

Remote Sensing in my Life

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I was a lucky man as I was involved in remote sensing from the very beginning of its history. It was February in 1972 when I visited the Willow Run Laboratory, Michigan University (renamed to ERIM after several years) where I met remote sensing for the first time in my life. Dr. Jerry Cook kindly explained to me what is remote sensing.

The second lucky event to me was July 1972 when I attended the Congress of International Society for Photogrammetry (ISP) held in Ottawa, Canada. The first image of ERTS-1 (renamed to Landsat-1 afterward) was brought at the congress site a day after the launch. It was a shock to everybody to know that any third countries can buy the satellite image of any other country because the Vietnam War did not cease at that time.

The third lucky event was March 1973 when I joined the First International Conference on Remarkable Result obtained from ERTS-1 which was held near Washington D.C. I was only one participant from Japan. I was moved by those American speakers who made digital processing of satellite imagery. I was ashamed because my presentation was based on analog visual interpretation. When I arrived at Haneda Airport on my return, I was invited interview without appointment by a journalist of Yomiuri Newspaper how was the result of the satellite remote sensing and how Japan should develop this technology in future. I answered strongly that Japan had to construct a receiving station as soon as possible.

The fourth lucky event was October 1993 when I attended the Fall Convention of American Society of Photogrammetry (ASP) held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota State where I bought a Computer Compatible Tape (CCT) of ERTS-1 including Tokyo Metropolitan Area. It was the first time to introduce digital image data to Japan. It

cost 180 US \$ which was very costive as my monthly salary at that time was almost same amount. But it was worthy to my research life for long years in the field of remote sensing. It was said that computer processing of satellite imagery was too difficult for Japanese to develop software. It was a challenge to me and I did succeed in the image processing with a very poor computer device.

The fifth lucky event was May 1994 when young researchers in the field of remote sensing including Prof. Haruhisa Shimoda established Japan Association of Remote Sensing (JARS) aiming the right way of promotion of remote sensing in Japan as well as in Asia. I was selected as Secretary General of JARS. Now I am President of JARS.

The sixth lucky event was April 1978 when I joined ERIM symposium held in Manila, Philippines. I met many Asian remote sensing scientists and exchanged information about the future development of remote sensing particularly in developing countries.

The seventh lucky event was November 1978 when I was a leader of a Japanese team to organize Regional Seminar on Remote Sensing held in Bangkok, Jakarta and Manila. I could communicate VIPs in the three countries how we could promote remote sensing in Asia.

The eighth lucky event was April 1980 when I joined ERIM Symposium held in San Jose, Costa Rica where I met many Asian friends. I invited about 20 Asian friends to my hotel room of deluxe suite style and organized an Asian style party. Mr. Manu Omakupt finally suggested me to organize the first Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS) in Bangkok within the same year. I accepted this offer (it would be almost order!) of Manu to organize the First ACRS in Bangkok.

The ninth lucky event was December 1980 when I organized the First ACRS in Bangkok with tremendous effort of Dr. Suvit Vibunthreth, Director of Remote Sensing Division of National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT). Very kindly China offered the host of the Second

ACRS to be held in 1981.

The tenth lucky event was when the Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS) was established at the Second ACRS held in Beijing, China and I was selected as General Secretary who should be responsible for all management of AARS and also the organization of ACRS in future.

According to those ten lucky events in my life I could contribute myself to many important events not only in Asia but also in International world with respect to remote sensing. My success has been based on a simple philosophy; “Friendship First and Money After”.

I will become 75 years old in September 2014. Very luckily I have now a dream to fulfill in future by completing the prediction of earthquakes with Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) data. My major work is this challenging subject as I want to rescue human life from catastrophic earthquake disasters. I should say that detecting movement of earth surface before the earthquakes (called pre-signals) with positioning satellite is one of remote sensing technologies.

Finally I appreciate RESTEC to have initiated RESTEC e-news to establish information networks among those trainees of JICA Remote Sensing courses. Thanks.

