Dear alumni,

with this newsletter we like to share with you some reminiscences about alumni related events in the last year.

In addition, another good news: Prof. Schröder could achieve the abolition of tuition fees for the PG Master Programme starting from 2013!

It is still possible to submit applications for our PG Master Programme 2013/14. Please forward this opportunity to potentially interested younger colleagues and friends!

Best regards

Dr. Franz-Josef Behr, Alumni Representative

Master Graduation 2012

The graduation ceremony of Photogrammetry and Geoinformatics and Software Technology was held on March 2012. For the first time, the Alumni Award was handed to the students who have performed best in their study period. The Alumni Award is donated by Stuttgart Active Alumni Group -Photogrammetry and Geoinformatics, which was presented Gideon Okpoti Tetteh for this year.

In the background we see Nisreen Al-gorani who received the Wichmann Publisher Award.

Figure 1: Prof. Dr. Behr handed the Alumni Award to Gideon Okpoti Tetteh
Prof. Dr. Gülch Secretary of the German Society for Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Geoinformation

On March 15, 2012 Prof. Dr. Eberhard Gülch has been elected Secretary of the DGPF at the Annual Meeting of the Society in Potsdam, Germany. Prof. Gülch is Associate Editor of the ISPRS Journal, Member of the Editorial Board of Photogrammetric Record, Finnish Photogrammetric Journal and since Co-Chair of the Working Group of Image Analysis and Image Understanding of the DGPF.

Alumni driven workshops in India

In April 2012 an HFT alumni team was involved in several events in India, related to Geospatial technologies with focus on popularizing Free and Open Source GIS software.

The HFT alumni team consisted of Dr. Franz-Josef Behr (Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences), Dr. A. P. Pradeep Kumar (University of Kerala), and Sajid Pareeth MSc, International Water Management Institute (IWMI).

On April 10th, a one-day workshop on the topic "Geospatial technologies in research, development and teaching: harnessing Free and Open Source GIS" was carried out at School of Environmental Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam (the department in which the HFT alumnus Dr. A.P.Pradeepkumar formerly worked as a Reader). It was organized by the Dr. R. Satheesh Centre for Remote Sensing and GIS, which is the Remote Sensing and GIS Division of the School of Environmental Sciences (SES), of the Mahatma Gandhi University, located at Kottayam, in Kerala, in association with Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences (HFT Stuttgart), Germany and Stuttgart Active Alumni Group.

The program afterwards was divided into four sessions. The first one was on the topic 'Open Source and OSGeo - Spatially Empowered Open Source' by Prof. Dr. Franz-Josef Behr. The second session was about 'Leveraging the openness in GIS: How to make use of open datasets available in real applications?' by Sajid Pareeth, GIS/RS specialist, International Water Management Institute (IWWI), Colombo, Sri Lanka. This consisted of a one-hour lecture and demo. The third session followed with the topic 'Some examples of CGIAR research: GIAM (Global Irrigated Area Mapping), and 'Analogues-climate change adaptation scenarios' which was a case study and presented by Sajid Pareeth, IWMI. The fourth session was on the free statistical software R, titled 'R -- Statistics to image processing in one platform, powerful open source tool for research', also given by Sajid Pareeth, IWMI.
On April 11th, the alumni workshop moved to Trivandrum, the capital of the state of Kerala, with a workshop on ‘Free Software for Better Geospatial Intelligence’ organized by the Department of Geology, University of Kerala, again in association with SUAS and the Stuttgart Active Alumni Group. The main objective of the workshop was to spread awareness on geo-spatial intelligence through free and open source software.

Significantly this workshop was co-sponsored by the Kerala State Council for Science Technology and Environment, the state's agency for nurturing research and development; who deemed the workshop important enough to send its second-in-command, the Member Secretary Dr.K.K.Ramachandran to inaugurate the workshop.

Summer School on Environmental Informatics held at IIITM-K

The last event was the First Summer School on Environmental Informatics held at IIITM-K, in the Software Technology Park (Techno Park) of Trivandrum, another partner of HFT. There was a selection of participants from amongst the applicants who had applied to summer school on environmental informatics. The participants were form different states of India and were trained in different aspects of geospatial technology. Prof. Behr offered a session on Geospatial Web Technologies and Standards for Environmental Scientists and also contributed to the closing ceremony on Friday.

Prof. Behr and the alumni involved are looking forward for further events where HFT Stuttgart’s alumni can contribute their expertise in different fields of geospatial technologies, and take the message of the HFT across the world.

Tempus Project – GIDEC

HFT Stuttgart is part of this Tempus Project thanks to the engagement of Prof. Dr. Gülch and Prof. Dr. Schröder.

The project activities include modernization of existing geodesy curricula, development of new curricula and new teaching materials, establishment of 6 new GIS Laboratories in partner countries and re-training of partner country staff through intensive training courses.

The project will also implement new pedagogical methods and quality assurance mechanism in geodesy/GIS education. Finally, web-based e-learning platforms will be established in the three partner countries. The project consortium consists of 10 universities and 1 government agency, with Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) as the coordinating institution.

The photographs give you an impression about a training program which has been prepared and implemented by Prof. Dr. Dietrich Schröder and Ole Mensing from Hochschule für Technik Stuttgart (HFT), Germany. All partner universities had sent participants to the course with 32 participants in total.

Overall, six different projects have been handled covering different fields of application and different key aspects of GIS (perhaps you remember the GIS practice in your GIS course at HFT?) like "Smart Tourism Map of Armenia with focus on advanced map symbology and ArcGIS Network Analyst", “Bivariate Statistical Analysis for Landslide
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Photogrammetry and Geoinformatics

Hazard Zonation Mapping”, “Location Selection in Environmental Studies with focus on geoprocessing with ArcGIS ModelBuilder”, “Terrain Analysis for Flash Flood Hazard Zonation”, “Hydrological Analysis for a Dam Construction Project including 3D-visualization” and “Real Estate Management for Yerevan with focus on database design and geocoding”.

AGSE 2012 successfully held in Malaysia

Applied Geoinformatics for Society and Environment (AGSE) is an interdisciplinary, international forum for sharing knowledge about the application of Geoinformatics with focus on application and on developing countries. This year’s Summer School / Conference was co-organized by Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences (SUAS), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Johor Bahru, Malaysia, chaired by Prof Dr Alias Bin Abdul Rahman FKSG, and Stuttgart Active Alumni Group (SAAG). UTM is one of HFT’s a partner universities.

Over 100 participants including approx. 50 alumni from 22 countries attended keynote sessions, presentations, and workshops, also given by participants who shared their knowledge and personal experiences. Contributions were compiled in the proceedings which are available worldwide since December through Amazon and other channels.

From SUAS / HFT, Prof. Behr, Prof. Schröder, and Prof. Kettemann were involved. From UTM’s side, alumni like Behnam and Siddique were part of the local organizing team.

It was a great pleasure for all them team members and the alumni to meet one another again, partially after having left Stuttgart in 2000.

In addition for the first time the AGSE team and the Stuttgart Active Alumni Group rewarded awards in several disciplines.

AGSE 2013 is planned to be held September 9 - 13, 2013, Center for Environmental Planning and Technology University (CEPT University), Ahmedabad, India, chaired by Prof Dr Anjana Vyas, Dean, FGSA, CEPT University, one of our partner universities.