

**NOWPAP – PICES Joint Training Course on Remote Sensing Data Analysis**  
October 21 -25, 2013, Ocean University of China, Qingdao, China

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**Venue**

On October 21 – 25<sup>th</sup> I attended the NOWPAP – PICES Joint Training Course on Remote Sensing Data Analysis in Qingdao, China. The course was held at the Ocean University of China in the beautiful coastal city of Qingdao. For a first time traveller to China this was an excellent opportunity to see a beautiful part of Eastern China. As learned by a newly found colleague in the course, *Qing* in Chinese means “green” or “lush” while *dao* means “island” it was easy to see why. Qingdao is named as China’s most liveable city and made for the perfect venue for this training course.<sup>[1]</sup> All participants stayed at the Academic Exchange Center Hotel which also housed the meeting room for the course. This comfortable hotel demonstrated warm hospitality and was a great place for all of us involved to bond and network.

**Participants**

Participants of this course came from many different countries which allowed for a unique opportunity for us trainees to share our knowledge and experiences with each other. This diverse group of participants had varying experience with satellite remote sensing. Because of this I found myself being able to share my knowledge with the others but also learn new techniques and approaches. The lunch breaks and hands on exercises gave us the opportunity to discuss some of the issues we are having and find solutions together. Through this process many friendships were formed and I now have an international network of colleagues to reach out to. It was a pleasure to have met such a great group of individuals.

**Training Program**

The course was a great blend of theory and practical examples catered for individuals of all levels of expertise. A total of seven professionals from various backgrounds presented a series

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<sup>1</sup> 蔺丽瑶 (2011-07-27). "[Top 10 livable cities in China 2011](#)". China.org.cn. Retrieved 2013-11-04.

of lectures and hands on exercises that provided a wealth of material that ranged from an introduction to satellite oceanography to applications of remote sensing, followed by an in depth look at BEAM and WIM/WAM software. Because each lecturer approaches remote sensing differently the course presented the information from several different perspectives which I believe worked well for the diverse group of trainees. All the lecture material was provided for later reference and there was plenty of opportunity to discuss questions and issues during each session as well as during break times.

The hands on exercises were an integral part of each day and were a nice way to apply the lecture material in a format that allowed for a better understanding of the problems facing remote sensing scientists. This gave us a chance to connect with the professionals and the other trainees to ask questions and assist each other in a comfortable learning environment. During these sessions an introduction and hands-on use of BEAM and WIM/WAM software was provided with real world examples which I found particularly relevant to my research. Other highlights for me included learning how to deal with uncertainties in ocean colour data and how to validate this information. The course was very comprehensive but still easy to follow. I look forward to applying what I have learned to my research and furthering my knowledge in satellite data analysis.

### **Acknowledgement**

The NOWPAP – PICES Joint Training Course on Remote Sensing Data Analysis was a great experience for myself and I highly recommend this course to anyone in this field of research. The course provides an excellent opportunity to connect with professionals in the field of remote sensing as well as the global community of emerging remote sensing scientists. Through a combination of lecture and hands on learning I have gained valuable knowledge to apply to my own research, as well as to carry me forward in my career in remote sensing. I am very grateful to PICES for choosing me to be a funded participant and wish to extend my thanks to Genki Terauchi and his team for organising such a great event. I would also like to thank the friends I met during the course as well as Dr. Roland Doerffer, Dr. Zhihua Mao, Dr. Mati Kahru, Dr. Young Je Park, Dr. Joji Ishizaka, Dr. Leonid Mitnik and Dr. Chaofang Zhao. Warm hospitality and great people so thank you all for a wonderful experience!