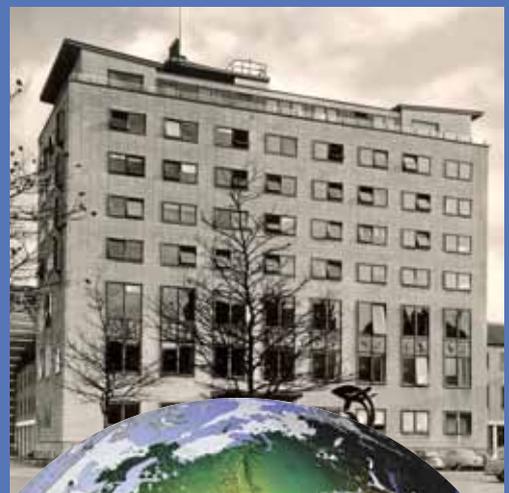


ITC News



- 60th Dies Natalis
- Wooden Bas-Reliefs
- Group Decision Room
- Observing Soil Moisture

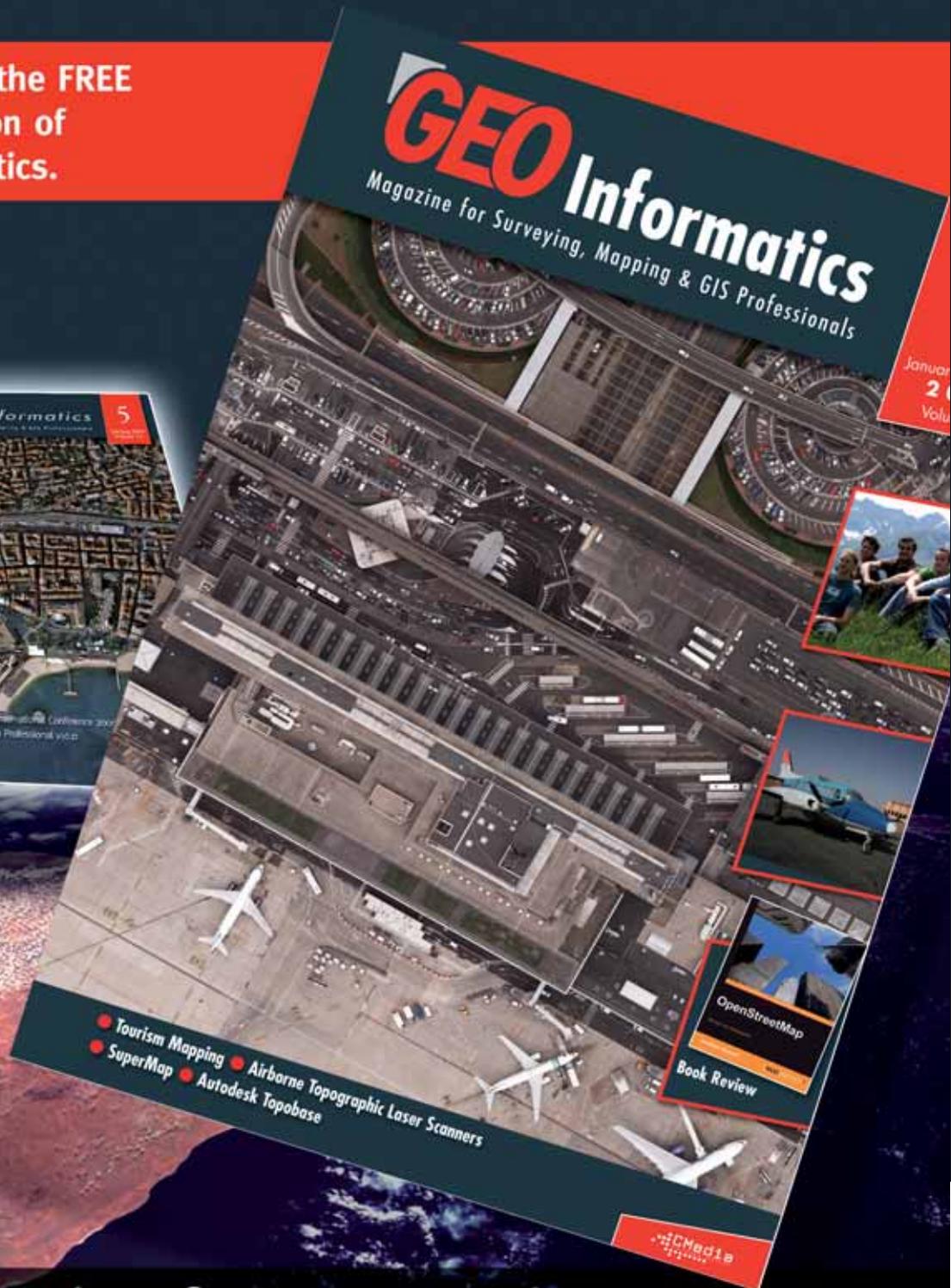
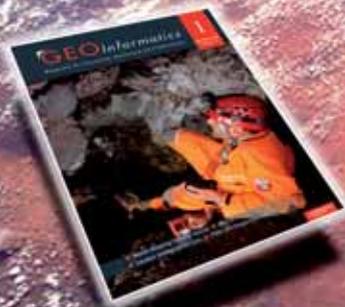


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introduction

On 17 December 2010, in the year when it became the sixth faculty of the University of Twente, ITC celebrated its 60th Dies Natalis (report on page 2). This important date was marked by speeches that, while looking back on the achievements of the past, also explored the new thinking and challenges that would characterize the future. On this auspicious occasion, ITC was honoured to welcome the former Minister for Development Cooperation, Professor Jan Pronk, who delivered the keynote address. He had also delivered the keynote address at the celebration of ITC's 25th anniversary and was therefore in a unique position to compare and evaluate past, present and future objectives.

So the times they are a'changing, a view receives pictorial support in the article on page 4. This plots the path of 20 wooden bas-reliefs – their creation, location, restoration and new destination – which is inextricably intertwined with the history of ITC itself. Encouragingly, the outcome in this instance illustrates the point that even in a period of rapid technological change and tremendous innovation, cultural values of the past can still be accorded their place.

Over the past six decades, the ITC Library too has been continuously evolving, and the changes that have taken place – and indeed still are taking place – make fascinating reading (page 15). Crucial at this time in the world of publication and copyrights is the issue of Open Access (see page 18). The Open Access movement seeks to bridge the digital divide and enable research findings of the international scientific community to be freely shared. Much has already been achieved; much remains to be done.

New technologies (GDR), new research (Tibet), new projects (Changes project), no wonder many can be said to enjoy a love affair with ITC. But education and capacity building do have a human face and in this issue there are no less than three articles (24, 25 and 26) that go to show that, although schedules are tight, the workload heavy and the challenges immense, they are not the whole story, and people frequently come to ITC and get more than they actually bargained for. It seems that there are certain advantages attached to studying at ITC that remain unspecified in the *Education Brochure* – but at least *ITC News* can try to fill in some of the gaps!

Virtually yours,
Janneke Kalf **Jorien Terlouw**
Managing Editor *Editor*

colofon

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60th ITC Dies Celebration

Communication Department

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*On Friday,
17 December 2010,
ITC celebrated its
60th Dies Natalis.
After some words of
welcome, the dean
of the ITC faculty,
Tom Veldkamp,
delivered his Dies
speech, Exploring
ITC's Future, in
which he introduced
a new way of
thinking that moved
towards a more
businesslike
approach to
capacity building,
supporting ITC's
mission.*

The former Minister for Development Cooperation, Professor Jan Pronk, had been invited to give the keynote lecture (as he did exactly 35 years ago on 17 December 1975, when he addressed ITC on its 25th anniversary). In his speech entitled *Dr Watson's Oversight*, he elaborated on the differences between the challenges and objectives of 60 years ago and those of today. His main message to ITC in 1975 had been: "Please help to direct technological innovation to the benefit of those who are poor and do not yet have a voice". In 2010, these two categories may consist of different people; but the mandate is still the same. He also mentioned that ITC, no longer functioning as a separate institute but as a university faculty with the ambitions and pretensions of a real academy, can benefit from the insights of many different disciplines and, in turn, enrich them. After Professor Pronk's speech, ITC students from Rwanda performed the traditional Kinyarwanda dance (which they had also performed at the yearly International Evening held in November).

Boudewijn de Smeth reminisced about the ITC Delft building, which was inaugurated in 1956 and demolished in November 2010. He mentioned that the 20 wooden bas-reliefs made by Charles Hammes that had formed part of the façade of the Delft building had been saved and were being restored. One of the restored panels was unveiled during the Dies ceremony. Eventually, all the panels will be given a place inside or outside the ITC building.



One of the restored panels was unveiled during the Dies ceremony



Dean Tom Veldkamp, delivered his Dies speech, Exploring ITC's Future.



Staff and students listening to the words of welcome of Professor Veldkamp



Former Minister for Development Cooperation, Professor Jan Pronk

Martien Molenaar reminded the audience that, as of 1 January 2010, ITC had become part of the University of Twente. Although this was a rational decision, it was a decision that nevertheless had a strong emotional side. ITC had come to the end of a 60-year period as a unique institute. This period had opened with a pioneering phase, which was then followed by a continuous struggle to redefine and maintain a role within the context of development cooperation and capacity development in a rapidly developing professional and academic field. As a result of these considerations, the ITC Foundation had initiated the writing of a book about the first 60 years of ITC as seen from three perspectives:

- the fast developments in the professional and academic domain of ITC
- the ever-evolving concepts for development cooperation
- the internationalization of higher education.

This book, entitled *60 years of ITC*, was officially presented by Professor Jaap Besemer, chairman of the ITC Foundation, to Professor Ed Brinksma, Rector Magnificus of the University of Twente, Professor Tom Veldkamp, dean of Faculty ITC and Ms Erna Leurink, managing director of Faculty ITC.

Following the book presentation, Emeritus Professor Herman Verstappen recalled the early days of ITC, looking back over 60 years of achievement. The former professor of geomorphology joined ITC in 1957 and served the Institute for several decades. He gave the audience a vivid impression of ITC in its early stages.

Bringing the ceremony to a close, Tom Veldkamp invited all staff and students to drinks and a buffet dinner in the ITC restaurant.



Students from Rwanda performed the traditional Kinyarwanda dance



Professor Besemer, Professor Molenaar, Emeritus Professor Verstappen and drs. de Smeth



The book was officially presented by Professor Jaap Besemer to Professor Tom Veldkamp and Ms Erna Leurink



The book, was officially presented by Professor Jaap Besemer to Professor Ed Brinksma



Emeritus Professor Herman Verstappen recalled the early days of ITC, looking back over 60 years of achievement



A buffet dinner in the ITC restaurant

Twenty Wooden Bas-Reliefs from the Former ITC Building in Delft

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Although ITC was established in 1950, plans were not drawn up for an institute building until 1954. Till then, ITC was housed in the building of the Geodetic Faculty of Delft University.

Although ITC was established in 1950, plans were not drawn up for an institute building until 1954. Till then, ITC was housed in the building of the Geodetic Faculty of Delft University. As plans for the new building neared completion, ITC's founder, Willem Schermerhorn, wished to visualize the ideas that had led to the creation of his new institute. He contacted the Dutch sculptor Charles Pieter Hammes, who at that time lived and worked in Hees near Nijmegen. Schermerhorn explained his views to Hammes and in 1955-1956 the sculptor created two large works of art. The first was the Kronkel (as we call it nowadays): a steel sculpture resting on a base on which the emblems of UNESCO (a Greek temple, symbol of science) and the FAO (ears of corn) were placed. The sculpture symbolizes the scope of science and photogrammetry spinning around the world. On ITC's move to Enschede in 1971, the Kronkel came too and was placed in front of the new premises.

The second work of art consists of 20 wooden bas-reliefs, carved from the Afzelia Africana. The reliefs were inserted in two blocks into the façade of the new building: four reliefs in the shorter northwest façade and 16 in the longer southwest façade. It was Schermerhorn's idea to express the effects of technology and science in ten two-by-two sets of portrayal. Eight pairs represent the beneficial effects of technology and science. For that purpose, images of past and modern times (i.e. the early 1950s!) are placed side by side (reliefs 1 to 16, – originally placed in the longer southwest façade).

The fact that scientific progress can also have a dark side is expressed in the penultimate pair of reliefs. Opposite the profile of the Chinese Temple of Heaven in Beijing – which became a symbol of wisdom and beauty to Schermerhorn on his visit there – an atomic cloud is shown, expressing what technology and science can also bring to humankind (figure 1).

The series is concluded by a set expressing hope for humankind: the owl symbolizing wisdom, and the eagle indicating the view of Earth from space. Perhaps the last relief also has a connection with aerial photography, which was studied inside the new building (figure 2).

In 2010, the former ITC premises in Delft (cleared by ITC in 2000 and sold in 2001) were demolished. The 20 wooden reliefs, however, were saved and returned to ITC. After thorough restoration, this very special work of art linked to the former ITC and its founder has been given a place of honour on the inner façade of the ITC building on Hengelosestraat in Enschede.

Figure 1 Chinese Temple of Heaven contrasted with an atomic cloud



Figure 2 Air traffic in early days (hot-air balloon) contrasted with modern air traffic (helicopter)



Demolition of the old ITC building in Delft (Photos Colin Reeves)

Grand Opening of ITC Group Decision Room

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On 7 December 2010, the ITC Group Decision Room (GDR) was officially opened by the dean of Faculty ITC, Professor Tom Veldkamp.

The GDR is equipped with the cutting-edge technology of interactive surfaces and tangible user interfaces to facilitate hands-on education and research in the field of collaborative spatial planning and decision making. The main advantage of using these touch tables is that the table is both the display and the input device, thus improving the fluidity of decision-making processes and reducing the cognitive load of user/content interaction. Assembling stakeholders around a touch table for face-to-face interactions creates a collaborative working environment and positively influences working styles and group dynamics.

The invited speakers emphasized the relevance of the room for state-of-the-art education in collaborative planning and deci-

sion making. In his opening speech, Professor Martin van Maarseveen, head of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-information Management (PGM), which had developed the room on behalf of ITC, welcomed the guests and explained the development process. Dr Ali Sharifi, former PGM associate professor and main initiator of the room in its early stages, then reflected on the history of field planning and decision making at ITC, which dates back almost 20 years and with the advent of the GDR has now reached a new milestone. Next, Professor Anne van der Veen, professor of governance and spatial integrated assessment, highlighted the relevance of the room for the inclusion of stakeholders in planning processes and thereby increasing the legitimacy and effi-



Professor Tom Veldkamp opening the GDR with a single touch



Participants testing a touch table during the opening



Guest speaker Bujar Nushi from DHV explaining the GeoValue touch-table application

If you would like to know more about the GDR, its facilities, and how to use it in education or research, please contact Johannes Flacke (flacke@itc.nl) or Luc Boerboom (boerboom@itc.nl) of the department of Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-Information Management.

ciency of planning. As the integration of tangible user interfaces is one of the core innovations of the room, Professor Veldkamp officially inaugurated the GDR with a single touch on the digital white-board, which triggered a two-minute video showing how the room is used in two three-week training modules. (www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKuz0hjgJ_A)

On the occasion of the opening of the GDR, a guest lecture was given by Mr Bujar Nushi, a strategic consultant in GIS working at DHV Netherlands. DHV is a leading international consultancy and engineering company, with headquarters in the Netherlands, which provides services and innovative solutions in environment and sustainability, manufacturing and the industrial process, and urban and regional development and water. Bujar Nushi and his team at DHV have been using touch tables for rapid spatial cost-benefit studies, with the GeoValue

tool as decision support for stakeholders and for communicating with citizens. DHV has been doing this since 2006, and currently organizes some 50 sessions a year in the Netherlands. Other offices, for example the Delhi office, have also started to use these methods and technologies. The part of the planning process that used to take five weeks can now be carried out in a single day!

During the half-day ceremony, guests as well as ITC staff members, made frequent use of the opportunity to test the GDR equipment and facilities and discuss potential collaboration and room usage in education and research at ITC. Initial educational experiences were garnered in 2010 during two tailor-made courses on environmental impact and risk assessment for spatial planning. Students introduced to the technology were quite enthusiastic about the new possibilities and the almost intuitive effect of enhanced collaboration when working around a touch table. So far, the GDR is absolutely unique in the Netherlands in terms of both set-up and the possibilities offered, because it operates with three touch tables, thus facilitating process creativity, avoiding groupthink, and providing a plenary environment to promote convergence in decision making. Nevertheless, almost all speakers at the opening ceremony demanded further continuous development and usage of the room. This will be guaranteed through permanent use of the room in regular ITC education programmes and MSc/PhD studies, as well as through cutting-edge research in and concerning the ITC GDR.

education news

Training of Trainers: Transparency in Land Administration in South and Southeast Asia

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From 2 to 4 November 2010, a Training of Trainers Workshop on Transparency in Land Administration was held in Kathmandu, Nepal. The event was hosted by the Kathmandu University, strategic academic partner of ITC in the field of capacity building in land administration.

This workshop is part of a programme of activities organized in South and Southeast Asia under the aegis of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), which is implemented by the Training and Capacity Building Branch (TCBB) of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the United Nations University School for Land Administration Studies (UNU-LAS) of the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation of the University of Twente (ITC). The first component of the programme was an Expert Group Meeting, which took place on 20 and 21 July 2010 on the campus of Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, another partner of ITC in the network of strategic academic partners in land administration capacity building.

The training workshop in Kathmandu, hosted by the School of Engineering of Kathmandu University, covered a three-day programme, the major aim being to build human capacity to replicate the training in the countries concerned.

The event was officially opened by the Honourable Minister of Land Reform and Management, Mr

Dambar Shrestha. In his opening address, the Minister emphasized the importance of transparency, referring to the most recent *Corruption Perception Index* published by Transparency International in which South Asian countries featured rather negatively. He explicitly mentioned that since last year Nepal had slid down in terms of corruption perception to 146th position on the ranking list of 178 countries. He stated that vigilance was required in every aspect of governance to control corruption, and emphasized the need for improvements in the fields of law and order administration, particularly land administration.

The training focused on South Asian countries and was attended by 17 participants originating from Nepal (6), Pakistan (3), Bangladesh (4) and Sri Lanka (4), as well as representatives of the ITC/UNU-LAS strategic network partners (i.e. Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia,

and Hanoi University of Science, Hanoi, Vietnam); the UN-HABITAT National Office Nepal, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and Headquarters; and ITC/UNU-LAS.

The training workshop comprised presentations on tools to improve transparency, including:

- Land governance and transparency (including governance principles, elements of transparency, effects of either good or poor governance, and success criteria)
- Tools to assess transparency in land administration (including formal surveys, vulnerability assessment, rapid anti-corruption assessment, and report cards)
- Tools to improve access to information (including front- and back-office systems and one-stop-shop principles)
- Tools to improve public participation (including information sharing, active involvement, and the role of media)



The event was officially opened by the Honourable Minister of Land Reform and Management, Mr Dambar Shrestha



The training focused on South Asian countries and was attended by participants originating from Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, as well as representatives of the different partners

- Tools to improve professional ethics and integrity (including conflict of interest laws, code of conduct, whistleblower protection, and training in ethics)
- Tools to bring about institutional and organizational reforms (including legislation, mandates, service charters, organizational restructuring, process redesign, and helpdesk principles)
- Ways of building human capacity to improve transparency in land administration (including training, ed-

ucation, awareness-raising campaigns, and the role of media).

Breakout group discussions allowed the participants to discuss in detail case studies of transparency issues in land administration in each of the four countries participating in the workshop. These actual cases comprised short stories concentrating on dilemmas and long stories that prompted the participants to identify tools for improvement in transparency.

The third day of the workshop was allocated to the preparation by the participants of a country-level action plan and an individual action plan. In these they described the activities they envisaged implementing as a group and as individuals in terms of building human capacity in their home countries. The country action plans were discussed in a plenary session, addressing such issues as relevance, reality and performance indicators. It was eventually agreed that an e-group would be established to exchange experiences and keep one another informed on the implementation of the action plans.

A second training event is scheduled to be held in Hanoi from 7 to 9 December 2010, focusing on Southeast Asian countries (i.e. Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Philippines and Indonesia).

For more photographs of the event, see the Photo Gallery TLA South Asia (www.itc.nl/transparency-in-land-administration-se-Asia.html).



The training workshop comprised presentations on tools to improve transparency



The third day of the workshop was allocated to the preparation by the participants of a country-level action plan and an individual action plan

Transparency in Land Administration: Training of Trainers, Hanoi

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From 7 to 9 December, a Training of Trainers Workshop on Transparency in Land Administration was held in Hanoi, Vietnam. The event was hosted by the Hanoi University of Science, strategic academic partner of ITC in the field of capacity building in land administration.

This workshop completed a series of events that is part of a programme organized in South and Southeast Asia under the aegis of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), which is implemented by the Training and Capacity Building Branch (TCBB) of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the United Nations University School for Land Administration Studies (UNU-LAS) of the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation of the University of Twente (ITC).

The first component of the programme was an Expert Group Meeting, which took place on 20 and 21 July 2010 on the campus of Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, another partner of ITC in the network of strategic academic partners in land administration capacity building. The second component was a training workshop in Kathmandu, hosted by the School of Engineering of Kathmandu University, also a strategic academic partner of ITC in land administration. This attracted a total of 17 participants from Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

The training workshop in Hanoi focused on Southeast Asian countries and was attended by 29 participant representatives from Vietnam (7), Lao PDR (7), Cambodia (3), Philippines (5), Indonesia (4), Pacific (2), and Germany (1). Besides the organizer,

Hanoi University of Science, there were representatives from UN-Habitat and from ITC's strategic partners in South and Southeast Asia (i.e. Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia, and Kathmandu University, Nepal). Apart from 18 participants funded by GLTN sources, there were 11 participants funded by such sources as GTZ, RightLink, UN-HABITAT and ITC/UNU-LAS.

The event was officially opened by Mr Nguyen Manh Hien, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment of Vietnam (MONRE) and responsible for land

administration. In his opening address, the Vice-Minister mentioned the measures taken by the Vietnamese government to create a transparent enabling environment for the proper implementation of the 2003 Land Law, including multisector participation in the drafting of the law, the publication of land use plans, land prices and administrative procedures, and the simplification of procedures. He acknowledged that, in spite of these measures, actual ethical behaviour had not yet been fully optimized, thus leaving loopholes for illegal actions in the land sector.



The event was officially opened by Mr Nguyen Manh Hien, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment of Vietnam (MONRE)



Group photograph of TLA Southeast Asia participants, organizers and dignitaries

Dr Dang Hung Vo, former Vice-Minister of MONRE and head of the Department of Land Administration of the Faculty of Geography, Hanoi University of Science, reflected on anti-corruption and transparency practices and experiences in Vietnam. He gave a detailed presentation of the recently published results of a groundbreaking study on corruption in the Vietnamese land sector conducted by the World Bank and the governments of Denmark and Norway.



Dr Dang Hung Vo, former Vice-Minister of MONRE and head of the Department of Land Administration of the Faculty of Geography, Hanoi University of Science

For more photographs of the event, see the Photo Gallery TLA Southeast Asia (www.itc.nl/transparency-in-land-administration-hanoi.html)

New Collaborative Planning Support Processes and Technologies: Lessons Learned

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On 8 December 2010, ITC's Urban Planning and Management MSc students went on an excursion to the city of Amersfoort. We were hosted by the consultancy and engineering company DHV.com and the municipality of Amersfoort. The purpose was to get an idea of the changes in urban planning that had taken place in the Netherlands over the years.

After a warm welcome by the municipality (outside temperature was below 0°C!), we toured two neighbourhoods: Vathorst (www.vathorst.com/) and Kattenbroek (www.kattenbroek.info/nl/). Then we had lunch around Onze-Lieve-Vrouwetoren, the church tower that served as the reference point for the Dutch national map projection system. In the afternoon, we visited the DHV offices, where we were

given an introduction to DHV, an explanation of its vision on spatial planning after the economic crisis, and a demonstration of the use of a touch table (like the three in ITC's new Group Decision Room) in urban planning.

We learned that Kattenbroek is still being planned and developed, and the municipality is closely involved in this respect. The more recent planning and development of Vathorst has been handled by a public-private partnership, with the substantial involvement of a couple of large developers. Several thousands of housing units have been developed in both neighbourhoods. According to the presentation outlining a vision of future planning, large-scale development of this kind is unlikely to occur in future. People could well develop their own neighbourhoods with the

aid of web-based tools, and this would change the roles of government, consultants and developers in the field of planning.

Using the touch table demonstrated, it is possible to dynamically design neighbourhoods and obtain cost calculations immediately. We learned that DHV uses this application about 50 times a year with its clients. It is of particular use in the initial phases of project design and reduces the time spent circulating plans and calculations in the first weeks to just a few hours. Other DHV offices (e.g. the Delhi office) have also begun to use this technology.

The students found it very interesting to learn about the relation between the public and private sectors in Dutch urban planning, as well as the evolving insights into urban plan-

ning. They noticed that significant attention was paid not only to urban planning but also to urban design. The real-life example presented at the decision table was of great interest, and the students will receive more exposure in this connection later in their training programme, in ITC's Group Decision Room (see page 6). Another point that attracted considerable attention was DHV's energy-efficient building, which follows the open office concept (i.e. a building without rooms).

The students greatly appreciated the hospitality of both the municipality and DHV.



After a warm welcome by the municipality, we toured two neighbourhoods: Vathorst and Kattenbroek (Photo: Waled Shehata)



Reference point outside the church tower "Onze Lieve Vrouwetoren" in Amersfoort. The tip of the tower is original cadastral center of the Netherlands (Photo: Waled Shehata)



Demonstration of use of tangible user interfaces in rapid planning (Photo: Waled Shehata)

research news

Observing Soil Moisture over the Tibetan Plateau

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The importance of the Tibetan Plateau for the atmospheric circulation over the Asian continent and the development of large-scale weather systems has been widely acknowledged. Due to its extent and high altitude (>3500 m above sea level), the plateau plays a critical role in directing moist air from the eastern Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal towards central China. Interactions with other large-scale circulation systems, such as the south-easterly flow from the South China Sea, can result in persistent wet (or dry) patterns over East Asia. As we have seen in the past decade, this can cause severe droughts or devastating floods (e.g. Pakistan, Indus 2010). On the other hand, the flow of moist air from oceans and seas is also affected by heat and moisture sources from the plateau. The so-called Tibetan "air pump" affects the onset and maintenance of the Asian monsoon.

In a changing climate, global warming will impact the partitioning of solar radiation into sensible and latent heat over the plateau and, thus, the Tibetan air pump. The 2007 report of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) documents the observed and projected impact of climate change at a global scale. However, the effects of climate change at a regional scale can be much more severe. High-altitude regions in particular are expected to be more sensitive, because of the feedback induced by cold-season processes such as melt from glaciers, snow and frozen soil. Therefore, quantification of changes on the Tibetan Plateau and understanding



An impression of the Tibetan landscape

their effects on the atmospheric circulation are needed to oversee the consequences for the Asian continent.

An important land surface state controlling interactions between the land surface and atmosphere is soil moisture. Being highly variable in both space and time, it is not feasible to base large-scale soil moisture monitoring on in situ measurements. In the past, the potential of various remote sensing techniques for monitoring soil moisture has been explored. Datasets collected by low-frequency microwave instruments (<1.4 GHz) have proven to be superior for retrieving soil moisture over a wide range of vegetated conditions. This has resulted in the formulation of missions carrying L-band microwave sensors for soil moisture monitoring. The SMOS (Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity) mission was recently launched by ESA, and NASA's



The NASA truck-mounted radar system

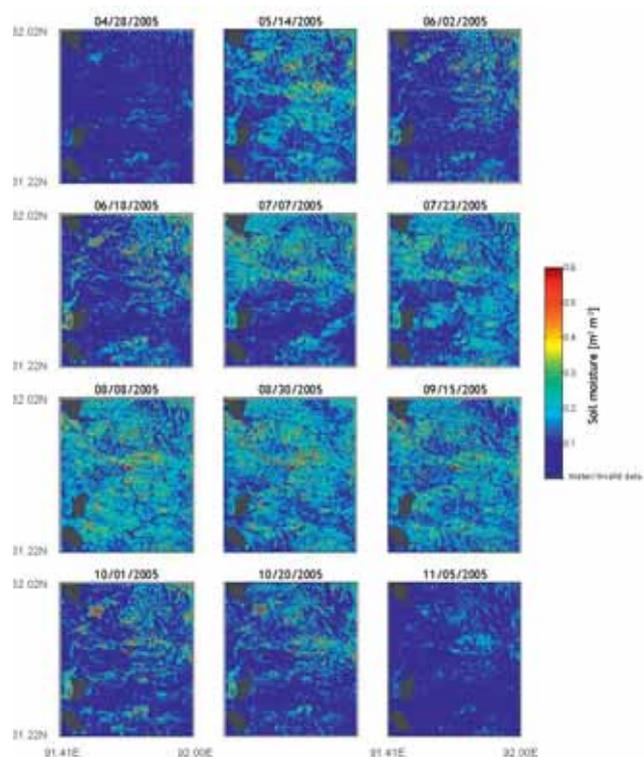
SMAP (Soil Moisture Active Passive) mission is expected to follow in the foreseeable future.

In his PhD research, Rogier van der Velde focused on improving soil moisture retrieval from active microwaves. In this respect, he had access to NASA and ESA datasets. NASA provided data measured during the corn growth cycle by a truck-

mounted system (see figure 2), which were used to develop an innovative approach to correcting for the effects of vegetation. ESA supplied a series of 150 synthetic aperture radar (SAR) images from Envisat, collected during a period of 2.5 years over the central part of the Tibetan Plateau. Investigation of this dataset showed that SAR images include valuable information on vegetation, freeze/thaw and soil moisture conditions. Using this knowledge, an algorithm was assembled and employed for retrieving soil moisture. A selection of the products for the 2005 monsoon season is shown in figure 3. Validation of the retrievals against soil moisture measured at stations installed in the summer of 2006 demonstrated that the accuracy satisfies the requirements set for the SMOS and SMAP soil moisture missions.

Aside from his PhD research, Rogier van der Velde, together with Mr Matthew Ofwono, utilized the Tibetan soil moisture measurements to validate the retrievals from SSM/I (special sensor microwave/images). Their validated product showed that since 1987 soil moisture in central Tibet has increased by more than 50%. Based on this result, Matthew Ofwono was awarded the UT Graduation Prize (formerly known as the MSc Award) in September 2010.

At present, Rogier van der Velde is an assistant professor at ITC's Department of Water Resources, where he continues to teach and supervise both MSc and PhD students. As a member of NASA's SMAP soil moisture algorithm working group, he collaborates with colleagues from NASA and Tor Vergata University in Rome on innovative algorithms for global soil moisture monitoring.



Series of soil moisture maps retrieved over the central part of the Tibetan Plateau during the 2005 monsoon



Rogier van der Velde receiving his PhD degree from Professor Bob Su on 5 November 2010

Acknowledgement:

Rogier van der Velde's research was supported in part by the ESA-MOST Dragon Programme: Support for Training European Young Scientists.

Library of Faculty ITC

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Not only has ITC existed 60 years, the ITC Library has existed 60 years too. Over this period almost everything has changed concerning the library, but in principle the role of the library remains the same – only the way we achieve this goal has dramatically changed.

Libraries and information services provide access to information, ideas and works of imagination in any medium and regardless of frontiers. They serve as gateways to knowledge, thought and culture, offering essential support for independent decision making, cultural development, research and lifelong learning by both individuals and groups. They contribute to the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom and help to safeguard democratic values and universal civil rights. Consequently, they are committed to offering their clients access to relevant resources and services without restriction. They assist people to develop lifelong literacy – the range of competencies necessary to engage fully with the Information Society. (Declaration World Summit on the Information Society WSIS and International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions IFLA)

In general, the mission of an academic library is to support the primary processes (education and research) of an academic institute by ensuring adequate provision of, and efficient end-use access to, useful scientific material. The ITC Faculty Library is a scientific library that contributes to the effectiveness of the education provided by Faculty ITC and the research conducted at Faculty ITC. The library helps:

- staff and students to find relevant information as efficiently as possible

- staff and students to present their expertise in the form of academic publications clearly presented on the ITC library web pages
- ITC to present itself as a leading international education and research organization.

An academic library should provide (electronic) books and (electronic) reference material to students to support the educational process. For undergraduate students, a basic reference collection is necessary. In addition, competent and highly qualified staff should be familiar with the latest developments in their field to update their curriculum.

If research staff want to publish in international peer-refereed journals, they cannot claim originality for what has already been discovered and they can easily make errors that have al-

ready been well documented in the literature. Without access to up-to-date information, research staff could spend time solving problems that may already have solutions in the literature. Papers that result from research undertaken without access to necessary information are probably unacceptable for publication in the highly rated refereed journals. A strong library helps with promotion through research and publications in peer-refereed academic journals. So when it comes to strengthening educational capacity and building up research capacity, access to relevant information is of really great importance. In concrete terms, this means that, within the framework of ITC's mission statement, the ITC Faculty Library has the task of improving access to scientific information, and that's why we are involved in institutional strengthening and ca-



Main Table at the Library ITC



Instruction at the Library



Study Carrousel



Study Area

capacity building projects in less developed countries. (One of these projects is described in this issue of *ITC News*.)

Investment in knowledge is more than training and education. Up-to-date knowledge is the most basic prerequisite for intellectual development as such, as well as for human development in general. Part of strengthening an academic institute involves strengthening the academic information supply within that institute. A strong academic information service can help a partner institute to become a recognized partner/university both nationally and internationally, with outreach to local communities.

Of equal importance is the teaching of students and staff members to identify, locate and evaluate information. A strong library can play a role in this process as well.

Since information technology has dramatically changed the way we collect, transfer and manipulate information, the role of a library has also changed dramatically. Today, knowledge exists in many forms, for example as text, graphics, virtual reality and simulations, and it is distributed in digital representations over worldwide networks, accessible to anyone it seems. (See also the article on Open Access on page 18.)

Students, but also staff, sometimes lack the exposure, depth of experience, and the skills required to use the library as an information resource and reference and research centre. Literacy lectures and workshops developed by the library can provide students and staff with a body of knowledge, practicum and experience in exploiting the library and its information resource applications and tools.

The ITC Faculty Library also maintains a repository of all academic publications of its scientific staff, including

MSc theses. An automated workflow is created to deliver the publications to the library and, after the library has validated the metadata in the system, the publication will automatically appear at many different places on the ITC website (for example, all researchers have their own résumés with a list of current publications). This repository is called the green road to Open Access.

Another activity of the ITC Faculty Library is the book and journal donation programme for our partners. We offer books and journals to our partners; they can choose which publications they are interested in, and the material will be sent upon request. We have also created an online system where you can choose and pick out material of interest for your local library.

Sixty years ago, the ITC Library supported partners in the ODA countries in buying books and bookcases, but by the time the cooperation had ended most of the books had disappeared and in many cases the bookcases too. This was not a sustainable way of developing local information services at our partner institutes and in that sense did not support capacity building and institutional strengthening. Nowadays, the ITC Faculty Library often fulfils more of a mentoring role.

Upgrading or changing local information services is a complicated and long-term process. Creating a digital library environment requires various conditions, for example consortia agreements with publishers for accessing the digital information, an infrastructure that enables users to access the digital library, and users who are information-literate. Creating a digital library environment requires a long-range plan, because it also implies financial consequences.

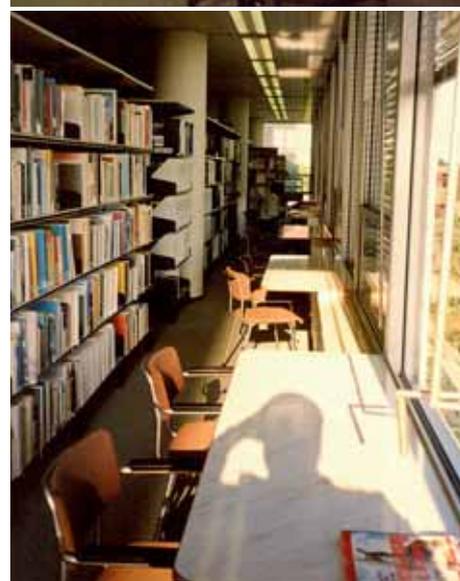
From ITC Library Guide 1989:

"Those wishing to use the automated system are requested to complete a special form, available from the Library staff, to be signed by the head of their department.

MSc-students should first contact their director of studies."

From Library Brochure 2000:

"Digital library of the Faculty ITC is open 24 hours per day and 7 days per week."



ITC Library 1985

For more information on the donation programme:

www.donationprogramme.nl

Cooperation between the ITC Faculty Library and the University Library of Buea, Cameroon

Harry Ngum

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Harry Ngum, ICT resource person of the University Library of Buea in Cameroon tells his own story:

Under the Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window (Lot 10), I was granted a scholarship to embark on a two-month working visit to the library of the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), Enschede, the Netherlands, in order to acquire experience in IT-related library business.

To me, this was a once in a lifetime experience, as it was the first time I had travelled to Europe and had the opportunity to experience a different culture and environment. All travel arrangements made, I arrived in Enschede on Tuesday, 17 March 2008. The reception at the train station, hotel and on the ITC campus was quite interesting. All the people I met for the first time were very welcoming. It was quite an experience on this first day. Settling down to the business proper was not a problem, as I could call on many resource persons for assistance.

Work at the ITC Library was interesting and enriching as every day brought a new experience. The staff were collaborative and, even though in a different environment, I felt very much at home. I received answers to all my questions regarding the profession, and the staff did not hesitate to come to my assistance whenever I had any difficulty. I must admit that, apart from the stacks, shelving and classification method, everything else in this library was new to me, and I kept feeling "I need to take this back to Cameroon". Besides the professional exchange in the library, there was this "cosmopolitan" environment at ITC: every other part of the

world was represented at ITC in one way or another. As a result, my stay at ITC was very enriching, both professionally and culturally.

While at ITC, I acquired a different vision and a different attitude towards work. Not that the attitude towards work at my own institution was bad, but there was this driving force pushing me to implement back home all that I had learnt at ITC. I knew it was not going to be easy, but thanks to advice from the head librarian, Marga Koelen, I have been able to introduce several concepts that I learnt at ITC without causing much of an imbalance in my own university system.

After two months of intensive professional exchange, I returned to my home institution. On my arrival, I immediately set to work. The encouragement and advice from the ITC staff were my driving force. I must admit that I was afraid the transferred knowledge would not suit my institution. However, after convincing the administration – and with a great deal of effort from the university librarian, Dr Rosemary Shafack – we acquired some equipment and found some open-source software that could help us with our library automation. Based on my experience at ITC, and with the joint effort of the UB administration, we have installed and configured an

open-source integrated library management software package (PMB). By the end of January 2011, we hope to be the first university library in Cameroon to be automated. We also intend to use the same software to run our institutional repository.

Here I must admit that what is going on in the UB library as far as automation is concerned is a replica of what occurs at ITC, but customized somewhat to our local situation. The customizations stem from the differences in our technical resources. Nevertheless, we are doing it in our own way and moving one step at a time. We started small but every day we think big!

Thanks to this cooperation with ITC, I was able to participate in the first African conference on institutional repositories and digital libraries in Addis, Ethiopia, and present the UB case in a joint paper with Marga Koelen and Rosemary Shafack.

In a bid to maintain this cooperation, ITC's head librarian paid a working visit to Cameroon and saw for herself the level reached in automating the library. Her contributions during the various sessions have been very useful in enhancing the work already done. We will remain grateful to her and to ITC.



Lending Administration of the Library (University of Buea)



Study room (University of Buea)



Study room



Individual Study places



Label printer to start with the Library automation



Workshop "Capacity Building Projects"



Public Lecture on the role of libraries in achieving the MDG's



ITC Head Librarian Marga Koelen paid a working visit to Cameroon

The Open Access Challenge

Marga Koelen

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Over the last years, Open Access to scholarly/scientific information has been a hot topic of debate worldwide among librarians, scholars and publishers, as well as in organizations such as Unesco. While there are multiple definitions of "Open Access", the idea behind it is simple. Open Access publications are those made freely available online to libraries and readers everywhere, with no charges imposed for access.

Open Access is the online, free availability of research output without the severe restrictions on use commonly

imposed by publisher copyright agreements. Open Access provides the means to maximize the visibility, and thus the uptake and use, of research output. Open Access contributions include original scientific research results, raw data and metadata, source materials, digital representations of pictorial and graphical materials, and scholarly multimedia material. It has direct and widespread implications for academia, medicine, science, industry, and for society as a whole – and especially for our partners in the many countries where ITC is active.

The Open Access movement began at a meeting of the Open Society Institute (OSI) in 2001 with the Budapest Open Access Initiative, its stated objective being to make research articles in all academic fields freely available on the internet.

The next milestone came in October 2003 with the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, a widely supported call for public availability of publically financed research results. This declaration clearly states the social philosophy behind Open

Access: "Our mission of disseminating knowledge is only half complete if the information is not made widely and readily available to society."

There are two roads to Open Access:

- the gold road: publishing in an Open Access journal, with free access for the reader
- the green road: depositing in an Open Access repository.

Gold Road to Open Access

Here researchers can submit their article to an Open Access journal, an online journal that offers free access to the reader. There are more than 5,400 peer-reviewed journals listed in the *Directory of Open Access Journals* and new journals appear online every month. However, only a few are journals with an impact factor. Only 4% of all ISI journal articles are Open Access available. Travelling the golden road, an article is published in a peer-reviewed journal and this journal is freely available worldwide. The underlying business model is different from that of the green road.

Green Road to Open Access

Here the scientific authors enter their articles into an electronic archive (the repository) of a university or into a discipline-oriented repository. This is a form of self-archiving but all the articles are freely available worldwide. For purposes of the green road, libraries should offer an infrastructure enabling the information to flow freely all over the world.

The easiest and cheapest road to Open Access is depositing a publication in an open institutional repository. Most important scientific publishers permit the deposit of the postprint (the revised version, as published in the journal) in an open archive. Depositing publications in a repository is free of charge.

Among the many advantages of Open Access are the following:

- Open Access promotes interna-

tional and interdisciplinary cooperation between scientists. Free availability of Open Access research publications enables people in poorer countries to access and use relevant scientific information. They could probably benefit most from these research results but the traditional model, where restrictions are imposed by the international publishers for various reasons, deprives them of access. The Open Access movement helps the digital divide to be bridged and all countries to share the research findings of the international scientific community.

- Most research is publicly funded so the results should also be publicly available. The public sector (e.g. scientific libraries) has to pay three times for its information. First, researchers executing their research and submitting their findings and results for publication are usually paid by the public sector; second, the submitted manuscripts are peer-reviewed by colleagues who are also paid by the public sector; and third, when the articles are published they must be purchased from the publishers by publicly-funded libraries and institutes. Open Access will solve this unfair situation.

Open Access Week

Every year an Open Access Week is held across the world. The fourth year, 2010, became an opportunity for the academic and research community of Faculty ITC to continue to learn about the potential benefits of Open Access, to share what they had learned with colleagues, and to help to inspire wider participation in making Open Access a new norm in scholarship and research.

The Open Access Week in 2010 was held from 11 to 15 October in the Netherlands and the ITC Faculty Library organized a programme to mark this event, inviting two speakers to deliver lectures on 11 October. The complete lectures, including the discussions afterwards, are available from the ITC Library website (<http://vimeo.com/15798324>).

The first speaker was Professor John Mackenzie Owen, professor of information science, from the University of Amsterdam, who gave a lecture entitled *Open Access - Promises and Pitfalls*. Open Access is a way to eliminate the cost of scientific publications for end users and their institutions, and could therefore lead to free access to information for all.



Opening of the Open Access Week

However, there are many obstacles to achieving this goal, and the road to full Open Access is not free of pitfalls. He briefly introduced the concept and background of Open Access, provided an overview of current developments, and discussed some of the major issues, both positive and negative. He especially emphasized those aspects that are relevant to developing countries, potentially the chief beneficiaries of Open Access in the long run.

The second speaker, Wim van de Stelt, executive vice-president business development Springer, delivered a lecture with the promising title: *Every Dutch Corresponding Author Can Publish Open Access in a Springer Journal, the Libraries Pay the Fee!* Springer is the second largest scientific publisher in the world, with 2,200 journals and 6,500 books published annually. Springer has a pragmatic approach to Open Access: if Open Access is a model that our customers (scientists, libraries, universities, funders) want or need, we are happy to provide it, as long as it is sustainable. As a result, Springer has a suite of Open Access opportunities for scientists: liberal green policies, Springer Open Choice and Springer Open. Wim van der Stelt discussed these different models and explained how authors from Dutch universities can take advantage of them. He also revealed some background on the Open Access policies and strategies of a large commercial publisher.

Many scientific staff attended the session and there was a lively discussion afterwards.

In his speech, Professor John Mackenzie Owen made the following points:

- Open Access is a different business model for scientific publishing. Content, structure and form of the articles, as well as quality control (peer review), remain the same.



Opening of the Open Access Week



- Up-front payment by the author (or the author's institution): payment is for publishing, not for the publication. Publication becomes freely and globally available over the internet. Author (usually) retains copyright.
- Open Access removes price barriers (subscriptions, licensing fees, pay-per-view fees) and permission barriers (most copyright and licensing restrictions).
- Increasingly, funding agencies are demanding Open Access publication as a condition for funding.
- Open Access makes sense only if and when the major (i.e. commercial) publishers participate; in the end, that will happen.
- Developing countries will benefit from free access to scientific information, but will need financial support for publishing their own research.
- There will be no cost reduction; large publishers will remain monopolists and they will not and cannot downsize.
- High transition costs in moving towards full Open Access will diminish the financial benefits in the short term.
- More than ever, available resources will determine who is allowed to do research. Since price differentiation is inevitable, the choice of publication channel will be based not only on scientific quality criteria but also on budgetary criteria. This will make it easier for large, rich institutions, as against small, poor institutions, to publish in the important journals.



Team ITC Library (from left to right: Nina van den Hoek, Penelope Salter, Marga Koelen en Carla Gerritsen)

project news

Seminar-cum-Workshop on Adoption of Scientific Methodology for Land Use Planning in Haldia, India

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The planning and development authority for the industrial town of Haldia in the eastern state of West Bengal, India, is in the process of updating its land use plan to accommodate future urban and industrial growth over an area of about 300 sq km. As the area is being projected as one of the largest industrial areas in the eastern part of the country, with accessibility to a port, the land use planning has to factor in scope for accelerated growth while taking into consideration issues such as the prevailing population density and the predominance of valuable agricultural land in the area. In response to these challenges, the Haldia Development Authority (HDA) took a decision to utilize scientific tools and methods (including the use of GIS technology) to facilitate the preparation of the land use control plan.

As the Haldia planning area is also the study area of two ITC PhD students, HDA sought technical assistance from ITC's Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-information Management in formulating the Land Use and Development Control Plan (LUDCP). As a first step in this endeavour, a joint seminar cum workshop was held at Haldia on 13 and 14 December 2010 to discuss areas for possible collaboration and try to agree broadly on a methodology for the planning process by deliberating with various stakeholders at the state and local levels. The event was organized as a collaborative effort of

HDA, ITC and the Institute of Town Planners of India (ITPI), and was structured as a seminar on the first day and a participatory workshop to discuss possible planning methodologies on the second day.

The seminar began with opening remarks from the secretary of the ITPI Regional Chapter and a welcome note by the CEO of HDA. After that, in his keynote address, the Principal Secretary of the Urban Planning and Development Department of the State Government, Mr Debashish Sen, stressed the need for adopting holistic and cutting-edge techniques for planning that will enable the decision maker to arrive at a planning decision. He also focused on the need for adopting sustainability principles in the planning for fast-growing areas in India such as Haldia.

The first session of the seminar discussed issues related to the Indian planning process, statutory provi-

sions, and existing methodologies for a port-cum-industrial town. Speakers from CEPT, ITPI and IIT Kharagpur presented a number of case studies that could be relevant to the Haldia planning process. This was followed by a session that deliberated on the historical development of the industrial town over the last few decades, current issues relating to alternatives to the existing port, and the present basemap preparation work using high-resolution imagery that was being carried out by a consultant.

The second session was organized by ITC. In his presentation, Dr Flacke emphasized the need for a collaborative planning approach where the stakeholders could contribute to the planning process in a transparent manner, which would result in the formulation of more plan ownership. Ms Anandita Sengupta, ITC PhD student, presented her methodology that enabled technological risk, one of the major concerns in a industrial



Expert Workshop Scientific Methodology for Land Use Planning

town with a predominance of petrochemical industries, to be incorporated into the land use plan. Mr Debanjan Bandyopadhyay presented an approach integrating those economic, social and environmental indicators that can be factored into the plan-making process, thereby contributing to socially acceptable and environmentally sustainable planning scenarios for the future. Dr Flacke brought the technical session to a close by informing the audience about the new ITC Group Decision Room, which houses large touch-screen-based map interfaces that could offer decision support to a collaborative planning process of this kind. This was followed by a question and answer session, and the seminar was concluded with a vote of thanks from ITPI.

On the second day, a range of stakeholder groups from Haldia, including planners, industry, local governments of both urban and adjoining rural areas, an environmental protection agency and NGOs, took part in the participatory workshop conducted by ITC. To initiate the stakeholders into the planning process, Dr Flacke introduced them to a collaborative spatial multicriteria-based evaluation plan-

ning technique – a method that could be considered for application to the land use planning process in Haldia. The participants were divided into mixed groups to facilitate the sharing of views between stakeholders, and were given the exercise of formulating relevant criteria for land use planning, taking into account their knowledge and appreciation of the area. This was followed by an exercise where they assigned values to the criteria, based on methods such

as simple ranking, weighting and pairwise comparison, and then consolidated them in order to see the overall picture. The entire automated SMCE process as applicable to a planning process was then demonstrated through a GIS case study, using the ILWIS software.

The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks from HDA and the promise to further strengthen the collaboration with ITC.



Stakeholders discussing spatial criteria for land use zoning

New Nuffic NICHE Project in Land Administration

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Nuffic has awarded ITC a grant for the implementation of an institutional strengthening project with the University of San Carlos, Guatemala, in the field of land administration. ITC will implement this four-year project together with the Dutch Kadaster. The counterpart is the regional university centre in Quetzaltenango (CUNOC).

Activities will focus on strengthening the five-year university programme in land administration, developing a research programme, and improving research and teaching facilities. The project will also benefit the regional university centres in Peten and

Chiquimula, Guatemala. The project will kick off with a two-day workshop in Guatemala at the beginning of February. The ITC project director is Dr Javier Morales of the ITC Department of Geo-information Processing.

For more information on the Nuffic NICHE programme, visit www.nuffic.nl/international-organizations/services/capacity-building/niche

Kick-Off Workshop CHANGES Project: A Marie Curie Initial Training Network

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ITC has succeeded in acquiring European funding for a Marie Curie Initial Training Network, which will be coordinated by ITC and involve 15 other European partners. The project name CHANGES stands for Changing Hydro-meteorological risks – as Analyzed by a New Generation of European Scientists. The project director is Dr Cees van Westen of ITC's Department of Earth Systems Analysis.

A kick-off workshop will be organized at ITC on 13 and 14 January, bringing together all the partners to discuss the project planning in greater detail. The project, which lasts four years, will support a network of PhD and postdoc researchers, offering short courses, joint research projects, and the opportunity for the different partners to share and exchange expertise. Vacancies for these positions will be advertised on the websites of the

partner universities and are also open to young non-European researchers.

The project will soon have its own website. For the latest news, check the ITC website.



For more information on Marie Curie Actions, visit http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/understanding/marie-curieinbrief/home_en.html

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life after itc

El Caballero Repite

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“A gentleman repeats” – it’s a common saying in some Latin American countries. It’s used, for example, when you’re invited to dinner and you want to eat more. Well, I’m not really a gentleman but for sure I like to repeat ... on some occasions.

This is my third time at ITC; I hope that makes me a gentleman. When people tell me that I must love ITC very much, I usually reply that ITC is the one that loves me. Among the students at ITC, we say if you come, you will be back, and we have seen this proved on plenty of occasions.

First Time

I came to ITC for the first time in 2002, to do a Professional Master’s course in Geoinformatics (GFM3). Actually I applied for a nine-month diploma course but I got a letter from ITC saying that I was overqualified. One year later my mom, Lilia (she will be very happy reading her name in this article), called me at work telling me that the Dutch embassy had just called and that I was being offered the one-year Professional Master’s course. When I arrived in Enschede with five other Colombians, we were given accommodation not in the ITC Hotel but in some apartments not very close to the city centre. It was a nice experience living in the same building with Dutch people of different ages. We did not have internet in those apartments and all of us arrived without laptops, so we used to remain at ITC until late at night, doing assignments (it was a tough programme) or just browsing the Web (if we had time).

Becoming a Gentleman

I left Enschede in 2003 with the feeling that I wanted more. Two years later, I was accepted for the MSc programme Environmental Modelling and Management (GEM), which runs for 18 months and used to be delivered in four countries: England, Sweden, Poland and the Netherlands. I was the only Latin American in the class, in a group composed mainly of African and Asian students. Being a group of foreigners in each country helped us to create a bond that still exists today. The GEM programme allowed us to experience different cultures, different systems of teaching, different atmospheres, currencies ... it trained us in both scientific and adaptability skills. Just imagine 28 students travelling together, cooking together, packing together, shipping their luggage from one place to the other, and struggling with the lectures together. I clearly remember our first days in Sweden, when we were at the Lund University, finishing an assignment around 3 or 4 am that we had to submit to England. And struggling with the “essays” system in England, which also applies to written exams. In each new place, we made new friends and it was hard to say goodbye after our stay of some months.

Thrice Blessed

In 2007, when we graduated from the GEM programme, I was offered the opportunity to study for a PhD in Soil Erosion under the DESIRE programme against desertification. It was a lucky break. One of my tentative MSc supervisors, Victor Jetten, had lent me a book about soil erosion, and I stayed in Europe some



My version of the GEM students 2005-2007



Enschede has given me and my wife Sally our daughter, Sara Valeria, who was born in September 2010

extra weeks, travelling around. I went to his office to give the book back and he asked me about my plans for the near future. “Well,” I said, “maybe find a job, or a PhD opening.” “A PhD?” he replied. “I may have one for you!” After some conversations about my background and the topic, I signed for the PhD. Now I am studying how rainfall causes erosion in the Cape Verde islands ... and that’s where I am now, writing this article.

Enschede and ITC have become my second home. I have lived in all the types of accommodation that the

International Hotel can provide: outside the hotel, in the hotel, in the new apartments, and now in the family apartments. Living in Enschede is as exciting as you make it. It is a small city but one with plenty of possibilities. Here you can get involved in various sports, and enjoy not only the Dutch culture but also the cultures of your colleagues and classmates. Enschede has given me and

my wife Sally our daughter, Sara Valeria, who was born in September 2010. Of course, when looking for names for our daughter, ILWIS, the software developed by ITC, was suggested by some friends. I guess for a Latin American girl the female version would be ILWISA or ILWINA. Being away from our home country of Colombia, ITC staff and students became Sara's family.

If you are coming to ITC, most probably you will come back. And if this is your second time, don't be surprised if you come back again. As Paulo Coelho wrote *"what happens once may never happen again, but what happens twice for sure will happen a third time"*. And who knows? perhaps a fourth time!

ITC: The Story of a Lifetime!

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This story is not meant to be a love story or a fairy tale, but an anecdote of our time at ITC, where we found more than we were looking for.

We, Ana Karina from Honduras and Mauricio from Ecuador, have such good memories of our time at ITC. Each of us came from different parts of Latin America, sharing two things: our language and a tremendous enthusiasm for learning. We decided to come to ITC because we had heard of its prestige in the GIS field and of its multicultural environment.

Ana: "I came to ITC to learn about GIS management, something that was becoming fundamental to my daily work. At the Opening of the Academic Year, I immediately began to understand the real meaning of

the word *International*: so many countries gathered in one place and so many colourful traditional dresses representing the cultural diversity. Everything made me realize that I was going to live in a unique atmosphere. From the very first day, I met highly experienced teachers, and wonderful classmates from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Together we shared lectures, hard work, study trips and also entertainment. I had a great time right from the start, but meeting someone so special exceeded all my expectations." Mauricio: "From the day I went to university to study Geography, I heard about ITC as one of the world's most important institutions in the field of geo-information science. And I'm certain that my decision to study there dates back to this time.

Years later, the dream finally came true and suddenly I was attending my first lecture in the auditorium – the topic, obviously, was GIS. Science, technology, friendly teachers, food, great classmates and friends from almost every continent on Earth were the ingredients that created a wonderful environment to live in for one year. I was studying and working hard to get a Master's degree, but what I could not imagine was that this step in my professional life was going to be the most important step in my entire life."

As typical Latin Americans, we started to gather together to eat, watch Latin American films, dance salsa, exchange expressions from our colourful language, and to travel around Europe. We made a good



We started to gather together to eat, dance salsa, exchange expressions from our colourful language, and to travel around Europe

group of friends from many countries. Suddenly, Mauricio and I found ourselves sharing great moments and enjoying – too much probably – each other’s company. That is when everything started! However, unlike in a fairy tale, the most difficult part started after we finished our studies at ITC, when each of us went back to our own country. Happily, the rela-

tionship had become so strong after almost one year apart that we decided to get married. The marriage took place in a beautiful small chapel in Ecuador, amidst our families and friends (three of our dearest ITC friends joined us that day).

As a result of this great experience, here we are again, getting ready to

go back to ITC next year, and continue our education ... but now as a couple!

ITC is full of surprises, so if you are still hesitant about coming, we can tell you that you will surely find what you are looking for: high-quality education ... and probably something else too.

Finding True Love at ITC

Susan Asiimwe
Brandon Wysowski

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by_vcu@hotmail.com

Susan

Going to ITC

It was the morning of 12 July 2008 when a call from the Netherlands embassy changed my life forever. Mr Harry, then the fellowship officer, delivered the good news that I had been awarded a scholarship to study at ITC. I was very excited because my dream had been fulfilled.

According to my ITC admission letter, I could expect to obtain an MSc degree after 18 months ... but not also find my future husband. I think it’s the best non-scientific bonus that ITC offers. But again, I have been asking myself this question: What are the chances of finding true love at the “International Torture Centre”? I’m very sure most of you know or still remember the torture but how about the great reward I am talking about? I think this could be a potential PhD topic ... although I guess this topic won’t be needed since we already have the results!

Finding Mr Right

It all started in November 2008, when an e-mail that Brandon addressed to me opened the door to our relationship. ITC gave us the best dating environment because we had good times and tough moments. We went on all those cold ITC field trips

together; we trudged in the snow on so many mornings together, especially on Saturdays going to the market. These moments brought us even closer together and made our relationship stronger. We always told ourselves that, if we could survive the torture centre, then nothing could ever defeat us. ITC gave us the best platform for endurance and patience, which are the basic principles of relationships.

On the morning of 23 July 2009, Brandon asked me to come with him for a walk in G.J. van Heek Park, Enschede, and that’s where he asked me to marry him. The engagement ring was very special to Brandon and I now feel honoured to wear it. The ring belonged to his grandmother, who passed away while we were studying at ITC. Unfortunately I never met her, but every time I look at it, it reminds me of how blessed I am to be part of his lovely family. On 29 December, while on our trip to Paris, we bought our wedding bands.

Introducing Brandon to My Family

After graduation, Brandon came with me to Uganda to meet my family. He was very excited because it was his first time in Africa. The introduction ceremony, called a *kwanjula*, was fantastic and for the first time



Brandon and ITC Alumnus Emmanuel Olet who was his best man at the introduction ceremony in Uganda both dressed in Kanzu



Susan and Brandon after the engagement ceremony

Brandon put on our traditional attire, a *kanzu*, as an in-law. He loved every minute of the ceremony – although he was a bit overwhelmed by the size of my family since he himself comes from a very small family.

Brandon**Going to ITC**

After earning a certificate in Geographical Information Systems, I wanted to further my education by obtaining a Master's degree. After searching for schools in my home state without success, I began expanding my search and that led me to ITC. When I read about ITC online, I instantly knew it was the school for me. Little did I know, I would be walking away from ITC with a Master's degree and my future wife!

Wedding

Susan later joined me in the United States in May 2010. On 24 July 2010, we got married in Richmond, Virginia, at my childhood church, Manakin Episcopal. The wedding was

fantastic – although few of Susan's friends and family could attend because of the distance.

We are now living happily together in Gaithersburg, Maryland, which is just outside Washington DC. I am working as a geospatial analyst task manager at MDA Information Systems in Rockville, Maryland.

ITC not only offered us the opportunity to meet but also allowed us to learn how to associate and live with people from across the world. Thank you ITC for the knowledge and skills you gave us and for bringing us together!

Long live the ITC family!



Sharing the first dance



Mr and Mrs Wysowski waiting to cut the cake

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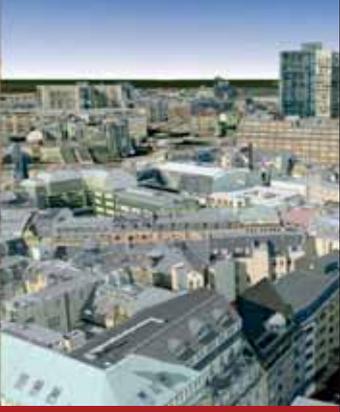
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ITC Alumni Meet Addis Ababa

Sisay Zenebe

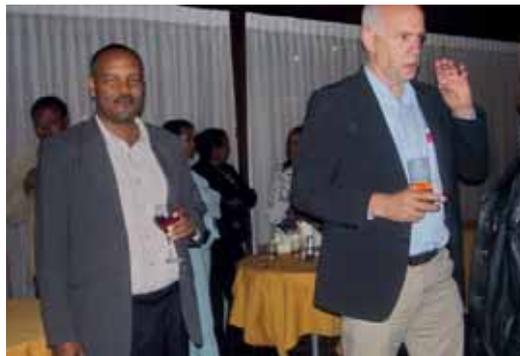
s_zenebe@yahoo.com

On the occasion of the AARSE Conference in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), an informal alumni gathering was organized by Mr Sisay Zenebe.

Meeting old friends and ITC staff members, as well as making contact with fellow ITC alumni, was the main task of the evening. Around 75 alumni were present at the event. The alumni were also honoured by the presence of His Excellency Mr Hans Blankenberg, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Ethiopia, who spoke some words of welcome to the participants. ITC's rector, Professor Tom Veldkamp, and managing director, Ms Erna Leurink, also attended the event and met the participants.



Meeting old friends and making new contacts



ITC Alumnus and Bert Boer



Professor Tom Veldkamp, and managing director, Ms Erna Leurink, also attended the event and met the participants

ITC Alumni Meet Hanoi

Marjan Kreijns

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ITC recently organized a successful alumni meeting in a very charming restaurant in Hanoi.

It was attended by some 45 alumni, as well as former ITC rector Professor Klaas Jan Beek and his son Martien Beek (First Secretary Netherlands Embassy Hanoi) and wife Olivie, and former staff member Patrick van Laake, who is now working for the UN in Vietnam. It was great to see that the alumni form a tightly knit group; they know one another well and meet regularly.

The dinner reception also served as an opportunity to say farewell to our resident representative in Vietnam, Ms Marjan Kreijns, who was due to leave the region at the end of 2010.



Marjan Kreijns says farewell to the alumni



Professor Klaas Jan Beek also attended the gathering



The Alumni form a tight group and meet regularly

ITC Alumni Meet Kampala

Jane Bermigisha

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Thanks to the ITC tradition of bringing alumni together at every opportunity, a get-together for ITC alumni was held at Hotel International, Muyenga, Kampala, on 19 November 2010. This alumni gathering was organized as part of the Ministerial Conference on Higher Education in Agriculture in Africa (15 to 19 November 2010). The conference was organized by the Regional Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), together with the Government of Uganda and various partners, the aim being to mobilize support and resources for higher education in science and agriculture. It was attended by policy makers (especially ministers responsible for education, agriculture, science & technology, finance and planning); technical experts in the focus ministries; university vice-chancellors and their deans; university networks; development partners/NGOs; sub-regional organizations; university partners in research for development, such as research and extension; farmer organizations; and knowledge centres and networks within and outside Africa.

ITC was represented by three alumni (Dr R.P. Singh, secretary general, Indian Agricultural Universities Association; Dr Babatunde Nuga, lecturer from Nigeria, and Dr Jane Bermigisha from Uganda) and most importantly Professor Eric Smaling, who attended the conference in his capacity as senator in the Dutch Parliament and professor of agricultural sciences at both ITC, University of Twente, and Wageningen University.

It was a great honour for the ITC alumni attending the conference and those within Uganda to welcome Professor Smaling as chief guest at

the alumni gathering. The gathering was also graced by the presence of Ms Marieke Janssen from the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Kampala; Dr Wim Andriess of Wageningen University; Dr Nighisty Ghezze, head of programmes, International Foundation for Science, Sweden; and Miguel Leal, REDD project manager, Albertine Rift Programme, Kampala.

During the gathering, the alumni and their guests were entertained with local Ugandan cultural music and dancing before sharing dinner. In the interlude, the alumni introduced themselves and highlighted their career paths and life experiences after ITC. It was a pleasure for the alumni to receive a written message from Ms Jorien Terlouw, who sent warm greetings and gave an update on ITC activities. The message was read out by Dr Babatunde.

Finally, Professor Smaling addressed the gathering. In his speech, he underscored the importance of the Ministerial Conference and asked those that had attended to highlight the main lessons learned and how they should be applied. In the same way, he took an interest in the career paths of the alumni and asked them to explain in greater depth how they were applying the knowledge acquired at ITC. A number of alumni briefed the gathering on how they were utilizing this knowledge, and it was found that ITC was indeed contributing greatly not only to personal careers but also to national and regional development agendas, as highlighted in the examples below.

Mr Godfrey Kimuli works for the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. He did not use GIS and remote sensing immediately after he had completed his ITC

course because at that time the Ministry did not have the appropriate software available. In recent years, however, many ministerial staff have gone to ITC, and the tremendous knowledge and skills acquired have helped to raise awareness of the potential of these technologies. As a result, the Ministry is now equipped with GIS and remote sensing facilities and the staff can apply the knowledge gained at ITC.

Dr Grace Nangendo works for the Wildlife Conservation Society as a manager/specialist in GIS and remote sensing. With her knowledge of GIS and ecology, she has contributed to the *National Oil Exploration Sensitivity Atlas*. She also does a lot of biodiversity modelling in her work. At the moment, the National Planning Authority is setting up a spatial data infrastructure and most of the team involved (including Grace) are ITC alumni. This indicates how ITC has contributed to developing the capacity and skills in geo-information science of different individuals.

Robert Charles Aguma is the director of associates for Strategic Resource Development and Environment Management Ltd (ASRDEM Ltd).

Matthew Ofwono works for NARO in Lira, where he is active in a climate change programme

Beatrice Kyasiimire is working for the Wildlife Conservation Society on a WILD programme in northern Uganda. Using geo-information tools in this programme, WCS is cooperating with local governments in environmental action planning for the benefit of communities that are returning home from internally displaced camps following a 20-year

armed conflict. In collaboration with Gulu University, the staff have been trained in GIS. A GIS laboratory has extended services to district officials, who have been trained in, and schooled to conduct, environmental action planning exercises with the use of geo-information tools.



Professor Smaling addresses the gathering



A number of Alumni briefed on how they were utilizing the knowledge gained at ITC



The Alumni and guests were entertained with local music and dance



During the gathering a dinner was served



Tulip Night 2010: Let's Colour the Night Orange!

Marjan Kreijns

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On Friday evening, 26 November 2010, Nuffic Neso Thailand, the Netherlands Alumni Association Thailand (NAAT), and the Royal Netherlands Embassy jointly organized another successful Tulip night for all Thai who had graduated from the Netherlands.

The dress code was "orange" and the Tulip Night was organized outdoors in the beautiful garden of the Dutch embassy. The successful event attracted about 260 guests, who enjoyed food, drinks, games, fantastic prizes and live music. Fortified by plenty of delicious food and excellent Heineken beer, everyone danced the night away.

The ITC alumni were well represented and occupied two large tables. We also drew some jealous glances, as ITC alumni won many of the beautiful prizes during the lucky draw.

Mrs. Parida Kuneepong, Secretary ITC-NAAT Chapter with Marjan Kreijns and Ms. Dawis, alumni officer of the Dutch Embassy



ITC alumni together with the Dutch Ambassador



Mr. Thiva Supanje, Chairman of ITC-NAAT association



Dancing the night away

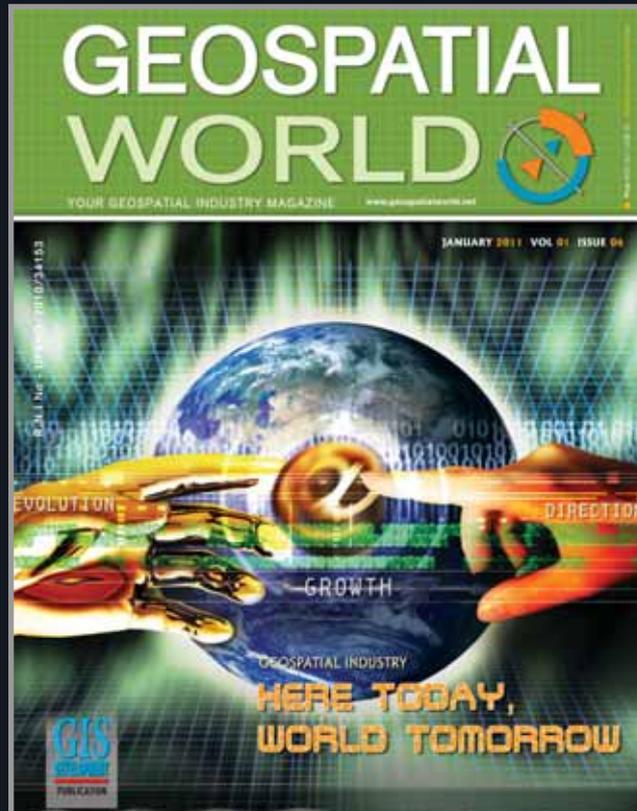


ITC alumni together with the Dutch Ambassador



ITC alumni won many of the beautiful prizes during the lucky draw

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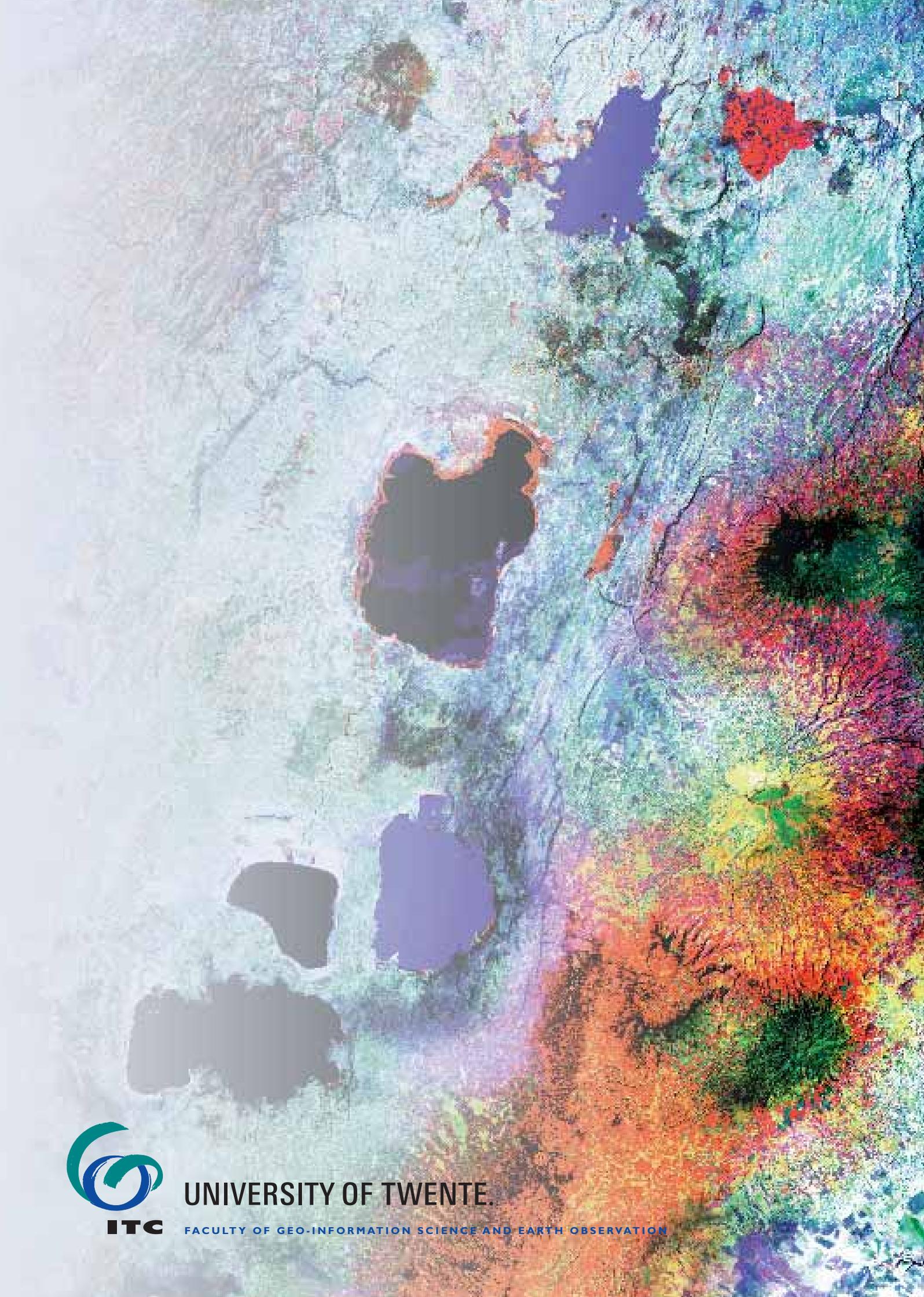
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