

## **Report on SSC2007 conference, Hobart, Australia, 16-18 May 2007.**

The biennial SSC2007 conference topics were quite diverse – the conference tends to be “wide and shallow” rather than “narrow and deep”. The numbers were down on SSC2005, approx 650 vs 800 in Melbourne in 2005, partly as a result of the FIG Working Week conference in Hong Kong running during the same week.

The exhibition was vibrant with a broad range of exhibitors from instrument vendors, spatial software vendors, government depts., survey/spatial consultancies and representatives from the SEASC (South East Asian Survey Congress, 29 Oct – 1 Nov, Christchurch, NZ) and the FIG2010 General Congress committee. Overall the conference organisation was very good (albeit expensive) and it all ran smoothly.

The opening ceremony featured a local Tasmanian drumming group using Japanese style drumming. It somehow inspires some energy and engagement into the rest of the conference.

Keynote Speaker Vanessa Lawrence from the Ordnance Survey UK was very good and gave a broad overview of the situation in the UK combining all the spatial products, mapping and their CORS network. Very impressive. We have a long, long way to go in Australia. She also mentioned that Bill Bryson was a keen collector and reader of maps and quite unprompted on a number of occasions has mentioned this to the media. (Given his writings on Australia, I shall be encouraging Paul Harcombe to chase Bill Bryson as a keynote speaker or dinner speaker for FIG2010.)

The formal dinner was fabulous with an Antarctic theme sponsored by PSMA. The guest speaker was Tim Bowden, brother of Nick Bowden surveyor with the Tasmanian Lands Dept. An absolutely fantastic guest speaker and perfect for the topic of which he has considerable knowledge.

Geodesy Day was on the last day (on Friday) and was well attended. Martin Hale gave two papers about the ‘state of play’ of GPSnet in Victoria with one particularly focusing on the advantage of now having legal traceability of position – that topic just wont go away! Geoff Luton gave two broad papers about contributions of Geoscience Australia – nothing new. My paper on SydNet fitted nicely within these sessions and Will Featherstone assured us all the he “hoped” the new AusGeoid would be out by the end of this year.

I also listened to two papers about ‘women in spatial’ – a marketing pet topic of mine at present and a session by the SSI Young Professionals. I met Kath Sund from Sydney University, who will be attending the SSIS student BBQ in week 14. The energy and enthusiasm of the YPs was just fantastic and I hope to engage our students more with the YPs in NSW. Of particular interest was a demo of “Atlas Gloves”. I’ll investigate this further but if I can get it working before the Open Day on September 1, this promises to be a REAL DRAWCARD for high school kids. In short it copies what Tom Cruise did in the movie ‘Minority Report’ when he stood in front of a projection of a computer screen and moved his hands around to click on items. This implementation uses your hands to move the Google Earth globe. It is very sexy, interactive, appealing and totally spatial.

However for me the highlight of the conference was Tony Sprent's two papers about an alignment survey to 0.1mm accuracy, and a survey of a sundial that he designed and built. It really was one of the most amazing designs, and uses of survey measurements, I have seen.

Linlin also attended, and has inserted below some comments and news of his own.

*Craig Roberts*

-----  
My presentation on "Can Radar Interferometry Address Commercial Applications?" went very well – and one participant has expressed interest for UNSW/ CRCSI to provide a consulting service, and participants from Singapore and Malaysia have expressed their interest to collaborate on the applications of radar interferometry. I also took the opportunity to update the CRCSI CEO Peter Woodgate and Business Manager Graeme Kernich as well as my CRC project participants from Geoscience Australia and the Defense Imagery and Geospatial Organisation.

I also attended the SSI meeting of the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Committee. It was pleasing also to receive a number of inquiries on postgraduate studies with UNSW. Had discussions with Prof Will Featherstone, the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Geodesy, re my appointment to the Editorial Board.

Attended an ARC-L meeting with participants from RMIT (Kefei Zhang), Univ of Melbourne (Allison Kealy), and the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment (Peter Ramm and Martin Hale).

I chaired a very well-attended session on web data delivery on Friday afternoon!

*Linlin Ge*