The 39th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS 2018)
15 - 19 October 2018 at Renaissance Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

My name is Nuntikorn Kitratporn, a first year Ph.D. Candidate from the Graduate Program on Environmental Sciences (GPES) at the University of Tokyo, Japan. I am under the supervision of Professor Wataru Takeuchi from Remote Sensing of Environment and Disaster Lab.

The Asian Conference in Remote Sensing (ACRS) is annually held and hosted by members countries of the Asian Association on Remote Sensing (AARS). ACRS was formed with the idea of organizing a remote sensing conference "in Asia, by Asian and for Asian". The first ACRS was held in 1980 and has continued ever since. The conference has been a platform for participants from government, industries and academia to meet and deliberate on the latest advancement in remote sensing and related technologies. Not only the conference was of interest in Asia, but participants are from all over the globe. This year conference was hosted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on October 15-19, 2018. According to the conference organizer, this year there were 865 participants with over 400 papers presented (Table 1).

Table 1: 2018 ACRS Statistics

	Total Number
Total attendance	865
Registered Participants	551
Countries	35
Papers Received	434
Oral papers presented	324
Poster papers presented	91

With the generous support by International Conference Travel Grant from the Division of Multidisciplinary Sciences, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo, I was able to participate in the 39th ACRS. This 5-day conference covered diverse topics related to remote sensing and geo-informatics ranging from sensor calibration to applications in various fields (e.g. hydrology, agriculture, etc.) with 8 simultaneously held technical sessions, planetary session and exhibitions from commercial remote sensing technology companies. Among the vast collections of presentation, I attended technical sessions with the focus on forest and urban related application. I also attended planetary session delivered by Professor Christian Heipke, the president of International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), where he provided the outlook and upcoming needed researches in remote sensing and GIS.

I presented my paper titled “Time-Series Analysis of Asian Elephant Habitat Change and Impact on Its Population Dynamic at Regional Scale” in the poster session. The poster not only received valuable feedback, but also genuine interest in the research topic. I had discussion with various researchers who work in similar research topics, as well as those interested in the technique used in this paper. In addition, there are many interesting researches within the application of remote sensing to conservation and wildlife, such as the use of deep learning to automatically identify wildlife species from camera trap images.

In addition to the academic activities, I and our lab members participated in the student cultural dance performance which we represented Japan. We performed along with students from other countries including Taiwan, South Korea, Nepal, India, and Malaysia. There was also a student night where young researchers can meet and discuss about research and share experiences. These activities, though not academic in nature, provided platform for young researchers to connect which later eased the discussion about our research interest.

In conclusion, this conference was invaluable experience. It not only expanded my knowledge in general remote sensing and specially my own research, but also allowed me to connect with experienced researchers and gain many friends from different countries. I hope to utilize the knowledge and feedback I received to improve my work. Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude for the International Conference Travel Grant from the Division of Multidisciplinary Sciences, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo.