

# Foreword



It is our great honor to host the Fourth Workshop on Hyperspectral Image and Signal Processing - Evolution in Remote Sensing (WHISPERS) in Shanghai, China on June 4-7, 2012, after its first three successful editions in Genoble, France; Reykjavik, Iceland; and Lisbon, Portugal.

Hyperspectral remote sensing, also known as imaging spectrometry, has emerged in the middle of 1980s. Keeping up with the international pace, China has made significant progress in this promising field. During the last ten years, in addition to the technical developments, the applications of hyperspectral imaging in various areas have also been actively conducted in China. Thus, we are very excited to have WHISPERS in China, offering a prestigious but convenient forum for domestic researchers to share their most recent research outcomes with international peers; meanwhile, international experts can have this great opportunity to know more about hyperspectral research status in China, and explore the possible collaboration opportunity in the future.

Shanghai, China is chosen as the location for WHISPERS 2012 due to its charm as a global city. Shanghai is the largest city by population of China, with a total population of over 23 million as of 2010. It is the commercial and financial center of mainland China, and ranks fifth in the 2011 edition of the Global Financial Centres Index published by the City of London. Shanghai is also a popular tourist destination renowned for its historical landmarks such as The Bund, City God Temple and Yuyuan Garden, as well as the extensive and growing Pudong skyline, which has been described as the “showpiece” of the booming economy of mainland China. We welcome everyone to Shanghai, and hope you enjoy your stay in the city and find time to visit other areas of China.



We also hope you find the WHISPERS 2012 program of great interest. A total of 140 papers were submitted (both regular and special session submissions), 122 of which were accepted, resulting in a 13 % rejection rate. There will be ninety one oral presentations and thirty one posters. The evaluation

of all the papers was performed based on the reports of anonymous reviewers. On average, each paper is judged by 2.5 reviews. WHISPERS 2012 received the continued technical sponsorship of the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS).

We would like to take this opportunity to give a special thank to the founding father of WHISPERS, Jocelyn Chanussot, who has made the brave decision: move WHISPERS to China to further expand its impact in Asia. We believe it will be proven that this decision is very wise. We would like to thank the members of the program committee for their detailed reviews, ensuring a high quality workshop. We would also like to thank the organizers of the special sessions, gathering outstanding contributions. Our warmest thanks also go to three excellent plenary speakers: Qingxi Tong, Peking University, China, Jean-Pierre Bibring, University of Paris, France, and Susan Ustin, University of California, Davis, USA, presenting the cutting-edge research in this field. We also thank our tutorial offerors: Anotonio Plaza, Xiuping Jia, and Mingyi-He, whose efforts further enhance our program.

We would like to thank our international sponsors: HySpex, ASD, EXELIS, Itres, and Chinese sponsors: Golden Way Scientific, ESRI, and NBL. They are the leaders in the field and we are very happy to welcome them in Shanghai. Some of them are WHISPERS' long-term sponsors, and we truly appreciate their continued support!

We are very grateful to the administrators of WHISPERS 2012 organizers (Tongji University; State Key Lab of Information Engineering in Surveying, Mapping, and Remote Sensing, Wuhan University; Center for Earth Observation and Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences; Nanjing University) for their various support. Finally, we would like to thank everyone from the local organizing committee for their time and effort.

After a fruitful WHISPERS 2012 in Shanghai, we are very happy to announce that the 2013 WHISPERS will be held in Florida, USA, June 2013 and hosted by Prof. Paul Gader. See you there !

Enjoy your time in China!

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