

**Minutes of the 35th ISRS Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) held on
December 19, 2008 at Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad**

The 35th AGBM was held on December 19, 2008 during 28^h Annual Convention and National Symposium on “*Advances in Remote Sensing Technology and Applications with Special Emphasis on Microwave Remote Sensing*” organized at Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, during December 18 - 20, 2008. Over 70 members attended the Annual General Body Meeting.

Agenda item-1: Welcome remarks by President, ISRS

Dr. Shailesh Nayak, President, ISRS chaired the meeting. He welcomed all the ISRS members present at the AGBM. Firstly, he expressed satisfaction in the organization and progress of the ongoing ISRS National symposium at Gandhinagar, Ahmedabd. He complemented the efforts of Organizing Committee ISRS National symposium - 2008 and particularly host organizations Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO, Ahmedabad and Nirma University, Gandhinagar, as well as Co-host ISRS Ahmedabad Chapter for excellent arrangements during ongoing ISRS – Annual Convention and National symposium. In welcome remarks, the Chairman mentioned that several issues like increasing international outreach of ISRS by joint publication of the Journal of ISRS (JISRS) with international publisher – “*Springer*”; organization of technical activities / workshops of various Working Groups under several Commissions of ISPRS; reactivation of dormant ISRS Chapters; improving financial status of the Society; increasing industry and academic involvement in the society activities, etc. are of top priority and need special attention. He also complemented the efforts made by the Society’s journal Editorial committee, particularly the Chief Editor- Prof. B. L. Deekshatulu, Editor – Dr. R. Krishnan, and Associate Editors - Dr. Sarnam Singh and Dr. R. S. Dwivedi for their efforts for improving the journal technical content and joint publication of JISRS with international publisher “Springer” from 2008.

Agenda item–2: Briefing on ISPRS & International Activities by First Vice President, ISRS

Dr. J. S Parihar, First Vice-President, ISRS gave briefing on this agenda. Firstly, he mentioned that three EC members of ISRS viz. President, First Vice – President and Treasurer ISRS attended ISPRS Congress – 2008, held during July 3 – 11, 200, at Beijing, China. These representatives of ISRS attended technical sessions of the Congress and appraised the delegates about various activities carried out / planned by ISRS. He appraised that this year ISRS selected and sponsored Mr. Amitabh, young scientist from Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO, Ahmedabad, as “*Young Achiever Award*” to participate ISPRS Congress – 2008 and present technical research paper. He informed that in addition to this, ISRS also sponsored two Senior Research Fellows (SRFs) of National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad for attending and presenting

research papers in the Congress. ISRS gives special thanks to ISRO /DOS for generous financial support for providing ISRS sponsorships to 1st Vice President, EC, ISRS and two SRFs for their participation in the ISPRS Congress at Beijing, China. He also mentioned several ISRS members have been assigned with the responsibilities of Chair and Co-chairs of several Working Groups viz. W- VI/4, WG-VIII/1, WG-VIII/6 & WG-IV/1 under various Commissions of ISPRS and several technical activities are planned for coming years.

Agenda item–3: Confirmation of proceedings of 34th AGBM and ISRS Annual Report - 2008 by Secretary, ISRS

The minutes of the 34th AGBM as published in the March, 2008 issue (Vol. 36, No. 1) of JISRS was confirmed. The annual report of the Society for the year 2008 (period of January to December 2008) with all details on various activities was presented by Dr. S. K. Saha, Secretary, ISRS. The annual report along with Chapter activities (Annexure-I) and audited accounts for the year 2007 – 2008 (Annexure-II) were also circulated to the members present in the meeting.

The main highlights of annual report are the following:

- Increase in 10.2% in number of total members of ISRS over year 2007;
- The 28th Annual Convention and National Symposium on “ *Advances in Remote Sensing Technology and Applications with Special Emphasis on Microwave Remote Sensing* ” at Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad during December 18 – 20, 2008 has been a great success;
- The 18th Vikram Sarabhai Memorial Lecture on “ *Climate change and its impacts.* ” was delivered by eminent scientist Dr. Roddam Narasimha, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore on December 18, 2007, during 28th Annual Convention of ISRS and National Symposium - 2008 at Gandhinagar (Ahmedabad).
- This year also ISRS enjoyed the status of ISPRS Category – 6 Membership and organized various activities successfully under various ISPRS Commissions;
- Although, last year JISRS has got international recognition – listed by Thomson ISI Products, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U S A., but from this year the JISRS has become truly international by virtue of its joint publication with international reputed technical journal publisher “Springer”.
- As per the tradition, this year also ISRS had recognized the scientific achievements in the field of RS & GIS Technology and Applications of the individuals in the country by awarding Fellow of the Society as well as several awards viz. *Bhaskara Award; P. R. Pisharoty Memorial Award; National Geo-spatial Award for Excellence; Indian*

National Geo-spatial Award; Best paper published in JISRS; and Young Achiever Award

- In the FY 2007 – 2008, the net surplus is Rs.0.69 lakh after keeping Rs. 1.97 lakh as a reserve and accumulations for seminar fund.
- Local chapters were energized to organize workshops/lectures/exhibition etc. to promote and popularize remote sensing applications.
- The Website has been maintained fairly well to disseminate information about ISRS activities through Internet.

Agenda item-3: Presentation of Audit Report for FY 2007 – 2008 and Account of Last ISRS National Symposium by Treasurer, ISRS

Mr. P. L. N. Raju, Treasurer, ISRS presented the audited report for the FY 2007 - 2008 (Annexure –II). The financial position of the society has considerably improved after taking various measures in the last five financial years. In the FY 2007 – 2008, the net surplus is Rs.0.69 lakh after keeping Rs. 1.97 lakh as a reserve and accumulations for seminar fund (to be utilized before 2012).

He appraised that the allocated funds for conduct of various activities of the society stand at Rs.156.68 lakhs. The organizer of ISRS Annual Convention & National Symposium – 2008 held at Kolkata, has submitted audit report with Rs. 1,49,975 in bank, pending clearance bank draft of Rs. 40,000 received from NRSA, Hyderabad. Seed money of Rs. 1.5 lakh and the balance amount of Rs. 1, 89, 975 /-(includes bank draft charges) had been returned by the conference organizer to ISRS, Dehradun. Hence it has helped ISRS to add the additional amount Rs. 1,89, 975 (less bank draft charges) as savings.

Like previous year, Ahmedabad Chapter accounts have been incorporated in account statement of ISRS FY 2007 – 2008, thus enabling the Chapter to receive all benefits in IT exemption available to ISRS HQ. ISRS main body has paid back Rs. 1.6 lakh to ISRS, Ahmedabad Chapter accounting for 10% of total saving (i.e. Rs. 16.00 lakh) accrued due to ISPRS 2006 Goa conference. ISRS has obtained substantial IT exemption on TDS of interest income from allocated funds.

Agenda item-5: Presentation of Chapter activities by Second Vice-President, ISRS

Dr. A. N. Singh, Second Vice President, Secretary, ISRS presented the summary of activities carried out by various Chapters of ISRS during the period of January to December, 2008. The Chapter activity report (Annexure – I) as a part of annual report of the Society was circulated to the members present in the meeting. Fourteen Chapters viz. Ahmedabad, Ajmer, Dehradun, Delhi, Guwahati, Hisar, Hyderabad, Jodhpur, Kolkata,

Lucknow, Ludhiana, Nagpur, Pune and Thiruvanthapuram have submitted annual Report for the year 2008. These Chapters have organized exhibitions, regional seminar, popular lectures, celebration of National Remote Sensing Day, Science Day, GIS Day etc. to generate public awareness on the application of geo-spatial technology (*For Details See Annexure – I*). These Chapters have also introduced new members to the ISRS. Out of six non-active Chapters viz. Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Chandigarh, Indore, Jaipur, and Mumbai, only Bhopal Chapter was reactivated by holding election during this reporting period.

Discussion on Agenda items 2, 3, 4 & 5

With respect to Agenda items 2, 3, 4 and 5 the members of ISRS present during AGM provided following suggestions / clarifications during discussion:

- Several members suggested the spreading the nomination bases (large number of organizations) for various ISRS Awards including Fellows.
- Members suggested that impact factor / rating of the Journal of ISRS (JISRS) may be assessed to evaluate the technical quality of the journal.
- It was suggested that choice of availing on line soft copy or off line hard copy of the journal of the Society from the individual member of the Society is to be asked.
- Members commented that although the financial position of the society is considerably improved over the years, continuous efforts in the form of increasing Patron & Sustaining Members, more revenue through advertisements and colour plates printing in the journal of the Society, increase sponsorship for the Society's National Symposium, publication and sales of Technical Bulletin/Monographs etc. should be made by the society for generating financial resources for supporting its various activities
- Some Members also suggested that ISRS Chapters in the future can be based on state region instead of existing city based Chapters with 40 km jurisdiction.
- It was also pointed out by several members that the ISRS Chapters those are dormant / not performing satisfactorily, EC should take effective and appropriate measures to reactivate them. It was also specifically mentioned by the members that those chapters did not conducted fresh election for formation of new EC, the old EC of the Chapter should be de recognized.

Unanimously the house passed the annual report with some corrections and audit report of FY 2007– 2008.

Agenda item-6: Vote of Thanks

Dr. Shailesh Nayak, President, ISRS presented vote of thanks. He expressed thanks to all members, EC members, Editorial Board of JISRS, Chapter representatives and various organizations for their valuable cooperation and supports. He also expressed special thanks to Organizing Committee for the commendable effort in organizing ISRS Annual Convention and National Symposium at Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad. At the end he thanked all the members present for their active participation.

Approved by

Dr. Shailesh Nayak
President, ISRS

Prepared by

Dr. S. K. Saha
Secretary, ISRS