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Benefits of AARSE-ISPRS Collaboration to AARSE Members

At the 8th biennial conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) – AARSE 2010 – in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) and AARSE. The MoU sets out agreements for co-operation between the two societies through exchange of information and collaboration in activities such the organisation of joint meetings and recruitment and from time to time through joint projects and joint working groups. The first outcome of the agreement was the organisation of a workshop on the utilisation of global datasets in conjunction with the UN CODIST conference in April 2011 which was well attended by heads of national mapping agencies and AARSE members present at the conference. Another outcome is the on-going collaboration on the development of a curriculum for the African Geospatial Sciences Institute (AGSI) in which the AARSE President and an AARSE member, Prof. Kamal Labbassi are participating on behalf of AARSE with Prof Ian Dowman, a former President of ISPRS as Project Leader. The project is funded by the ISPRS Scientific Initiative Project 2014 and Prof Labbassi is the administrator of the project, based on his nomination by AARSE.

As can be seen from the two examples above, active AARSE members therefore clearly stand to benefit from the collaboration through participation in joint projects, workshops, meetings, access to some publications of both parties and travel grants. AARSE members can also be nominated to serve in relevant ISPRS Technical Commissions and Working Groups or even sponsored to contest for positions in the ISPRS Council. For example, Dr Tsehaie Woldai, Immediate Past President of AARSE is the current Vice President (2012 – 2016) of ISPRS Technical Commission VI (Education, Technology Transfer and Capacity Development). The current President of AARSE, Prof Jide Kufoniyyi was the Vice President of the Commission for the period 2008 – 2012.

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