

Attending the NOWPAP/PICES/WESTPAC Joint Training Course on Remote Sensing Data Analysis:

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This Training Course was held in early October of this year in Vladivostok, Russia. Before attending the course, I was anxious for not having any knowledge or background in remote sensing analysis. However, soon after the first two days had past, I found this course was highly helpful for people to understand how to generate several different kinds of environmental data maps from some decades of satellite data even without background knowledge of remote sensing. The good things about this training program were that all the lectures and exercises were taught by experienced professionals and the materials used in the lectures were provided as Power Point slides, so I could go back to the lecture slides anytime. When I had a difficulty to understand the lecture materials, the lecturers helped me solve the problems. Thanks to those helpful materials and lecturers, I made a big progress in both understanding the remote sensing materials and utilizing its satellite data in preferable formats. Although I hadn't thought of using remote sensing data for my study, this training course gave me a chance to know and understand the remote sensing techniques, and I started thinking how to improve my own study with actual remote sensing data as environmental factors.

In addition to the educational side, there were several other advantages in this training course. Among all, the biggest advantage was a friendship established among the participants. The participants were from various countries including Russia, Korea, Japan, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and India. Some of them knew the materials very well, and some of them were not so familiar with remote sensing. Therefore, during the hands-on exercises, we helped one another to learn how to use the program to analyze satellite data. This was one occasion for us to know other participants. In addition, the participants stayed in the same hotel, and the five-day training course was long enough to make friends with them. Sometimes we talked about personal things including our families, native tongues, our own cultures, countries, or anything other than lecture materials. I got very close to some participants. It is not so easy to make a connection to a person in a different country, but this training course provided a rare and very good chance of building a friendship with other scientists and students from different countries. I hope to keep in

touch with them for a long time, so I can have an easy access to the researchers and scientists in remote sensing analysis in the future.

In short, this was a very good training course. It was so hard to follow the lectures that I had to review the materials by myself every night. But I could improve knowledge about remote sensing analysis and could make very nice friends in other countries through this training course. I would like to thank all the coordinators and lecturers for giving me this great opportunity.