Iran
Associate 6	Water and Watershed Management Research Company	Iran
Associate 7	Yemen Remote Sensing and GIS Center	Yemen
Associate 8	University of Science and Technology	Yemen
Associate 9	University of Mosul	Iraq
Associate 10	University of Salahaddin	Iraq

Brief description of the Erasmus Mundus Lot 7 (EM7) programme

Title	Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window for Iran, Iraq and Yemen (EM7)	
Countries targeted	Europe: France, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Turkey Lot 7 Countries (L7C): Iran, Iraq, Yemen	
Number of scholarships	119	
Type of scholarship	Undergraduate, master's, doctorate, post-doctorate, teaching staff	
Website and application form	http://www.erasmusmundus7.net/	
Application deadline	1 October 2007	
Expected results	L7C-to-EU scholarships: 110	EU-to-L7C scholarships: 9
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching staff: 11 • Post-doc: 19 • Students: 80 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching staff: 5 • Students: 4
	Scholarships for ITC: 26	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iran: 15 • Iraq: 5 • Yemen: 6 	

research news

Workshop GeoG2G Project

Walter de Vries

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On 28 June 2007, 15 professionals and academics gathered for a workshop organised in the context of the GeoG2G research project. This research project, funded by the Netherlands programme *Ruimte voor Geoinformatie*, looks at the role of geo-information within public sector cooperation and public governance in the Netherlands. It is using four cases in the Netherlands where geo-information exchange is at the core of a public sector cooperation agreement.

The workshop objectives included:

- exploring the experiences of professionals dealing with public geo-information exchange
- testing theory with practice
- creating a pool of professionals involved in this field.

The workshop included a presentation by Professor Victor Bekkers from the Centre of Public Innovation at the University of Rotterdam. He argued that there are often conflicting motives and agreements underlying the practice of public sector cooperation, each with its own emphasis:

- political-administrative agreements focus on the autonomy of organisations
- information-technical agreements focus on the quality and type of information and data exchange
- financial-economic agreements focus on initial investments and tariff structures.

Often, successful public contracts on information exchange are based on a transparent, yet minimalist, set of agreements on information types and standards. At the operational level, it

is important that each partner in any cooperation agreement remains autonomous in their operational decisions, and that the relationship remains based on different rationalities. There is, however, an important role for people such as information managers, who are able to link these different rationalities.

The presentation was followed by two discussion sessions based on a number of propositions. Among the important findings were the following:

- Technology is not the main driver of cooperation in the public sector, even though technological differences between organisations may give rise to the initiation of cooperation.
- Autonomy of organisations and improvement in internal performance indicators seem to have a significant influence on information exchange contracts.

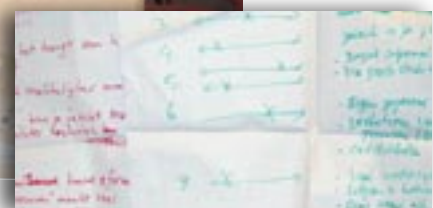
- The degree of societal relevance and adoption by society is a major condition for successful public information exchange programmes.
- Efficiency plays a major role in choosing GeolCT in the public sector, although often it is not known to what extent efficiency is improved by the use of GeolCT.
- Public collaboration in GeolCT projects seems similar to other public cooperation in ICT, yet there are often technical, professional and cost implications that seem to be of a specific nature.

The GeoG2G project will use the results of this workshop to further review the four cases. In addition, the results are expected to be tested internationally.

Further information on this project is available from Walter de Vries (devries@itc.nl).



The workshop participants



The GeoG2G project will use the workshop results to further review the four case

announcements

The Schokland Agreement

Janneke Kalf

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On 30 July 2007, Rector Martien Molenaar, on behalf of ITC, signed the Schokland Climate Agreement. Dutch companies, public organisations and knowledge institutes, as well as the Dutch Cabinet, recognise that the effects of climate change in developing countries are of personal concern and, in order to reach the Millennium Goals, are committing themselves to optimal cooperation to reduce the risks of climate change.

Schokland Agreement

On Schokland, Minister Koenders, together with Cabinet colleagues, requested Dutch society to help in reaching the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 (<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>). On the former island, companies, organisations, knowledge institutions and private parties signed the so-called "Schokland Agreement", in which they gave concrete shape to how, independently or jointly with others, they would bring attainment of one or more of the Millennium Development Goals closer. A large part of these agreements are the result of

consultations during the 100-day dialogue of the Cabinet, in which, besides several government members, some 350 representatives of companies, public organisations, churches, trade unions and knowledge institutes participated.

2015

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs organised the event. The Schokland Agreement originated from Project 2015, one of the 10 Cabinet-wide projects from the coalition agreement. Minister Koenders, acting on behalf of the Cabinet, was in charge of this project.

In 2000, 189 government leaders agreed to halve world poverty before 2015, and 30 June this year marked the halfway point in the timeframe for this international promise. They

established eight measurable (millennium development) goals, such as school for all girls and boys, access to clean drinking water, and reduction in the mortality of mothers and children. Each year progress is measured and reported internationally, and this shows that we are behind schedule. The Cabinet wishes to reduce the backlog and, with this in mind, is appealing to society.

Schokland

The choice of Schokland is not accidental. Schokland serves as a symbol for winning the battle against water, poverty and disease (Millennium Goals). Since reclamation of the Northeast Polder (1942), the former island in the Zuiderzee has been part of the mainland and is now on the UNESCO list of world heritage sites.



Workshop on Design Methods for Sustainable SDI 2007 (SDIDM'07)

12 September 2007 Kampala, Uganda

Just before the Second East Africa ESRI User Conference, ITC's research group on SDI Technology will be organizing a workshop under the title "Design Methods for sustainable SDI 2007". This half-day workshop will take place on 12 September 2007 in Kampala, Uganda.

For more information, see the workshop's website <http://www.itc.nl/sdidm07>

UN-Habitat Signs Agreement with ITC

Janneke Kalf

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UN-Habitat and the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) are clustering their knowledge in the field of urban development in developing countries. On 29 June, director of UN-Habitat Dr Anna Tibaijuka and ITC rector Professor Martien Molenaar signed an agreement relating to cooperation in the fields of capacity development, training and research.

According to the UN, one billion people live in slum areas, and this number will rise to two billion by 2025. "If we wish to combat poverty in the world, then greater attention to urban development is imperative," explains Molenaar. "In the Netherlands, there is a great deal of knowledge available in the field of urban development. No less than 280 organisations are working in this domain, but knowledge exchange and harmonisation between the parties concerned leaves much to be desired. In this respect, change is essential. The Netherlands must raise its profile as an expert in the field of urban development and management - as it is already doing with regard to our water and agricultural expertise." ITC has taken an important step by signing an agreement with UN-Habitat.

"This cooperation agreement between ITC and UN-Habitat reflects the importance of relevant information in the effort to achieve sustainable urban development," Professor Molenaar continues. "Information as a resource for faster and smarter decision making but also information for citizens and organisations, and information that informs the processes of urban governance in a wider sense is sorely needed. ITC's niche is the production and use of spatial information, which is seen as one of the

important building blocks for sound urban management practices in relation to land management, environmental issues, housing, transport, service delivery and poverty alleviation, among other areas. Our expert-

ise in spatial information management complements the concerns and expertise of UN-Habitat, and we look forward to a long and fruitful cooperation with UN-Habitat in this important field."



From left to right: Dr Richard Sliuzas (ITC), Bert Diphooorn (Ag. director Human Settlements Finance Division), Dr Anna Tibaijuka (UN-Habitat director), Professor Martien Molenaar (ITC rector) and Chris Paresi (ITC)

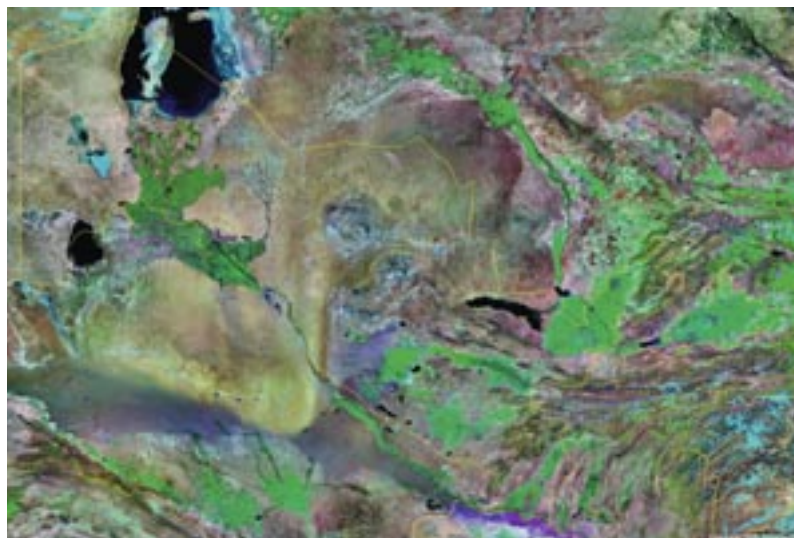


According to the UN, one billion people live in slum areas, and this number will rise to two billion by 2025

International Workshop: Land Policies, Land Registration and Economic Development - Experiences in Central Asian Countries

Organised by: United Nations University-ITC School for Land Administration Studies
 In cooperation with: Goskomzemgeodescadstre, DHV
 Location: Tashkent, Uzbekistan
 Date: 31 October - 3 November 2007

History and geographical conditions make the Central Asian countries different from other parts of the former Soviet Union. Since their independence in 1991, they have implemented changes in land policies, property registration, cadastre, and socio-economic development. This workshop will bring experiences and latest developments together. Invited speakers from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and other CIS countries will present their views on these developments, with a focus on tenure regimes, successes, failures and lessons learned.



Satellite image of Uzbekistan
 (Source: www.geology.com)

For more information and registration:
<http://www.itc.nl/unu/la/meetings/0003.asp>
 or contact: Drs Johan de Meijere (meijere@itc.nl).

ILWIS: Remote Sensing and GIS Software

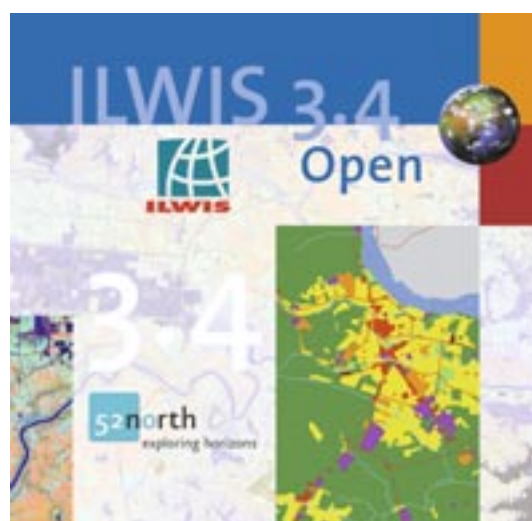
Rob Lemmens

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The Integrated Land and Water Information System (ILWIS) is a PC-based GIS and remote sensing software that was developed up to its last release (version 3.3) in 2005 by ITC. ILWIS comprises a complete package of image processing, spatial analysis and digital mapping. It is easy to learn and use, and has full online help, extensive tutorials for direct use in courses, and 25 case studies from various disciplines.

On 1 July 2007, ILWIS software became freely available ("as-is" and free of charge) as open source software (binaries and source code) under the 52°North initiative (GPL licence). This software version is called ILWIS 3.4 Open.

For more information and downloads: <http://52north.org>





Welcome to Malaysia

ACRS 2007

The 28th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing

2nd Announcement and Call for Papers

<http://www.macres.gov.my/acrs2007>

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
November 12-16, 2007

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- Abstract Submission : July 16, 2007
- Notification on Abstract Acceptance : August 15, 2007
- Full Paper submission : September 24, 2007
- Registration : September 24, 2007

Jointly organized by:



MOIST
Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation
Malaysia



Malaysian Centre for Remote Sensing



Asian Association on Remote Sensing

ESRI User Conference 2007

Lyande Eelderink

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A delegation from ITC attended this year's ESRI User Conference held from 18 to 22 June in San Diego, California. This time round, ITC representation consisted of Pieter Beck, Lyande Eelderink, Wim Feringa and Mark Noort.

ITC was present in information booths at both the Education Fair and the Show Case, and organised an ITC alumni reception attended by some 20 alumni at the conference.

Wangari Maathai, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize, provided an inspirational and educational keynote

presentation before thousands of attendees during the afternoon session of the user conference plenary. Wangari Maathai is the founder of the Green Belt Movement, based in Kenya, which advocates human rights and supports peaceful democratic change through the protection of the environment.

Wim Feringa won second prize with a poster entitled *The environmental atlas of Lima* in the category Cartographic Design: Atlas.



ITC organized an alumni reception attended by some 20 alumni

Guatemala: Research for Rural Development

Paul van der Molen

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Within the framework of an ITC project, the School for Land Administration Studies (a cooperation between ITC and Kadaster for the United Nations University) recently provided input into a workshop in Guatemala City.

The University of San Carlos, Faculty of Agronomy (FAUSAC), observed that, while many countries are undergoing immense social, political, economic and environmental changes, in Guatemala such changes seem to stagnate. Quite a worry for a rural economy such as Guatemala! Furthermore, the land issue is an intrinsic part of the Peace Treaty of 1996. As a consequence, the distribution of land continues to impair rural development. The university now

wants to enhance the development process by substantial high-level research, with new building blocks for the implementation of the Peace Treaty being delivered as output. The workshop revealed the considerable support of relevant government stakeholders, so the university feels encouraged to move forward. ITC will cooperate in the research activities. (Source: *Abroad*, periodical newsletter Kadaster International, June 2007)

staff news

Carl Pulfrich Award for Markus Gerke

Janneke Kalf

itcnews@itc.nl

Dr Markus Gerke of ITC's Department of Earth Observation Science (formerly with IPI at the University of Hannover), Sönke Müller (TNT) and Andreas Busch (BKG, Frankfurt) have received the Carl Pulfrich Award 2007 for their work on the image-based verification and update of geospatial data.

The three developed the WiPKA system, which was installed at BKG in 2003. Using this system rather than working manually achieves a productivity gain by a factor of three.

The award was presented on 29 May 2007 during the ISPRS Hannover Workshop "High Resolution Earth Imaging for Geospatial Information", and Markus Gerke, Sönke Müller and Andreas Busch received a monetary gift of US\$ 7,500 and the distinguished 2007 Carl Pulfrich Award plaque. This biennial award is sponsored by Intergraph Z/I® Imaging® to promote outstanding scientific appli-

cation-oriented design and/or manufacturing activities in the field of photogrammetry and remote sensing, including earth imaging applications. It honours the memory of Dr Carl Pulfrich, a member of the scientific staff at Carl Zeiss from 1890 to 1927, during which time he directed the design of the first stereo photogrammetric and surveying instruments from Zeiss.

From left to right:
Markus Gerke,
Andreas Busch
and Sönke Müller



More information is available at <http://www.ipi.uni-hannover.de/html/forschung/laufend/wipka/wipka.htm>

Eric Smaling Appointed to the Senate

Janneke Kalf

itcnews@itc.nl

Professor Eric Smaling, professor of sustainable agriculture at ITC's Department of Natural Resources, has been appointed member of the Senate (*Eerste Kamer*) of the Dutch Parliament for the Socialist Party (*Socialistische Partij*).

Eric is the second senator in the history of ITC since our founder Professor Willem Schermerhorn.



Eric Smaling
(picture from Anja Meulenbelts' weblog)

staff news

Welcome to ITC	Dr Ing. M. Gerke	Assistant professor Department of Earth Observation Science	1 April 2007
	Dr A.A. Abkar	Assistant professor Department of Natural Resources	18 April 2007
	Dr M.F. Morgan	Assistant professor Department of Earth Observation Science	20 April 2007
	Dr J. Flacke	Assistant professor Department of Urban Regional Planning and Geo-information Management	1 May 2007
	Prof. Dr A. van der Veen	Professor Department of Urban Regional Planning and Geo-information Management	1 June 2007
Staff leaving	Ir J.E.M. de Lange	Department of Personnel and Organisation	1 May 2007
	Ir R.J. Sporry	Department of Earth Systems Analysis	1 June 2007

visits

First Visit of an ITC Rector to Vietnam

Marjan Kreijns

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During the long period of cooperation with Vietnam, there has never been an official visit by a rector of ITC ... until now. In May 2007, Professor Martien Molenaar became the first ITC rector to pay an official visit to this country.

Although many Westerners still imagine Vietnam through the lens of war, in reality it is a country filled with captivating natural beauty and tranquil village life. Three decades have passed since Vietnam was officially united, and in that time it has done a remarkable job of healing its wounds. Today, Vietnam is one of the best-performing developing economies in the world. It is going through a far-reaching transformation, moving from a planned inward-looking economy to one that is globalised and market-based. It has the potential to become one of the great success stories in development. Real income has grown 7.3% per year over the last 10 years;

today there are about 84 million people in Vietnam; and it is a major recipient of ODA resources, although it is not an aid-dependent country.

ITC has been active in Vietnam for over three decades. The first student, Ms Le Thi Dinh, graduated from ITC in 1973. The number of alumni from Vietnam stands at 150, and they come from a wide variety of organisations. These alumni form the backbone of ITC's network in Vietnam, and many now hold important positions.

ITC has a very close relationship with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), having trained substantial numbers of its staff through tailor-made short courses and regular degree courses. Other client organisations in Vietnam include other ministries and related agencies, universities and academic institutes, and NGOs. ITC has exe-

cuted and is implementing consulting and research projects in Vietnam. In recent years, the cooperation between Vietnamese organisations and ITC has been intensified, and ITC's project portfolio in Vietnam is expanding. Therefore, the first visit of an ITC rector to Vietnam seems to have come at a very opportune moment.



Meeting with Prof. Dr. Nguyen Van Mau, Rector HUS

The purpose of Professor Molenaar's visit was to meet personally with important partners and client organisations of ITC and discuss further collaboration in the field of research and education. During his visit, he met with representatives from a number of organisations, discussing such collaboration and reconfirming our intentions and ongoing activities. Professor Molenaar was accompanied by Ms Marjan Kreijns, ITC representative for Vietnam and Thailand, and Mr Tran Nhu Trung, ITC alumnus and ITC contact person in Vietnam.

The delegation visited the following organisations:

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)
- Disaster Management Center (DMC), Department of Dyke Management, Flood and Storm Control (DDMFSC)
- Hanoi University of Science (HUS) – Vietnam National University
- Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST)
- Vietnam Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources (VIGMR)
- Forest Science Institute of Vietnam (FSIV) / Research Center for Forest Ecology and Environment (RCFEE)
- University of Communication and Transport (UCT)
- Water Resources University (WRU)

- Netherlands Education Support Office (NESO)
- Royal Netherlands Embassy
- SNV-Vietnam
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- The Swedish-funded SEMLA project (Strengthening Environmental Management and Land Administration).

The discussions revealed not only the great interest of Vietnamese partners in cooperating with ITC but also the interest of donors in ITC's capacity and expertise.

On his last evening, the ITC alumni gave Professor Molenaar a very warm welcome at a dinner-cum-reception (see page 28).

The programme in Vietnam is flourishing. At the moment of writing, a delegation of ITC staff is in Vietnam for the final workshop of the project on strengthening capacity within the framework of clean development mechanisms; a refresher course in the field of land administration is being executed; and preparations are in progress for a delegation of ITC staff to visit Vietnam in early July for a training needs analysis mission to identify possibilities for education in the field of land administration. In September, a new consulting project funded by ADB will start in the field of geo-information for hazard risk as-

essment, while preparations are going on for the involvement of ITC in the Pro-poor Forestry in Upland North Central Agro-ecological Zone Project, in cooperation with SNV, Tropenbos International and Queensland University.

As a follow-up to the visit of Professor Molenaar, Professor Martin Hale, vice-rector of ITC and head of research, will visit Vietnam later this year to identify joint research partners and develop a programme for joint research activities between Vietnamese organisations and ITC.

Professor Molenaar was impressed by Vietnam, its people, the delicious Vietnamese cuisine, and the professional organisations he visited. During the visit, we came across a propaganda poster with the encouraging slogan "Work hard, study hard, follow Uncle Ho's principles," and we have seen that the motivation of Vietnamese professionals and students is indeed still very much in line with this philosophy. Therefore, it has been, it is, and it will be a great pleasure for ITC to work with Vietnamese organisations.

For more information on ITC in Vietnam, please contact:

Marjan Kreijns, ITC representative in Thailand and Vietnam (kreijns@itc.nl)
Paul Schoonackers, ITC project officer for China (schoonackers@itc.nl).



Meeting with Rector University of Transport and Communication



"Study Hard, Work Hard, Follow Uncle Ho's Principles"

Meeting with Our Alumni in Uganda and Mozambique

Sabine Maresch

maresch@itc.nl

In April 2007, three ITC staff members, Dr Mark van der Meijde, Dr Ernst Schetselaar (both from Earth Science Analysis), and Ms Sabine Maresch (Marketing and Projects) visited Uganda and Mozambique. The main reason for this trip was to promote ITC's education, research and project activities in applied earth sciences, specifically in geoscience mapping and mineral exploration expertise. We also wanted to visit our alumni working with organisations active in the field of geology and mineral exploration, and learn more about their working environment, training requirements, and other needs and problems of their organisations, as well as to explore possibilities for collaboration. With regard to promoting the Applied Earth Sciences (AES) programme, and in particular the Earth Resource Exploration (ERE) stream (which includes geoscience mapping and mineral exploration), we had selected Uganda and Mozambique for specific reasons. Uganda has a large number of alumni (over 250); we have good contacts with Makerere; and Uganda has a growing market in mineral exploration. Mozambique too has a booming market in mineral exploration, with all the related environmental problems and training and awareness needs. Furthermore, ITC has accumulated sound project experience in Mozambique through several projects, of which the latest was a large geological mapping project in support of the Geological Survey organisation in Mozambique.

Uganda

Our marketing visit to Uganda was coordinated by ITC alumna Yazidhi Bamutaze, a lecturer at the Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts, Makerere University. Yazidhi arranged the meetings and accompanied us to

all the organisations. Further assistance was given by Mr Denis Tugume, who had just finished his MSc studies at ITC and also works at the Department of Geography, Makerere University. The visit would not have run so smoothly without the help of these two alumni and the excellent introductions at each organisation.

During our busy two-day working programme, we visited seven Ugandan organisations, including the Geological Survey, the Department of Surveying & Mapping, the universities of Kyambogo and Makerere, and private companies such as GIC and EIMCO. In all organisations, we were warmly welcomed by many ITC alumni. We explained about the latest ITC courses and educational programmes and we learned a lot about the working environments in which

our alumni are working, about how the knowledge they had acquired at ITC is being implemented, and about the problems and challenges they are facing. At some organisations, we gave presentations on ITC, and guest lectures on recent developments in earth sciences in general and mobile mapping in particular. We often discussed possibilities for project collaboration, and follow-up visits will certainly be scheduled in the near future to work on the materialisation of some of our plans for collaboration.

Our stay in Uganda concluded with an ITC alumni gathering. More than 50 ITC alumni attended the party organised at a restaurant in Kampala, and we were also happy that Harry Abels, the NFP fellowship and NPT officer of the Dutch embassy in Uganda, was able to enjoy the event.



We visited seven Ugandan organisations, including the Geological Survey, the Department of Surveying & Mapping, the universities of Kyambogo and Makerere, and private companies such as GIC and EIMCO



Our stay in Uganda concluded with an ITC alumni gathering. More than 50 ITC alumni attended the party organised at a restaurant in Kampala

Mozambique

With regard to our visit to Mozambique, we received coordination support from Daniel Ibraimo, a geologist from Eduardo Mondlane University and a graduate of the EREG programme (2005). Daniel had prepared an interesting programme, with visits to the university, government authorities and mining companies.

The visit started with a meeting at Eduardo Mondlane University with representatives of the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Agronomics and Forestry, and the Directorate. We met with members of different departments and learned about the new educational structures and upcoming changes because of the SADEC agreements on education (four years BSc honours programme and English as language of instruction). We discussed in great detail the content of education within the different departments, the interest for shared education and research, and the possibilities for joining forces in future projects. We gave a presentation (similar to that given at Makerere) to an audience composed of staff from Eduardo Mondlane University and students and staff from MICOA and the Geological Survey.

In the wrap-up session at Eduardo Mondlane University, we agreed with the academic vice-rector, Orlando Quilambo, to draw up a memo of understanding between the university and ITC. This can be used as a basis for further discussions with the Ministry of Education and will facilitate future cooperation between the two parties.

We also visited organisations such as the Direccção Nacional de Geologia, the Direccção Nacional de Minas and CENACARTA, the national remote sensing and cartography centre. All organisations stressed their strong need for more better-qualified and well-trained staff members. It was

therefore encouraging to learn from Ms Jeannette Vogelaar during our visit to the Dutch embassy in Maputo that the embassy welcomes new NFP applications, that the NPT programme will be continued in Mozambique with a second phase, and that the sectors mining, land use planning and local governance are the preferred sectors for support. This

effective, and we have learned a lot. With the help of ITC alumni Yazidhi Bamutaze and Denis Tugume (Uganda) and Daniel Ibraimo (Mozambique), we were able to meet with many ITC alumni and learn about their working environment, problems and needs. This knowledge can improve our education at ITC. We updated them and their employers on



Geological field trip in Mozambique. From left to right: Dr Ernst Schetselaar (ITC), Dr Daud Jamal and Daniel Ibraimo (both Eduardo Mondlane University) and Dr Mark van der Meijde (ITC)

means there are good possibilities for extending our collaboration in capacity building with organisations in Mozambique. And ITC would be particularly keen to provide support with respect to capacity building in environmental issues related to the booming mining activities in the region.

We also visited several commercial mining companies, such as Rio Tinto. Rio Tinto is very interested and willing to support geology- and mining-related education in Mozambique. The company is in urgent need of well-trained and well-qualified staff, particularly for solid geological field mapping activities, and invited ITC and Eduardo Mondlane University to submit training proposals.

Conclusion

We feel that this 10-day marketing and identification mission, with its intensive programme, has been very ef-

fective, and we have learned a lot. With the help of ITC alumni Yazidhi Bamutaze and Denis Tugume (Uganda) and Daniel Ibraimo (Mozambique), we were able to meet with many ITC alumni and learn about their working environment, problems and needs. This knowledge can improve our education at ITC. We updated them and their employers on the latest ITC education products and raised new interest in our courses. The visits to commercial companies were very useful, and their interest in our education was surprising. At the same time, many thoughts and ideas on new projects and capacity building efforts were shared and discussed, which will lead to several follow-up activities, especially with the ITC AES/ERE group. It was highly appreciated that ITC had made the effort to visit and sit down at the table with the organisations concerned.

life after itc

ITC Alumnus Saut Sagala Receives Belgium Development Cooperation Prize

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Last June, ITC alumnus Saut Sagala from Indonesia, together with 19 other laureates, received the Development Cooperation Prize in the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, Belgium. Saut Sagala received this prize for his MSc research "Analysis of flood physical vulnerability in residential areas - case study: Naga City, the Philippines". He performed this research during his studies in the MSc programme Urban Planning and Land Administration 2004-2006.

To be eligible for this prize awarded by Belgian Development Cooperation to students and young scientists, the submitted research should show "sufficient relevance for development, i.e. should provide an important contribution to the knowledge which can be applied in the pursuit of sustainable development in the South." Participation is open to both Belgians and citizens of the South ("developing countries" as defined by the OECD).

The jury consists of representatives from Belgian universities and from Belgian Development Cooperation, and external experts are also called upon to evaluate the works submitted.

This year the prize was awarded to 14 MSc students and six researchers from a variety of disciplines, including anthropology, international relations, molecular biology and geo-information science. Thirteen of the laureates came from countries from the South. All laureates presented their research during a poster session and during the prize-giving ceremony.

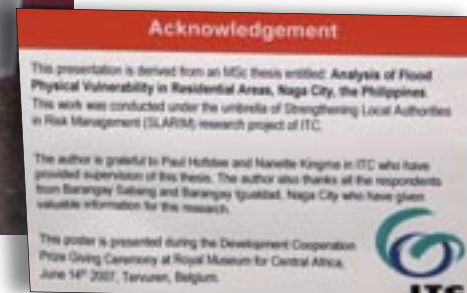
The jury report on Saut Sagala's research stated that the work "... puts forward and tests a simple but effective methodology, which can easily be transposed to urban environments in developing countries. [...] Furthermore, Mr Sagala's findings can be used in the future for the whole of Naga City. This will allow the risk of flooding to be better assessed, the damage to be properly estimated, and ultimately coping mechanisms to be developed." The MSc research of Mr Sagala, which took place within the framework of the SLARIM

(Strengthening Local Authorities in Risk Management) research project, was supervised by Paul Hofstee and Nanette Kingma and received support from Naga City.

The prize, in the sum of € 1,250, was awarded on 14 June by a representative of the State Secretary for Development Cooperation. The ceremony was attended by ITC staff members Paul Hofstee, Nanette Kingma and Emile Dopheide, who also presented him with some gifts on behalf of ITC on this occasion.



Saut Sagala, with his poster presented during the Development Cooperation prize-giving ceremony



Another ILWIS born!

ILWIS is not only a popular information system but a popular boy's name too.

On 29 May of this year, ITC alumna Patricia Eiyó Tassas from Uganda was delivered of a healthy boy and called him Ilwis.



Patricia Eiyó Tassas



Joel Jason Elotu - Ilwis, 8 hrs old

Hearing this news, we dived into the ILWIS newsletter archive and found the picture in the February 1999 issue of alumna Rosina Mali from Nepal with her firstborn called Ilwis.



The proud parents with their son Ilwis



ITC's Cees van Westen met Ilwis and his mother Rosina Maldi again in 2004

ITC Alumni Reception-cum-Dinner in Hanoi

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An ITC alumni reception-cum-dinner was held in Hanoi on 17 May to mark the first visit of Professor Martien Molenaar, rector of ITC, to Vietnam.

At a typical Vietnamese-style restaurant, Professor Molenaar gave a guest lecture entitled "The world on your laptop", which dealt with new technologies and new applications. And he certainly succeeded in amazing many alumni with the impressive simulations, models, and beautiful images that he conjured up using his laptop.

After the lecture, and while enjoying the delicious Vietnamese food, some 35 alumni indulged in lively discussions with old friends. Mr Tran Nhu Trung gave a special speech in which he explained that his dream had come true: his teacher from the Netherlands had finally visited Vietnam. On behalf of the alumni community, Mr Trung presented Professor Molenaar with a beautiful hand-embroidered painting of a Vietnamese landscape. It was a remarkable evening, and for Professor Molenaar a warm welcome to Vietnam. Although this was his first visit to Vietnam, it most certainly will not be his last.

For more information, please contact the ITC representative for Thailand and Vietnam, Ms Marjan Kreijns (kreijns@itc.nl).

Pictures of the evening are available on ITC's website: http://www.itc.nl/alumni/alumni_news.aspx



Professor Molenaar giving a guest lecture on new technologies and new applications



Typical Vietnamese-style restaurant



A gift for the ITC representative for Thailand and Vietnam, Ms Marjan Kreijns



Professor Molenaar was presented with a hand-embroidered painting on behalf of the alumni community



Lively discussions at the typical Vietnamese-style restaurant



Some 35 alumni attended the gathering