



32.4 Report of ICORSE

Lawrence Friedl, Chair

The International Committee on Remote Sensing of Environment (ICORSE) is a standing ISPRS subcommittee. The ICORSE membership is composed of representatives from Earth science, geospatial, and environmental agencies of countries represented in ISPRS. The ICORSE goal is to advance the use of remote sensing to address priority issues of the environment including scientific, policy, management, and other pursuits. The primary function of ICORSE is to oversee the biannual International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment, ISRSE.

The 36th International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment (ISRSE-36) took place on 11-15 May, 2015, in Berlin, Germany. The German Aerospace Center (DLR) hosted this highly successful and productive symposium. Highlights of the event included:

- 738 participants from 66 countries
- 81 technical sessions across 12 themes, incl. seven special sessions
- 415 oral presentations and 167 posters
- 29 keynote contributions in five plenary sessions
- three social events and one technical tour.

Abstracts of all accepted submissions are available at the ISPRS website.

The ICORSE met on 12 May, 2015, in Berlin in association with ISRSE-36. Per-Erik Skrovseth (Norwegian Space Center) stepped down as ICORSE Chair, and the Committee elected Lawrence Friedl (NASA) as the new Chair. In addition to a review of ISRSE-36, the Committee addressed four primary topics. The Committee discussed three offers to host ISRSE-37 in 2017, and it accepted the offer of the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) to host the symposium at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Tshwane (Pretoria). The Committee and SANSA decided to identify opportunities to co-locate other meetings with the symposium, particularly those of the Group on Earth Observation.

In addition, the Committee addressed the 2016 ISPRS Congress and General Assembly, including a discussion with Congress Chair Lena Halounová on ICORSE support for the planned Space Agency Forum. ICORSE agreed to develop a prospectus with ISRSE and distribute it to ICORSE member agencies. The Committee reviewed its terms of reference and decided to update them. Based on a series of meetings in 2015 with ISPRS Executive Director, the Committee discussed the relationship of ICORSE and the symposium to ISPRS overall, looking to strengthen ties and mutual benefits.

In the coming years, the Committee will pursue additional members and consider the Symposium as a venue to showcase the use of remote sensing in relation to the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals.