

Report of NOWPAP/PICES/WESTPAC Joint Training Course on Remote Sensing Data Analysis

Hiroki Shimizu

On October 8-12, I attended the training course held in Vladivostok. For the future participants, I make a brief report of the training course from the viewpoint of an outsider: not a lecturer nor a trainee.

Lecture and Exercise

The training course itself consisted of lectures and hands-on computer exercises. Basically, we had lectures in the morning and exercises in the afternoon. The training course was intended not to confuse beginner-level trainees. Before the training course, I knew only a little about remote sensing, but that was not the problem (First two lectures were about fundamentals of remote sensing!). One hands-on exercise was so exciting, because at the end of the session, we could get even graphs of time series of polar ice and algal bloom by processing software! Moreover, it was very interesting that each lecture dealt with remote sensing in a different way. For some lecturers, remote sensing itself is their working field, and others use it as a method for their own research, for example the detection of ocean phenomena. Every lecturer has their own specialty in remote sensing, so I could get wide knowledge from different viewpoints and learned how widely one technology is used in the field of science. I would also like to point out that coffee break is very important in this kind of training. It gives us some time to communicate one another and exchange information on our own interests or researches in a casual way, or to ask lecturers questions on what we didn't get during the lectures or exercises.

Friends

The training course was also very good in sense of interaction of participants, regardless of age and nationality. Besides coffee break, the reception and farewell party were held officially. So we had great opportunity to talk and make friends with other participants. After the training course, we can keep in touch through internet communication, and in fact we have a group on 'Facebook'!

Location

Vladivostok is one of the biggest cities in Eastern Russia. APEC will be held there in summer 2012, so almost all areas of the city were under construction. I was completely a stranger to Cyrillic (Russian letter), so I felt like a baby in the city (Everything is written in Russian, even the names of celebrities). The biggest problem was that I couldn't read the menu bar of the computer because that was written in Russian. But with the kind help of local participants, I managed to complete the training course (in this sense friendship is so important, too). I strongly recommend you to learn the language of the country where training course is held.

Acknowledgement

I express my sincere gratitude to all the lecturers, trainees and staff. Thank you very much!!