

from countries that needed them. Now we are beginning to see a healthy 'brain circulation'. The next step could be 'brain integration' where people work together beyond geographical boundaries. A core research question at the MIT Centre for Collective Intelligence is

'How can people and computers be connected so that collectively they act more intelligently than any person, group, or computer has ever done before?'

Finally he observed that in the 21st century, we compete with each other; but we also have to cooperate. 'How do we

simultaneously compete and cooperate so that all can do better?'

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MEETING REPORT

Hyperspectral remote sensing*

In an effort to give fillip to hyperspectral remote sensing technologies in the country, the Department of Earth Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay organized a five-day course. Participants were drawn from various universities, research institutions, the Geological Survey of India and the National Technical Research Organization. The course was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and was coordi-

nated by D. Ramakrishnan (IIT Bombay).

The participants were exposed to the key components of hyperspectral remote sensing which included the basic concepts of imaging spectroscopy relevant to hyperspectral remote sensing, field and laboratory spectral signature acquisition techniques, spectral database management, pre-processing of spectral signatures of landcover materials, hyperspectral image analysis and classification, and also to some case studies.

The highlight of the course was a hands-on exercise in hyperspectral image processing wherein the participants had the occasion to follow the step-by-step procedure of hyperspectral data processing.

Present at the inaugural session, R. Siva Kumar (Natural Resource Data Management System, New Delhi) reiterated the great potential of hyperspectral data in evaluating and monitoring the terrain and management of earth resources. He urged the participants to get involved with developing new technologies and algorithms to extract more detailed and specific information from hyperspectral data which it is capable of yielding.

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*A report on the short course on 'Emerging Trends in Remote Sensing: Imaging Spectroscopy and Natural Resource Mapping' held at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai during 12-16 January 2010.