

Preface

The 10th International Symposium on High Mountain Remote Sensing Cartography (HMRSC-X) was held from 8 to 11 September 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The symposium took place at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and was very well organized by the Mountain Environment and Natural Resources' Information System (MENRIS) Division of ICIMOD headed by Basanta Shresta. The local organizing committee was complemented by Pradeep Mool, Paribesh Pradhan, and Bikash Dangol. They all did a tremendous job in making the symposium a success. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The HMRSC-X symposium was attended by more than 180 participants from 18 countries. Two post-symposium field excursions were offered by the organizers: (1) a one-day field trip to the Kodari region on 12 September, and (2) an 8-day mountain trek to Sagarmatha National Park in the Khumbu region from 12 to 19 September. The latter was perfectly organized by Asian Trekking Ltd. and also scientifically supported by Paribesh Pradhan and Bikash Dangol, both of ICIMOD. Both field trips made a lasting impression on everyone who took part.

The following co-organizers and co-sponsors of HMRSC-X are also highly acknowledged: European Space Agency (ESA), GIS Development, International Cartographic Association (ICA), Eurasia-Pacific UNINET of Austria, Graz University of Technology (TUG), and University of Graz (UNI Graz).

In 1990, this series of symposia on High Mountain Remote Sensing Cartography (HMRSC) was jointly initiated by Prof. Manfred Buchroithner (now Technical University of Dresden) and Prof. Robert Kostka (Graz University of Technology). In 2006, both HMRSC founders received the HMRSC Award of Appreciation in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the advancement of the ideas of High Mountain Remote Sensing Cartography. The interested reader who wishes to know more about the history of HMRSC and its symposia (including this one) is referred to the paper "When remote sensing went alpine – the 10 international HMRSC symposia 1990-2008" by Manfred Buchroithner (DGPF Tagungsband 19/2010 – Dreiländertagung OVG, DGPF und SGPF, 10 p.)¹.

After a delay of some two years, the editors are now proud to present the proceedings of HMRSC-X summarizing the scientific outcome of the symposium. The proceedings consist of a welcome address provided by Dr. Andreas Schild, Director General of ICIMOD, and a collection of scientific papers delivered at HMRSC-X. A total of 36 contributions were submitted in time to the editorial board consisting of Paribesh Pradhan (ICIMOD), Viktor Kaufmann (TUG), and Wolfgang Sulzer (UNI Graz). The papers of these proceedings are arranged according to the main topics of HMRSC-X: (1) Remote Sensing Technology, (2) Image Processing and Cartography, (3) Monitoring and Environment, (4) Morphology and Hazard Mapping, (5) Himalaya from Space, and (6) Cryosphere and Water.

Due to financial constraints the present proceedings are printed in black-and-white only, but a colour version can be downloaded from the HMRSC homepage². The proceedings were produced by Marc Muick and Bernardette Mandl, both of UNI Graz. Their help during the editorial work was indispensable and is therefore gratefully acknowledged. The printing of the HMRSC-X proceedings was financially supported by the Institute of Geography and Regional Science (UNI Graz) and the University of Graz.

At the time of writing this preface, the core group of HMRSC had already decided to phase out and abandon this unique series of symposia. The HMRSC community has proudly recognized that the main goals of the founders and also of the early members of HMRSC have been achieved successfully in the course of the past 20 years. It was also ensured that the original ideas of HMRSC will remain the subject of lively discussion and will be developed further in the future at various other scientific organizations, such as the Commission on Mountain Cartography³ of the International Cartographic Association (IPA).

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Graz, December 2010

¹ http://www.geoimaging.tugraz.at/viktor.kaufmann/Tagungsband_DACH-2010_Buchroithner.pdf

² <http://www.kfunigraz.ac.at/geowww/hmrsc/>

³ <http://www.mountaincartography.org/>