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## AARSE 2012

### 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing and the Environment (AARSE)

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Circular

#### BACKGROUND:

The 9<sup>th</sup> AARSE International Conference, AARSE 2012, on **Earth Observation & Geo-information Sciences for Environment and Development in Africa: Global Vision and Local Action Synergy** will be held in El Jadida, Morocco, at the Faculty of Science, Chouaib Douakkali University from October, 29 to November 2, 2012.

This conference will be a major event in the African and international community of Earth observation and geo-spatial information science in 2012; it will be organized by the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) and the Chouaib Douakkali University, Faculty of Sciences (CDU\_FS), in partnership the Moroccan Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (MARSE).

AARSE is a non-political scientific organization. Its primary objective is to increase the awareness of African governments and their institutions, the private sector and society at large, about the empowering and enhancing benefits of developing, applying and responsibly utilizing the products and services of Earth Observation Systems and Geo-information Technology. AARSE membership includes professional individuals, institutions and national associations from all Africa and worldwide working in domains related to remote sensing, photogrammetry and geographical information science.

The AARSE international conference is conducted biennially across Africa, alternately with the AfricaGIS conference, and is the premier forum in Africa for research on remote sensing technologies and geospatial information science, gathering leading scholars from the remote sensing and related communities. AARSE conference series commenced in 1996, in Harare (Zimbabwe) and has been held in Abidjan (Cote D'Ivoire) in 1998, Cape Town (South Africa) in 2000, Abuja (Nigeria) in 2002, Nairobi (Kenya) in 2004, Cairo (Egypt) in 2006, Accra (Ghana) in 2008 and Addis Abeba (Ethiopia) in 2010.

The main objective of AARSE 2012 is to bring together scholars and professionals from the African and international community to present latest achievements, discuss challenges and share experiences. The conference program will feature keynote speeches delivered by leading scholars, technical sessions with reports of the latest research outcomes, discussion sessions on operational topics such as capacity building, Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), space policy, programmes and projects, as well as commercial exhibitions showing latest products and services in remote sensing and geospatial information technologies.

Paper selection is based on abstract and full paper peer review following the guidelines provided in the "Call for Paper" document that can be downloaded from the conference website: [www.aarse2012.org](http://www.aarse2012.org).

#### CONFERENCE THEME:

**Earth Observation & Geo-information Sciences for Environment and Development in Africa: Global Vision and Local Action Synergy**

#### CONFERENCE SUB-THEMES:

#### 1- PROCESSING, INTEGRATION AND MODELING.

- Radar remote sensing.
- Optical remote sensing.
- Hyperspectral remote sensing.
- Lidar remote sensing
- Image Processing and Information Extraction.
- Micro-Satellites: Case Studies and Experiences.
- Data integration and Modeling
- Geographic Information Science.

#### 2- ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS

- Coastal, marine ecosystem and Wetlands.
- Agro ecosystems.
- Forest and Vegetation.
- Forests resources –biodiversity.
- Land management, Topography and space geodesy.
- Urban and Built-up Environment.

#### 3- RESSOURCES MAPPING & ASSESSMENT.

- Geological resources: mining, petroleum exploration, geomaterials.
- Water resources management.
- Fishery resources.
- Renewables energy ressources

#### 4- GEOHAZARDS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT.

- Geological hazards: Earthquakes, Landslides...
- Erosion, soil vulnerability and Flood.
- Biodiversity degradation, Desertification and drought.
- Forest fires, industrial accidents, Pollution and Contamination.
- Early warning system and disaster risk reduction.

#### 5- HUMAN SECURITY AND HEALTH.

- Food security.
- Wastewater and sanitation.
- Health and communicable diseases.
- Humanitarian action.

#### 6- CLIMATE CHANGE VARIABILITY IMPACT.

- Climate and extreme weather events.
- Water resources issues and climate change.
- Climate change impacts on coastal region.
- Strategies - measures of reductions and adaptations to climate change.
- Current systems of earth observation, space Meteorology.

#### CONFERENCE SUB-THEMES OF A MORE OPERATIONAL NATURE ARE:

- Building on capacity: status and perspective
- Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)
- Space Policy in Africa
- National and regional programs and projects
- Products.

Lead presentations and focal presentations on the above operational topics will be organized in discussion sessions to facilitate the exchange of experience and further enhance discussion among presenters and audience.

#### ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Participation in AARSE 2012 is open to all individuals interested in or working in the fields of earth observation and geo-information sciences in Africa.

For all sub-themes, papers for oral presentation, discussion and poster sessions are invited.

Abstracts received by the deadline will be considered for program placement under the standard peer review process. Late abstracts cannot be accepted due to the large number of submissions and short review schedule. Authors should indicate the sub-theme under which their papers fall.

The AARSE 2012 Scientific Committee (SC) will organize all accepted abstracts into either oral or interactive poster sessions based upon their potential contribution to the conference and the composition of high-quality sessions.

Only accepted papers that are registered and presented at the conference in El Jadida will be published in the conference proceedings (CD-rom) and be considered for peer-reviewed publication in a dedicated international journal.

### **Abstract Submission Instructions**

Thank you for your interest in submitting an abstract.

- It is vital that you include the title of the paper and the name(s) and address of the author(s) including emails, at the top of your abstract.
- Your paper must be original work and must be written in English or French.
- Abstracts should state clearly and concisely the problem, methodology used and central conclusions.
- Abstracts should be written in such a way that the reviewers can quickly make an informed decision about the suitability of the paper for presentation at the conference. Explain clearly the objectives of the paper and its scientific and/or technical significance in 500 to 1000 words, with not more than two (2) pages inclusive of figures and graphs.
- The maximum page limit for all abstracts is two single sided pages. Please use Times New Roman font, 11 point, 1.5 line spacing.
- A maximum of two abstracts may be submitted by each presenting author.
- Abstract submission will open on 2 January 2012 and close on 30 April 2012.
- All abstracts must be submitted during this period through the online Abstract Submission page provided on [www.aarse2012.org](http://www.aarse2012.org). Please follow the instructions provided therein.
- Email submissions will not be accepted.
- Abstracts should be prepared in advance using a word processor before accessing the website. The text can then be either cut and pasted into the appropriate section of the Abstract Submission page or saved in pdf format before uploading to the Abstract Submission page.
- During the abstract submission process, you will be asked to select a principal thematic area and an alternate thematic area for your abstract. If your abstract does not fall within the AARSE 2012 scientific themes and operational topics, you may select "other" and then enter the title of this other topic in the box labelled "Specify Other".
- Please clearly mark in the abstract submission form whether you want to present your work orally or in the format of a poster.
- All scientific and technical topics are described in the Conference Technical Program page. Please familiarize yourself with them before submitting your abstract.

Questions regarding abstract submission should be e-mailed to [abstracts@aarse2012.org](mailto:abstracts@aarse2012.org).

The acceptance /rejection of submitted abstracts will be based on the review results.

- Acceptance/rejection letters will be sent via email only and not later than June 30, 2012

### **Solicitation of extended abstracts for oral and poster presentation (for accepted abstracts)**

If your abstract is accepted, you will be required to submit an extended abstract of a maximum of eight (8) pages inclusive of figures and graphs in PDF format.

- If your abstract is accepted, you will be required to submit an extended abstract (the final paper) of a maximum of eight (8) pages inclusive of figures and graphs in word format.
- For technical/operational topics, foreseen for discussion sessions, only extended abstracts of eight (8) pages will be required.
- The deadline for the submission of extended abstracts is September 01, 2012 for inclusion in the conference proceedings.
- Please consult the Paper Kit available for download on [www.aarse2012.org](http://www.aarse2012.org) for instructions on how to prepare your extended abstract.

- Full registration and payment of conference fees is required for inclusion of the paper in the Technical Program and Conference Proceedings.

### **Oral Presentations**

Key-note presentations of 30 minutes will be given in plenary sessions. There will be no discussion during these sessions. However those who give a lead paper for a specific theme are encouraged to take part in the subsequent thematic session. Oral presentations in the technical/ scientific sessions must not exceed 20 minutes. For the discussion sessions on operational topics lead presentations of 20 min. including questions, and short presentations of 5 minutes followed by 50 minutes discussion time are planned.

### **Conference languages**

The conference will be conducted in English and French. Simultaneous translation will be provided during plenary sessions

### **Poster Presentations**

#### Poster preparation and material to be used

The poster session code corresponding to your paper id will be posted at the top of the board. Authors must use the board with this number when setting up their posters. Posters will be mounted on 90 cm (width) x 150 cm (height) plastic boards - portrait format only. It is requested to use substantial paper sheet (instead of thin cardboard) as posters must be mounted with scotch tape, and not with drawing pins.

#### Mounting of posters and display

Posters must be mounted by authors on the assigned board (indicated by a tag showing your paper code) in advance of the dedicated poster session (to be confirmed). Removal of posters must also be done by authors according to instructions by the LOC.

#### Poster Attendance

At least one of the authors is required to attend their poster during scheduled poster sessions to answer questions by the attendees. Photocopies or high quality copies made from the reduced photograph of your poster and additional material may be distributed by the author(s) at the poster site.

### **PUBLICATION OF ABSTRACTS AND PROCEEDINGS**

A printed book with all AARSE 2012 accepted abstracts and a CD-rom containing all extended abstracts received by September 01, 2012, will be distributed to registered attendees at the registration desk.

Only papers that are presented at the conference by one of the listed authors registered for the conference, either orally or in the format of a poster, will appear in the proceedings. AARSE reserves the right to exclude a paper from distribution if the paper is not presented at the conference.

Please note that the CD-rom of the conference proceedings does not constitute a refereed publication recognised by international standards. Authors who wish to have their paper considered for publication in a peer-reviewed international journal may indicate so in the submission form. Outstanding papers will be forwarded for consideration for publication in topical international journals.

### **AARSE AWARDS**

All presenters are invited and encouraged to enter the AARSE award-winning competition for best paper presentation and best poster.

The criteria for award of best paper presentation are:

- Innovative content
- Time keeping
- Clarity of presentation
- Articulate response to questions.

The criteria for award of best poster are:

- Innovative content
- Quality of visualisation
- Attractive design.

In addition to encouragement of quality papers and posters at the 9<sup>th</sup> AARSE conference through these awards, AARSE will support entry of outstanding papers into review processes for publication in topical peer-reviewed international journals.

Furthermore, through the organisation of a post-conference workshop on paper writing, AARSE will provide coaching on paper improvement, particularly to young researchers, to better stand international peer-review.

### IEEE GRSS/AARSE TRAVEL FELLOWSHIPS

To support travel costs, accommodation and registration fees to attend conferences of the two societies in the field of Earth observation by remote sensing. The beneficiaries of these conference fellowships shall be African scientists or students who have had a paper accepted for oral or poster presentation at the AARSE biennial conference, provided that:

1. The recipient is normally resident in Africa at the time of the award;
  2. The recipient has not previously received an award of one of these fellowships
  3. The recipient must be a registered member of IEEE-GRSS and/or AARSE
  4. The age or professional status (student, lecturer, and professor) shall not be basis for exclusion.
  5. Applicants shall submit a written application form, supported by the following documentation, plus any additional information requested by the LOC.
- Copy of the abstract or paper submitted to the conference organizers
  - A copy of the applicant's CV
  - Budget indicating all sources of funding for proposed participation in the conference
  - One page letter of motivation, making clear financial need, and declaration that they have not previously been awarded an IEEE GRSS/AARSE Travel Fellowship.
  - In addition, a commitment that the applicant: (i) will submit a trip report to the Committee of Trustees within two months of the conference; and (ii) will include, if possible, an acknowledgement in their presentation, and in a publication resulting directly from the conference presentation, with words to the effect that: *"The author acknowledges financial support through an IEEE GRSS/AARSE TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP"*

### IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission	30 April 2012
Acceptance Notification	30 June 2012
Final paper submission	01 September 2012

### REGISTRATION FEES

	<i>Until July 31, 2012</i>	<i>After July 31, 2012</i>
Regular Fee	300 €	350 €
Accompany Persons	200 €	250 €
Students	150 €	175 €
AARSE/IEEE-GRSS/EIS-Africa Members	200 €	250 €
Moroccan Participants	1500 MDH	2000 MDH

For more information and updates please continue to visit the conference website: [www.aarse2012.org](http://www.aarse2012.org) or contact: [kamal\\_labbassi@yahoo.fr](mailto:kamal_labbassi@yahoo.fr) / [labbassi@ucd.ac.ma](mailto:labbassi@ucd.ac.ma)