



ISPRS WG VI/5 and Student Consortium Summer School

»Theory and application of laser scanning«

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 1.-7. July 2007.

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The WG VI/5: Promotion of the Profession to Students (<http://www.commission6.isprs.org/wg5/>), together with the Student Consortium (SC) organized the second Summer School (SS) on laser scanning in Ljubljana, Slovenia, July 1 - July 7 2007. Summer schools present one of the most important activities of the WG VI/5 and SC for the promotion of science among young researchers. The purpose is to provide an intensive and educational week with training activities for students and young researchers in ISPRS's work fields. The third Summer School will take place in Nanjing, China, June 27 - July 1 2008, just before the ISPRS Congress in Beijing, proposed topic is »Acquisition, processing and representation of the 3D geospatial information«.

The fact that the technology of laser scanning is inevitably entering the everyday surveying practice helped to decide on the topic of SS in Ljubljana. The needs

from the practice are big and enterprises employing young professionals expect that they be well acquainted with the latest development when finishing their study.

The summer school was hosted by the University of Ljubljana - Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering, and locally organized by the Slovenian Geodetic Student Association (more than 20 students of geodesy were involved in organization activities) and Association of Slovenian Surveyors - Section of Photogramme-

try and Remote Sensing. This SS visited 52 foreign participants from 20 countries (China, Malaysia, India, Iran, Egypt, Tur-



Figure 1. Opening ceremony, speech of the ISPRS 2nd Vice President E. Baltasvicius; in the background from the left: U. Renko, A. Lisec, Prof. B. Majes

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key and many European countries), and around 30 domestic participants (students, faculty teaching staff, representatives from sponsors).

Most participants came on Sunday, July 1st, and they were accommodated in a hostel near the venue. Arrivals registered at the registration desk and participants received the SS bag (a nice rucksack) with SS materials inside (program book, proceedings on CD-ROM, promotional material, etc.). The program started on Monday, July 2nd, with the opening ceremony, where the speakers were the Faculty dean, Prof Bojan Majes, the ISPRS second Vice President Prof Emmanuel Baltsavias, the WG VI/5 chair Dr Mojca K. Fras who read the letter of support, written especially for this occasion by Dr Janez Potočnik, the European Commissioner for Science and Research. The TC VI president, Prof Kohei Cho, was not present, but prepared a pleasing video message that was played to the audience.

The program started with lecture sessions. Each session was of 1.5 hours duration, followed by half an hour refreshment break or lunch at noon. The first three days of lectures were dedicated to airborne laser scanning, and the last two days to terrestrial laser scanning. All together 32 lecturing hours were performed in five days (from Monday to Friday). Lectures were given in different ways, some were theoretical and some were practical, in form of tutorial (work on computers using special software) or practical exercises (outdoor measurements). The lecturers came from academic institutions (Prof Norbert Pfeifer from Vienna University of Technology, Prof George Vosselman from the ITC, Dr Devrim Akca from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zürich, Cristoph Straub from Albert-Ludwigs University Freiburg) and from leading equipment and software providers (Leica Geosystems, INPHO, RIEGL LMS, Optech International). On Saturday, a whole day excursion was organized to the Slovenian Karst and coast.

In addition to the lecture program, there were many social events and a technical visit were organized. On Monday, July 2nd, evening was reserved for a welcome party in the Faculty entrance hall. It was organized by local students that prepared a short but cheerful cultural program, domestic food and live music with trumpets and drums. On Tuesday afternoon, participants went to the Lesce sport airport where the Slovenian enterprise Flycom has a hangar with helicopters and the newest lidar equipment (full-wave scanner). The company staff cordially accepted the guests and made a thorough pre-



Figure 2. Prof N. Pfeifer answering many questions during the break

sentation of the equipment and some of their recent projects. This was a very instructive occasion for many of the participants, having opportunity to actually see in such equipment. The way led us further to the lake of Bled, a very famous and nice tourist resort. On Thursday evening, a guided tour of Ljubljana old centre was organized. On Friday, July 6th, a special session was dedicated to students - young authors, who wrote a paper or poster about their research work in laser scanning, and presented it to the audience. These presentations were very well prepared and there was a lively discussion from the audience.

The final program of the summer school finished with the closing session. In the evening there was a relaxed social gathering in hostel Vič, where the Slovenian students prepared a funny program, finishing with festive cake dedicated to successful closure of the summer school.

On Saturday, July 7th a double-decker drove the participants on an excursion to the Slovenian Karst and coast, where our guests visited the magnificent Postojna cave and had a long stop in Piran, a picturesque littoral city. The evening finished with a dinner in a farm guest house with on old tradition and high quality wine production. During journey back to Ljubljana almost everyone has recollected the past days impressions and it was difficult to realize that the summer school was over.

It took the organizers a lot of effort to organize this event, but we accepted this with pleasure and awa-

reness that it had an important purpose - to promote the profession among students and to transfer the knowledge from the experts to the students. Having in mind the reactions of the participants - students as well as lectures, this event turned out to be a huge success and that is the biggest reward for our effort.

In the first place, the quality of the lectures was crucial for the success of the SS, but not less important was a very friendly atmosphere developed during the whole week. Participants worked as a group of old friends and many new friendships were established. A lot of discussion was running between the participants and the lecturers, some questions have been set during the lectures or students asked particular details during the breaks.

The web page of the SS is still active (http://www.fgg.uni-lj.si/~alisc/www/ISPRS_SS_2007/), and there is a photo gallery published and the complete proceedings can be downloaded (please, contact the WG VI/5 secretary for the password).

Acknowledgement

The organizers deeply thank the ISPRS Council, who supported and sponsored this event, as well as numerous international and Slovenian sponsors for their financial and material support. The list of sponsors is published in the program book of the summer school. We cordially thank all the lecturers in this summer school for their generosity in contributing and sharing their valuable knowledge with young people interested in profession. 🙏



Figure 3. Guided tour to Ljubljana centre, in front of the city hall