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Manchun Li
Jiechen Wang
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Introduction

We are pleased to present the proceedings from the 15th International Conference on Geoinformatics in 2007 (Geoinformatics 2007).

Since its inception in 1992, the International Association of Chinese Professionals in Geographic Information Sciences (CPGIS) has sponsored a series of international conferences on geoinformatics, which encourages academic exchange and fosters friendship and collaboration among professionals and practitioners worldwide. After successful Geoinformatics meetings in 2006 (Wuhan, China), and in 2005 (Toronto, Canada), Geoinformatics 2007, held in Nanjing, China, was also highly successful. This year's meeting was organized by the Department of Geographic Information Science and International Institute of Earth System Science at Nanjing University.

Geoinformatics 2007 was also part of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the cartography specialization at Nanjing University and the 15th anniversary of CPGIS. The meeting covered a wide range of topics in theories, techniques, and applications of geoinformatics, as well as new philosophical views on the future development of this discipline. Over 500 participants from more than 10 countries and regions made Geoinformatics 2007 an exciting event.

The conference theme of Geoinformatics 2007 was "Cartography, Spatial Analysis and Visualization for Harmonious Society," which emphasizes the roles of geospatial information sciences in promoting harmony in societies through informed land use decision making, effective visualization and analysis of spatial information in various sectors of a society, and developing new tools for integrated assessments involving multiple spatial information sources for various stakeholders, etc. This year we received 805 abstracts, accepted 605 abstracts, and accepted 454 full papers for publication after a peer-review process. In total, 215 oral and 294 poster presentations were delivered at the conference. Through these presentations and various forums, the participants showcased their recent achievements and exchanged scientific ideas and technical skills in the field of geospatial information science.

On behalf of the conference technical and local organizing committees, I would like to thank all participants in the conference and contributors to these proceedings. Your support made this year's conference a highly successful and memorable event. We sincerely hope that this momentum will continue into the future, and we will count on your continued support.

Jingming Chen