

AARSE 2016 Conference

The 11th AARSE International conference took place in Kampala, Uganda from 24th to 28th October 2016. The conference brought together global delegates entailing scientists, academics, practitioners, policy makers, technology developers/experts and business entities from various interdisciplinary fields of geo-information science, hazard and disaster science, humanitarian assistance, geography, engineering, geology, water, ecology, agriculture, social sciences and space science. The parties deliberated on issues of enhancing and accelerating sustainable development in Africa in the midst of natural resource degradation, conflict, global environmental changes and rapid demographic changes.

The conference was organized around 10 subthemes as follows:

1. Space and earth observation technology for sustainable development goals
2. Disaster risk management and resilience
3. From climate change to climate risk management
4. Human capital development in geospatial science
5. Big Data and Spatial Data Infrastructure
6. Space Policy and strategies in Africa: Cost benefit of space technology
7. Geospatial technologies for smart cities
8. Geospatial science and technology for water and watershed management
9. Conflict management, human security and peace
10. Geospatial technologies for energy management

The conference also included special sessions that took place either pre- or post-conference:

1. DBAR & AARSE: New Horizons for Cooperation between Africa and China
2. UNEDRA Session
3. GeoGLAM & AfriGAM
4. AfriGEOSS: Working Group on Land Cover for Africa Workshop
5. COPERNICUS Session
6. Business to Business Event
7. GEO commercial sector engagement
8. Etc.

Some of the highlights of the conference included the conferring of the AARSE Top honour award to Department of Science and Technology Director-General, Dr Phil Mjwara for his significant contribution and support to the development of Earth Observation and Geospatial Information in Africa and Africa Group on Earth Observation System of Systems (AfriGEOSS) and Group on Earth Observation (GEO) in particular. This Highest Award of Excellence has only been given to three people since AARSE was created 25 years ago.

