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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Special Alumni Section

introduction

Times change, people change and technology changes, but somehow your memory of ITC does not. For 55 years people have visited this institute in the Netherlands and their visit is never erased from their minds. Of course, ITC has changed and so have the people who come to visit but each of our alumni holds a small piece of the collective memory of "life at ITC", a memory that is cherished by many and probably envied by even more. More than 17,000 individual memories, each holding a small part of the capacity that ITC has built over the past 55 years in the geo-information society!

People always have multiple memories of their time at ITC. There are the memories of going abroad, sometimes for the first time, as well as memories of missing many months with families and loved ones. There are memories of new learning and new skills. There are also memories of a small country with dark winters and beautiful flowers in the spring. Most alumni, however, have their strongest memories of the cultural experience they shared with new friends from all over the world. And after living for months or years in the Netherlands, many memories and friends were left behind and "life after ITC" began. Lives have changed significantly because of spending this time at ITC. New skills have brought people new careers, and exposure to international society and culture has brought new insights and expectations.

Hopefully, reading this special issue of ITC News will bring back and strengthen many good memories of your study in the Netherlands. Do not hesitate to share your feelings with us through the alumni website or to get in touch with the friends who have written in this issue. The world of ITC is only one e-mail away ...

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colofon

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Opening Academic Year 2005-2006

ITC News

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Punctuality is certainly a virtue and those who had taken their seats in good time for the Opening of the Academic Year on Thursday, 29 September 2005, were well rewarded. They escaped the dousing suffered by both the red carpet and those who opt for split-second timing.

Shortly before the programme was due to begin, the heavens opened and a deluge descended on the centre of Enschede. Short and sharp maybe, but extremely wet. Still, that was all quickly forgotten on entering the imposing Jacobuskerk, with its aisles, arches and vaulted roof, and two large side screens displaying interesting scenes of the Netherlands and student life in Enschede. Yes, this year saw a change in venue, as restoration work was in progress in the Grote Kerk across the square. As the academic procession advanced down the central aisle, the members of the audience, who had naturally risen to their feet, seemed to grow in stature. An optical illusion? Actually, no; many had taken advantage of the kneelers in an attempt to gain a better view!

In his opening speech Rector Martien Molenaar welcomed the ambassadors of Mongolia, Uganda and Zambia; Professor Zijm, Rector Magnificus of the University of Twente; Mr Dijkema, representative of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science;

Mr den Oudsten, Mayor of Enschede; Professor Ian Dowman, council members and other officials of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS); Mr Dorji Wangda, director of the Department of Geology and Mines, Bhutan; Mr Blokland of UNESCO-IHE; and members of the ITC Board of Supervisors and the Scientific Council. And of course a warm welcome was given to special guest of the day Dr Clarissa Augustinus, chief of the Land and Tenure Section of the Global Division of UN-HABITAT in Nairobi, who was presenting the Schermerhorn lecture. "But most of all," he said, "I welcome our new course participants. You have arrived at the moment when we have almost finished the renovation of our hotel, which now dominates the centre Enschede with its new entrance. And you have also happened to come when ITC is celebrating its 55th anniversary."

Professor Molenaar was followed at the lectern first by Professor Henk Zijm, Rector



Opening speech
Rector Martien Molenaar



Magnificus of the University of Twente (ITC's intermediary with the ministry), who congratulated the Institute on its lustrum, and then by Professor Ian Dowman, ISPRS president, who said that the Society was proud to be associated with an educational establishment that enjoyed an unparalleled reputation throughout the world. Next, in an entertaining presentation, Mr Chudamani Joshi, on behalf of the Student Association Board, welcomed the new participants to an international learning institute of many facets. It then fell to Professor Molenaar to announce this year's winner of the Klaas Jan Beek Award, a pleasant duty that brought the first part of the programme to a close. A short musical interlude featured Mr Gijs van Schoonhoven on the organ playing *Daphne* - three variations on a medieval love song - from the "Camphuysen Manuscript" (Amsterdam 17th century). The audience could appreciate not only the music but also the wonderful acoustics that make the Jacobuskerk a favoured venue for cultural and musical events.

As the note gave way to the word once more, Professor Molenaar illustrated the legacy of the founding father of ITC: "Willem Schermerhorn [...] was in his time an advocate of the importance of maps for civil society. Maps have now been replaced by geo-information science. But the position of Willem Schermerhorn is still valid in the sense that this discipline finally finds its justification in the role that this information should play in civil society. One of the important examples of this can be found in the context of land administration. In Dr Clarissa

Augustinus we find an expert with long experience in this field in parts of the world where there is a great need for innovations in land tenure systems."

Delivering this year's Schermerhorn lecture, Dr Augustinus started by tracing the history of UN-HABITAT for her audience. She then went on to explain the magnitude of the urban problem, particularly in relation to slums, saying that innovations in land tenure systems were required, as well as interdisciplinary approaches.

After thanking Dr Augustinus for a most interesting lecture, Professor Molenaar invited those present to vacate the rather hard pews of the Jacobuskerk and make their way to the reception at the nearby Twentse Schouwburg.

Opening Speech

Rector Martien Molenaar

In his speech Professor Molenaar said that the Opening of the Academic Year was in fact the official beginning of the celebrations to mark ITC's 55th anniversary - celebrations that would include no less than five inaugural addresses by ITC professors nested within symposia, a special meeting with partners from the worldwide network of joint educational programmes, a festive event in November for the ITC community, and a December conference entitled "Spatial information for civil society: capacity building for the international geo-information society". He said that this title expressed ITC's continuous adaptation to new developments in its professional field and the rapid internationalisation of higher education.

"In our professional field, our major emphasis in the past was on the methodical aspects of geodata acquisition, information extraction and dissemination. We dealt with the technology and use of geodata in various application domains. This traditionally involved the domain specialists, but more and more we see that policy and decision makers managing our living environment and resources need this information. In fact information - and to a large part geo-information - has proven to be indispensable for governance, or at least good governance."

"The two buzzwords 'sustainability' and 'security' can be heard everywhere. We find them expressed in the UN Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development of three years ago. There are high expectations of the contribution of earth observation and geo-information in this respect. ITC has been invited to develop with UN-HABITAT computer simulations of scenarios for the development of slums; this is an interesting example of how geo-information can be used to monitor the progress made towards some of the Millennium Development Goals."

Professor Molenaar then went on to identify the main drivers in the rapid internationalisation of higher education. Together with the advent of the information and knowledge society had come international competition for intellectual capacity, while at the same time there was increasing pressure on educational institutes to generate income in the international market for educational services. He said that countries with a weak economy faced great problems in dealing with the process of globalisation, often lacking "the governmental, economic and educational strength to keep pace and defend their own interests". "They often need education and training in knowledge domains that may be less attractive for commercial education activities." Professor Molenaar said that the primary objective of offering education in such fields was capacity building in the countries concerned rather than economic

benefits or profits for the education provider. He felt this was a domain in which the Dutch institutes for international education had traditionally been active - and with success - and this should not be forgotten in the present climate.

Professor Molenaar further explained how ITC was constantly redefining its role and adjusting its services. "Besides the degree programmes, we offer a large number of short courses based on the modules of educational programmes and also tailor-made courses designed for particular client organisations. This has an effect on the composition of our student population." Turning to the delivery aspect, he said that ITC was "in the process of developing e-learning services so that in a few years we can offer a large part of our courses and programmes either as distance education or as distance supported education". Moreover, ITC had developed a network of joint educational programmes (12 to date with more in the offing) which are operated with partners abroad. However, ITC cooperates not only with partners abroad but also with several Dutch universities in the context of PhD and MSc programmes, and enjoys "a very special tie with its closest neighbour, the University of Twente" - a suitable point to make way for the next speaker.

Professor Henk Zijm, Rector Magnificus, University of Twente

Before becoming rector of the University of Twente, Professor Zijm had served for about a year on ITC's Supervisory Board, a position relinquished because of possibly conflicting objects. "I regretted that, simply because I have great sympathy with the objectives and working practice of ITC." However, it means he is particularly well placed to reflect on the special relationship between the two educational establishments.

Speaking of ITC, he said that "More than just educating students, a task already hard enough, it focuses on human resource development, on organisational strengthening and on institutional strengthening. It helps organisations not only in developing geo-information technologies but also to use that knowledge effectively [...]. And there is not



Professor Martien Molenaar, Rector ITC
Professor Henk Zijm, Rector Magnificus, University of Twente



the slightest doubt that ITC has obtained a worldwide reputation in its field, a reputation that deserves firm congratulations." He went on to explain the strategic significance of the Institute's networking - with academic institutes abroad, with Dutch universities, and with its own alumni. "Unfortunately," said Professor Zijm, "there are threats as well." And these may be reason enough to seek stronger ties with existing universities. Alignment with the Dutch system of academic education may combat the lack of clarity in government policy regarding the institutional positions of institutes of higher education, may benefit the status of educational programmes, and may ease access to external research funding. But for universities too the world is changing rapidly. As Professor Zijm explained, "A strong trend towards further internationalisation, the further emergence of lifelong learning concepts, the enhanced use of electronic learning and blended learning concepts are just a few of the changes that have already set their footprints on the education landscape. And here I feel we could learn a lot from the 55 years of experience of ITC." Various ideas have been launched with a view to further integration of the two institutes, "But," said Professor Zijm, "a key condition, and I repeat it, is that the strong position of ITC in the world of geo-information sciences and earth observation, and the special character of its tasks should be maintained. Otherwise the price is too high."

**Professor Ian Dowman,
President ISPRS**

Introducing his audience to the work of ISPRS, Professor Dowman explained how it promoted the role of photogrammetry and remote sensing by bringing nations and people together to exchange views and information and by ensuring that international organisations became aware of what these disciplines could do for society. ISPRS "depends on the good will of many who believe that this is a worthwhile object and are prepared to give their time to meet these aims." He said that next May ITC would be hosting the mid-term symposium for Technical Commission 7 entitled "Remote sensing: from pixels to processes" and this would be an excellent opportunity for stu-

dents at the Institute to see how ISPRS works and to meet people from around the world who are engaged in this area. Professor Dowman then referred to the discussion as to whether photogrammetry exists as a separate discipline. "This can be summed up by the example of a balloonist who had lost his way. The man he happened to meet had a GPS receiver and was able to tell him the exact coordinates of the spot where he was. However, the balloonist was not happy with this. He didn't have any navigation equipment. 'You know the coordinates and the accuracy of the coordinates. But the information you have given me is no use at all.' Now that's not quite the whole story, because the information is of use if you have the right complementary information and the right education to use it properly."

He went on to say that we see photogrammetry being used today in many areas not traditionally linked to map making, for example, for recreating cultural heritage pictures. Many people, probably everyone with access to television and newspapers will have seen satellite pictures of disasters such as the Indian Ocean tsunami but other scientists who wish to use such data still need to be educated to use the data properly. We also need to ensure that the data reach the people who need it and that they have the equipment to read it. Hence we need interoperability. "My message today is that we need to look at the big picture and work



Professor Ian Dowman, President ISPRS

with other disciplines - to ensure that they know what we can do. We need to work within networks." And ISPRS is the organisation that serve as a link with and between such networks.

In closing, Professor Dowman applauded the outstanding achievement of ITC and welcomed the new students to a global community that sees that spatial information is used efficiently for the benefit of all humankind.



Mr Chudamani Joshi

Student Association Board

Renouncing his first idea of presenting a paper recently rejected by an international journal, Mr Chudamani Joshi, speaking on behalf of the SAB, painted a lively picture of "his" ITC, a world within a world. Tracing the changes in name of the Institute since its foundation, he then identified the steps in his own interpretation of the initialism ITC. Moving from the Institute of Triangular Construction, reflecting not only his first impression of the building but also the core processes of education, research and project services, he elaborated on the triangles within a triangle and the shifting relationships between student and teacher and teaching material, thus arriving at the Institute of Total Confusion. An amusing animation showed a hard-pressed student plodding along the path of the core (or "door") module, only to be continually returned to "Go" by various pitfalls.

But his advice was "Keep going!" - there were many rewards ahead: acquiring new skills (International Training centre for Cooking), interacting with new cultures (International Tank of Culture), and the numerous partnerships and friendships of the ITC network removed the need for a business card on trips abroad (International Travel Centre).

The real meaning for Mr Joshi at this point, as he was nearing the end of his PhD programme, was International Technical Centre. He told the new students that the Institute boasted "one of the most highly specialised libraries, which will take you on a voyage of discovery in the world of geoscience." To sum up this International Teaching Centre in one sentence, he felt he could do no better than quote the words of Isaac Newton: "If I have been able to see further, it was only because I stood on the shoulders of giants."

Bringing his speech to a close, he spoke directly to the new students: "Congratulations on being part of this wonderful geo-family! And on behalf of the SAB and IPC, I wish you a successful career and a memorable stay at ITC and in the Netherlands."

Klaas Jan Beek Award 2005

Winner of the Klaas Jan Beek Award 2005 was Mr Alemseged Tamiru Haile from Ethiopia for his MSc thesis entitled *Integrating hydrodynamic models and high resolu-*



Mr Alemseged Tamiru Haile and Professor Klaas Jan Beek

tion DEM (LIDAR) for flood modelling. This thesis focused on the Hurricane Mitch flood event in 1995 and its effects on the city of Tegucigalpa in the Honduras. Mr Haile used the 2D-hydraulic flow model SOBEK with (LIDAR) digital elevation models based on laser (LIDAR) height data of various resolutions as model input. The objectives were to analyse and assess:

- the effects of spatial resolution on flood characteristics
- how buildings and roads can be represented in the model domain (e.g. can water pass through a building or is a building an impervious obstacle?)
- how such representations affect simulation results.

As he invited Mr Haile to come forward to receive the award (consisting of a certificate and the sum of €1,000) and Professor Beek to present the award, Professor Molenaar commented that the work was of great scientific interest. "The modelling approach differentiated from more traditional approaches in the sense that issues of model uncertainty and performance were addressed in great detail. He showed that flood-model results must be exercised with care."



Mr Haile works at the Water Technology Institute at Arba Minch University (Ethiopia), where he lectures on irrigation and hydraulics and is involved in engineering projects relating to irrigation, hydraulic and water supply system design. However, in January 2006 he will be joining ITC's Department of Water Resources for a PhD study programme lasting four years.

Schermerhorn Lecture

Dr Clarissa Augustinus

"Key Issues for the Future that Support or Prohibit a More Pro-Poor Approach"

Setting the scene, Dr Augustinus said it was important to know the size of the problem you were dealing with. "In 2003, the world's population was 6.3 billion; 924 million of these people live in slums. [...] Slum dwellers increased by 36% during the 1990s, and by 2020, which is the MDG slum target year, there will be somewhere between 1.4 and 1.8 billion slum dwellers. By 2030, the world's population will be 8.3 billion, with 2 billion people living in slums, and as of

2007 the global population will be more urban than rural." Moreover, she said that there was a challenge "to implement a secure system of land tenure for the majority - which means the poor! We have to look for new ways of capacity building and doing business."

Moving from the general to the more specific, Dr Augustinus took the region of Africa to illustrate the importance and impact of innovation. "In Sub-Saharan Africa, most countries are dealing simultaneously with both customary and so-called 'modern' or statutory systems of land tenure. The so-called modern systems are generally based on individual land titles. To deal with the colonial legacy of the land tenure system in Africa, we need to alter the laws and regulatory frameworks of countries so that families and groups, rather than just individuals, can also acquire secure tenure. Given that African land administration systems have tended to focus on individual land titles for the middle and commercial classes, new innovative and affordable approaches need to be developed. Many African countries are at the forefront of new innovations in land tenure and administration, and these are addressed below."

"The transformation of a land administration system is a large undertaking and normally involves a number of separate agencies. Transformation also involves alterations in



Dr Clarissa Augustinus



power and patronage, and requires extensive civil society debate at national and local levels. An additional complexity is that land is cross-sectoral and is of course considered key to poverty alleviation. In five case studies of innovating countries (Ghana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda), it took at least eight years, and often 11 or more, for a country to get from discussing land policy to implementing it at scale."

"So tenure issues are extremely complex. No single tenure option can solve all the problems. Policy on land tenure and property rights can best reconcile social and economic needs by encouraging a diverse range of options rather than putting emphasis on one option, such as land titling. This will involve adapting and expanding existing tenure and land administration systems where possible, and introducing new ones selectively. UN-HABITAT advocates a continuum of land rights and legal instruments, with land titling only one of the legal instruments."

Continuing, Dr Augustinus examined the issues regarding land administration and land information management in the post-conflict situation, and the particular case of

women: "Many women find themselves widows after a conflict, and unable to access land because of legal or customary discrimination against widows inheriting land." Still, far from simply presenting the vast problems facing the global community, Dr Augustinus also described an initiative focused on grasping the nettle. "UN-HABITAT is developing a Global Network of Pro-Poor Land Tool Developers, where spatial information will of course be an integral part. Through this network, we are promoting the development of innovative tools that adopt a more multidisciplinary approach." So work is in progress and the work - and the debate -will go on. But for now, Dr Augustinus brought her lecture to a close by inviting her listeners "to the World Urban Forum, which will be held in Vancouver, Canada, from 19 to 23 June 2006."

Conclusion

The sun through the stained glass windows, eclipsing even the brightly flickering, indicated that it was safe to venture forth once more into the square. And so an opening to another academic year, an introduction to the changeable Dutch weather ... and the start of ITC's anniversary celebrations!



Masterclass by Clarissa Augustinus, 29 September 2005:

Key Issues for the Future

that Support or Prohibit a More Pro-Poor Approach and Why Such an Approach is Needed

Arbind Tuladhar

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Some 22 participants, comprising ITC PhD students, MSc students and scientific staff, attended the masterclass of Dr Clarissa

Augustinus, chief of the Land and Tenure Section of the Global Division, UN-HABITAT.

She began with a lecture on the evolving role of UN-HABITAT in urban problems, with the emphasis on slums and 2000 Millennium Development Goal 7, Target 11, for measuring security of tenure. In her explanation she covered the inadequacy of the efforts on land tenure security in slums, the interdisciplinary challenges, and the land-related problems of post-conflict situations.

There were many interesting questions and, thanks to Dr Augustinus' vast knowledge of land administration from both the academic and the professional perspective, the masterclass was extremely lively and interactive. In discussions with the participants, she emphasised the need for innovative land tools and a non-conventional land information system leaning towards pro-poor land management. She mentioned that land tools were needed for social inclusion and democratic access to land, as well as for socio-legal frameworks for urban land policy and action.

Dr Augustinus also mentioned the emergence of a global network of pro-poor land developers that would raise the profile of land issues from many perspectives and promote integration efforts. The network includes (or potentially includes) partners such as the World Bank, FAO, UNDP, research institutions (e.g. ITC), member states (where tools are developed), donors, NGOs, professional bodies (e.g. FIG) and individuals. She

also highlighted the point that such a network would have gender balance between women and men, thereby developing the capacity of network members to engage in gender mainstreaming and analysis, and creating pro-poor land tools to be shared between women and men.



Dr Clarissa Augustinus and Professor Paul van der Molen

55 Years of Accommodating ITC Course Participants

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It started in 1950 in Delft. The aim was an institute that would be a working and living community for people invited from developing countries to follow professional training in the Netherlands.

They should not have to worry about the personal problems involved. This was seen not only as a moral obligation but also as a requirement for achieving good study results. Proper accommodation was needed for those coming to a strange country, not knowing the way and - while used to mainly tropical conditions - having to face the rain, snow and other typical Dutch weather. So not only was an institute required, a guesthouse was also needed. The guesthouse in Delft came into use in 1956; before that, students stayed with private households in Delft.

Prime Minister Nehru from India, who visited ITC in 1957, said that the most important thing about ITC was that people from completely different backgrounds, races, colours and religions learned to live and work in harmony with one another.

Even in those early years the study pressure was noticeable. When a newly arrived student asked a current student at the entrance to ITC Delft whether he knew the ITC Rest House (he confused the words "rest house"

and "guesthouse"), the current student, a bit irritated after his busy day, replied: "Rest house! This is no rest house; here we work day and night." And with that, he walked away.

Over the years, the number of students in Delft grew and ITC had to seek other accommodation. A guesthouse that could accommodate \pm 350 students was required and a new location was found in Enschede. In the summer of 1971, the new institute was ready. Students were temporarily accommodated on the THT (Technical High School Twente) campus until the DISH guesthouse was finished in the summer of 1972. The name DISH is still used by our neighbours, the Best Western DISH Hotel. The accommodation for ITC students, staff and guests now carries the name *ITC International Hotel (IIH)*.

With a satellite image of Africa and Europe above its new entrance situated on the Boulevard, the hotel has become an eye-catcher in the centre of Enschede. Over the last few years, many changes and improvements have taken place, with all the rooms and public areas being renovated and a new heating system installed.

To make student life a bit easier, microwaves and ovens can be found in the kitchens. Preparing meals can be difficult - especially for those who have never cooked before. Another experience is buying groceries in a strange country: images on food cans do not always indicate the contents ... and pets also eat canned food!



Prime Minister Nehru and Professor Schermerhorn in front of the building in Delft (1957)

Once called
the DISH Guesthouse.....



Technical progress has made it easier for students to stay in contact with home. In the early years, a form had to be filled in at the reception desk before making a phone call. Then the receptionist had to arrange the call by plugging in and switching between several lines - it could take hours before a connection was established! Nowadays, with e-mail, mobile phones, MSN chatting and so on, communication has become a lot easier.

To ensure a good sleep, the beds are now longer and wider, with quilts instead of blankets. The old ones had a drawer under the mattress for storing an extra blanket and pillow. This was quite confusing for some students who had never slept in a bed before. Where were they supposed to lie down?

Many things have changed over the last 55 years, but what will never change is our goal: to create warm, clean and pleasant surroundings for our students, where they can eat, sleep, study and socialise - and, most important, *feel at home, away from home*.



.....now the ITC International Hotel



One of the kitchens in the ITC International Hotel after the renovation



Students can now make use of Internet facilities in the lobby of the ITC International Hotel

ESRI Internship

Umut Destegul, Turkey

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Tsolmon and I are the interns from ITC that were granted extended ITC-ESRI internship here in Redlands, California, USA. We became roommates in November last year, when we first came here.

The internship normally lasts six months but we were able to extend this period by five months and 12 months, respectively. She has just returned to Mongolia; as for me, I'm still here at ESRI but will be returning to Turkey in May 2006. I shared some very precious moments with her, such as her engagement, and I truly believe that I have gained another lifetime friend via ITC. As time goes by, I value and cherish even more the moments we spent at ITC.

ESRI's 25th User Conference in San Diego was an incredible experience. I had the chance to represent the Disaster Management booth, as well as to moderate the Emergency Management sessions. The opening session with Jane Goodall was quite a revelation in terms of world problems that generally fail to capture our attention - with Jack Dangermond, they were reaching 15,000 people!

In San Diego we had the opportunity of meeting ITC alumni from all over the world at an evening reception. It was very impressive to see all the people and hear about their current positions - especially Mr Petrie and Mrs Petrie-Dahl, the couple from Norway who were students at ITC and later

got married. They were attending the reception after all these years - it was amazing to see them.

A month after the User Conference, on 29 August, Hurricane Katrina hit the southern states of USA, and ESRI had to respond immediately to incoming requests. A disaster team was established, and I was also involved. We have created an interactive map within the ESRI campus for purposes such as staff tracking. Shortly after, Hurricane Rita hit the region and we had to continue our support. Being caught up in the emergency and trying to respond optimally was very important practice for me, since my interest lies mainly in disaster management. I have seen that my ITC MSc thesis and field experience, along with the training, has given me a good basic knowledge to continue in this discipline.

Until the end of my internship, I will continue to develop my expertise via ESRI. All these milestones in my career and personal circle have been realised thanks to ITC. I am full of gratitude to all the educators, managers and students.

Tsolmongerel Orkhonselenge, Mongolia

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ITC, thank you for your blessing!

Studying at ITC had been my dream ever since I'd heard about this international institute in the Netherlands. I was very excited to hear that my application to pursue an MSc degree in geoinformatics had been accepted. While studying at ITC, I was informed that an internship with ESRI was

available almost every year for Master's students graduating from ITC. I was keen to study at ESRI and waited until the time came to be able to apply for this internship. On completion of my study I applied and was nominated for the ITC-ESRI internship - one of the blessings I have received from ITC. Finally, it was time to go to ESRI in Redlands.

Five of us ITC alumni came to ESRI for the internship last year. Umut is one. We shared a condo next to the ESRI campus. It was a wonderful time, knowing each other and sharing a lot. I am happy that we both came for this internship and have gained a lot of experience. This is also a great blessing of this internship.

ESRI is the leading software company for geographical information systems worldwide. I attended instructor-led courses on ArcGIS desktop applications and other new software and extensions. Besides having instructor-led courses at the ESRI Learning Center, I also took some virtual campus courses. These courses are conducted via Internet, and anyone from anywhere in the world can join. Since I am an intern, I can take any virtual course free of charge, so I have taken courses on programming and on extending the desktop applications.

Besides undergoing training, I am involved in ongoing projects in ESRI's Educational Services Department. This department has many instructors who write course books and teach various subjects on ArcGIS. It was a great opportunity for me to get to know many people who have spread this GIS usage - expert GIS analysts and GIS users of

all levels. While reviewing and testing new course exercises, as well as doing some analysis, I have learnt a lot.

The AIPT (Association for International Practical Training) serves international interns and trainees in the USA from all over the world. During my stay in the USA, it organised "Invitation to the Nation", a gathering of international trainees.

I went to Washington DC, had a tour of the White House, and visited many historical places and great museums. Meeting trainees from different parts of the world was so exciting, and it was thought-provoking to share with them experiences in America. It was here I met my fiancé Pierre.

One of the most exciting events was the ESRI User Conference held in San Diego. Umut and I attended the conference and met not only delegates from ITC but also ITC alumni.

During my stay I had the help of wonderful friends, and at the end of my internship I got engaged to Pierre. My study at ITC and the internship at ESRI were certainly blessed.

Thanks a lot, ITC!

Umut Destegul and Tsolmongerel Orkhonselenge



education news

New and renewed programmes at ITC

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At the moment ITC is in the process of a major curriculum redevelopment with respect to two MSc programmes that have been running for the last six years: Geo-Information Management (GIM) and Urban Planning and Land Administration (UPLA) to be changed in Urban Management (UM).

In addition, a new MSc programme is being developed entitled Governance and Spatial Information Management (in collaboration with the University of Twente). For each of these programmes, a working group has been established that is responsible for the (re)development of the specific programme. The aim of the new and renewed programmes is better alignment with contemporary scientific and technological developments and human capacity requirements. The new programmes will run from September 2006. The three programmes are being (re)developed based on discussions with internal staff, alumni surveys, literature analyses of scientific and technological developments, feedback sessions with people in practice, and reviews by external experts.

Geo-Information Management

The main aim of the current GIM programme is to handle such problems as the following:

- Your data sets are incomplete, out of date or not available. How do you develop a strategy to complete your framework data sets efficiently?
- The process of maintaining your data is slow, inefficient and bu-

reaucratic. How do you design an efficient and effective maintenance process?

- You have thousands of paper maps. How do you manage the process of computerising map contents?
- Your customers complain about delays and other performance problems in land transactions. How can you improve performance?
- You are aware of the existence and (possibly) duplication of some framework spatial data. What do you do?

The management of geo-information is needed to deal with the new developments in the ICT sector and the challenges they pose for organisations and institutes that maintain and provide geo-information and that aspire to become a node in the national or regional spatial data infrastructure (SDI).

The aim of renewing the GIM programme is to achieve a clearer focus by concentrating specifically on the production, provision, use, maintenance, exchange and sharing of large-volume framework databases that operate in SDIs. The new GIM programme will concentrate on organisations whose products and services no longer reflect the changing needs and requirements of their customers. Organisations such as cadastres, national mapping agencies and municipalities (and also government organisations at other levels) - i.e. core organisations that have to deal with large spatial databases contain-

ing framework data - will receive special attention. To ensure that the new programme meets the human capacity requirements in these target organisations, external reviewers are specifically sought in these organisations. Of course, the GIM programme will not be limited to these three target organisations. For example, private companies are important target organisations as there is a trend towards public- or state-owned organisations outsourcing some of their tasks to private companies. In addition, companies in the oil industry and mining, geological and marine departments, and others also manage large spatial databases and have to include data management within their company business. However, the main focus of the new programme will be on the provision of framework data and the maintenance, use and sharing of large spatial databases within an SDI.

Furthermore, the current GIM programme will be improved by evaluating the (expected) technological and scientific developments that are relevant to the programme and by aligning the programme to these developments.

Urban Management

The Urban Planning and Land Administration Programme (UPLA) has run successfully for 6 years, addressing the analysis of urban development processes and the use and modelling of Geoinformation in urban planning, land administration and infrastructure management.

The new Urban Management (UM) programme under design, will build on the previous UPLA programme, but will take a somewhat wider and more integrated approach. Wider in a geographical sense, not looking only at what is already built or urbanized, but focusing on the highly dynamic urbanizing region; More integrated in the conviction that in order to understand development processes and develop effective policies, plans and actions, integrated methods and approaches are required.

The point of departure of the new UM programme is that the way in which urban areas are managed and administered has a direct bearing on their ability to support economic development and, improve the quality of life, including and mitigate poverty mitigation. To be able to do this successfully, organisations involved in UM must understand the nature and dynamics of the urban setting and develop, organise and implement effective interventions - policies, plans and actions - that address the problems confronting local governments and citizens. The use of Geoinformation methods and tools is indispensable to achieve both objectives. The UM programme at ITC therefore addresses how Geographic Information Technology can be used as an integral component of urban management.

The target group for the UM programme consists of professionals, active in UM who use spatial data in their planning and management tasks: Urban planners, (geographer-planners or architect-planners), Land (policy) officers, Engineers (water & sanitation, transport, construction), Environmental planners, or others with an interest in the spatial dimension of their field

The detailed content, focus and structure of the UM programme is currently being developed and discussed. This process will be rounded off early 2006. In the next ITC newsletter you will get an update of developments.

Governance and Spatial Information Management (GOVSIM)

Cooperating with the University of Twente on an MSc course in public administration and spatial information management had already been discussed in 2000. With the University of the Philippines, such cooperation started in 2001. Finally, this year the development of the course could be realised with the part-time appointment of Professor A. van der Veen to the PGM department. The issuance of a double logo degree will hopefully be possible by 2007.

This course will put "governance" in first place, whereby governance should be understood as the process of selecting policies using the powers of collectivity for realising goals and problems that go beyond the power of the individual - in other words, the selection and provision of public goods and services in an efficient, effective and legitimised way.

Aspects of governance include the opposition between "public and private", "space and place" and "society and territory". These days, governance takes place in a multilevel setting (from global to local), in a multi-actor network environment (public, private and civil organisations), and with multiple instruments

and resources (regulation, legislation, price policies, fiscal policies, infrastructure provision, information dissemination, and so on).

All this touches space and spatial information in many ways. The environment (as the space in which we are) puts its constraints on instruments and resource use. Spatial inequalities may require the spatial targeting of policies. Instruments have spatial (side) effects. Multilevel government requires multilevel representation of real-world models. Policy design will therefore require the generation and transformation of information from (spatial) base data sets available in the public realm. Here the GOVSIM programme will touch and build on foundation data highlighted in the GIM programme.

The programme is targeted at people who in their professional career have experienced the need to be able to use the spatial dimension in policy design and implementation. A basic understanding of geo-information science and public administration is an entry requirement for the Master part of the study. Remedial programmes in these topics can be taken in the first part of the course. In the Master part, courses on multilevel governance, environmental economics and law and methods such as descriptive and analytical spatial statistics, data and information context transformation, and collaborative spatial decision support will be part of the curriculum before the start of thesis research.

In the coming period, the proposed curriculum will be discussed with external experts and a market survey will be conducted among graduates from ITC and the Faculty of Public Administration at the University of Twente.



photo © Gerard Kuster

partnership news

UNAM and ITC Together in Morelia, Mexico

MSc Course on Integrated Landscape Management (ILM)

Alejandro Velásquez, UNAM
Abbas Farshad, ITC

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farshad@itc.nl

On 5 September 2005, the MSc course Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) was officially opened in the UNAM unit in Morelia, Mexico. This is a joint educational project run by the staff of the Academic Unit of the Institute of Geography (UNAM) and the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation, Enschede, the Netherlands (ITC).

In the opening session, in the presence of many staff of the Autonomous National University (UNAM) of Mexico, ITC of the Netherlands, the National Institute of Ecology, the state government of Michoacán, the government of the City Council of Morelia and the University Michoacana of San

Nicolás of Hidalgo, Dr Adrián Guillermo Aguilar, director of the UNAM Institute of Geography, recognised with appreciation the role that ITC had played in training many Mexicans during the last 30 years.

The next speaker, Professor Martien Molenaar, rector of ITC, explained ITC policy in joint education projects (of which this is the seventh) worldwide. Obviously graduates of such a course will be very proud of the degree, which is certified by the European Union and the UNAM - one of the best universities in the world.

Dr Medardo Serna, coordinator of the postgraduate course at the University Michoacana, highlighted the rele-

vance of this programme for the region. All who are involved - from the students, to the institutions, and finally to society - are winners.

Dr José Luis Palacio, general director of the postgraduate studies at the UNAM, himself a known ITC alumnus, admired the attempts of all those involved in establishing the course, and said he was pleased to witness the result, after over 20 years.

Furthermore, several academic and research aspects of the MSc course received attention, agreements on collaboration were presented, and some points regarding the exchange of scientific, technological and administrative services were discussed.



ITC Rector



Dr Adrian Guillermo



Dr Jose Luis Palacio



Dr Alejandro Velásquez
(UNAM course coordinator)



Audience (participants and staff)

LA Maestría "Manejo Integrado del Paisaje": MSc Course in Integrated Landscape Management (ILM)

La Unidad Académica del Instituto de Geografía de la UNAM, el International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation de Holanda (ITC), La Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo y el Instituto de Ecología dan el banderazo de inicio a la primera generación.

En un magno evento académico el pasado 5 de Septiembre de 2005, inició de manera oficial en Morelia la Maestría "Manejo Integrado del Paisaje", programa educativo que fue elaborado por personal de la Unidad Académica del Instituto de Geografía y el International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation de Holanda (ITC).

Ante autoridades de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, el ITC de Holanda, el Instituto Nacional de Ecología, el Gobierno del Estado de Michoacán, el Gobierno del Ayuntamiento de Morelia y la Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo el Dr. Adrián Guillermo Aguilar, Director del Instituto de Geografía de la UNAM en su carácter de anfitrión, comentó sobre el impacto que el ITC ha tenido en la formación de mexicanos durante los últimos 30 años, puesto que de los egresados, al menos 10 son académicos con reconocimiento internacional y de los cuales, 8 están adscritos al Instituto de Geografía

Por su parte, el Dr. Martien Molenaar, Rector del ITC mencionó que este programa será el séptimo en su tipo de los que la institución tiene en todo el mundo, además habló del

reto y las bondades que tendrán los estudiantes al contar con un plan de estudios conjunto, certificado por la Unión Europea y la UNAM como una de las mejores universidades del Mundo.

El Dr. Medardo Serna, Coordinador de Posgrado en la Universidad Michoacana, centró su contribución en la relevancia de este programa para la región y lo apropiado de la colaboración entre la UNAM, el ITC y la Universidad Michoacana. Destacó que en este tipo de colaboraciones todos ganan, iniciando por los alumnos, las instituciones y la sociedad en general. Agradeció la invitación a ser parte activa de este esfuerzo y refrendó su deseo de colaboración bajo esquemas de corresponsabilidad y respecto mutuo entre instituciones

Por su parte el Dr. José Luis Palacio, Director General de Estudios de Posgrado de la UNAM, recordó que desde hace más de 20 años se inició la relación académica con el ITC y fue hasta el 2004 que se pudo concretar el programa en conjunto.

Durante el evento también se trataron los aspectos académicos e interinstitucionales de la Maestría, se presentaron los acuerdos de colaboración, mediante los cuales se contribuirá en la consecución de sus objetivos comunes de docencia, investigación, presentación de servicios e intercambio de información científica, tecnológica y cultural.

project news

ITC Education for the Bhutan Project with the Department of Geology and Mining

Sjef van der Steen
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In weeks 38 and 39 of 2005, three staff members from the Bhutan Department of Geology and Mining (DGM) paid a visit to ITC. Within the framework of the Bhutan GEO TM project, director Mr Dorji Wangda, geologist Mr Karma and course coordinator Mr Ugyen Dorji participated in the last module of a series of five.

The three DGM staff members, who are active at the top of the DGM organisation, followed a specifically de-

signed two-week programme on management, with the emphasis mainly on managing geological business processes. Since business processes are affected by general management issues, topics dealing with general management were also identified in the discussions. Naturally the theme of these discussions was related to major DGM products and processes. Starting with a thorough analysis of DGM's existing products, processes, data flows and information, discussions were set up for fu-

ture orientations. The module ended with designing the first draft of a strategy concerning client approach, products and processes, with the emphasis on developing a digital infrastructure for geoscience information provision in the near future.

The cooperation of PGM and ESA proved the great value of interdepartmental involvement. Both departments expressed the wish for continued cooperation on similar projects.

announcements

Another Prestigious Award for the Topographic Map of Bhutan

ITC entered the Topographic Map of Bhutan in the International Map Exhibition organised from 9 to 16 July 2005 in A Coruna, Spain, on the occasion of the 22nd International Cartographic Conference of the ICA (International Cartographic Association). The map won the Award for Excellence in Cartography.

The committee (under the direction of Joel Morrison) in charge of conferring this award said in their official statement: "With this map, our Dutch colleagues have introduced a new generation of topographic mapping. This outstanding map gives a vivid visual impression of the surface of the planet. Using Shuttle Radar Topography Mission, SRTM data, with ERDAS imagine 8.7 for mosaicing and shading, ArcGIS 9 enabled cartographic finishing. The results are outstanding."



Short Courses eLearning

EuroSDR – EduServ4

EduServ is the Educational Service of EuroSDR. Its fourth module - EduServ4 - will take place in March and April 2006. It consists of the following four two-week Distance eLearning courses:

- Quality of Geospatial Data and Related Statistical Concepts
- Co-ordinate systems and transformations for spatial position
- Positional Accuracy Improvement in GI databases
- Quality control of DTM'S

The courses following the 'learning by doing' principle, are based on the experience and outcomes of EuroSDR projects and workshops. They are intended for those working, studying or generally participating in the spatial information sciences or users of Geographical Information. They cover material not normally covered in uni-

versity programmes and are delivered in a manner that enables participants to follow the courses from their workplace or at home, at a time and place that suits them.

The courses will be preceded by a two-day pre-course workshop from 30th to 31st March 2006 in Enschede,

The Netherlands. Participants will receive course material, hear background presentations about the subjects and become familiarised with the structure and expectations of the courses. They will also receive the necessary instructions for using the course conferencing systems.



More information can be found at <http://www.itc.nl/eduserv4> or send your enquiries to eduserv4@itc.nl.

photo © Gerard Kuster

Award for Professor Verstappen

At the Sixth Conference of the International Association of Geomorphology (IAG-AIG) held in Zaragoza from 7 to 11 September 2005, Professor Emeritus Herman Verstappen of ITC received the award of Honorary Fellow of this organisation for his contributions to tropical geomorphology and his pioneering work in the field of aerospace technology applications to geomorphological surveying and mapping for natural resource assessment and natural disaster reduction.



Professor Verstappen: lunchbreak during fieldwork in southern Italy, Agri Valley (1976)

Len Curtis European Award for Dr Maathuis and Prof. Van Genderen

The Council of the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society has selected the paper "A review of satellite and airborne sensors for remote sensing based detection of minefields and landmines" by Dr Ben Maathuis and Professor John van Genderen for the Society's Len Curtis European Award. The paper is published in the International Journal of Remote Sensing, 2004, Vol. 25 (23), pp 5201-5245.

ISI Rating for JAG

The *International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation* (JAG), the former ITC Journal, has recently received an ISI rating.

An ISI rating ensures that published papers are tracked, the number of citations from papers are counted, and the impact factor and the half-time of citations are noted. At this stage, only 10 scientific journals in the field of remote sensing have this rating. Therefore, after some years of struggling, the journal is now firmly established and clearly visible. Professor Alfred Stein, the editor-in-chief, is very pleased with this rating since it brings JAG to a higher scientific level.

JAG publishes original scientific papers that apply earth observation data to the inventory and management of natural resources and the environment. It has strong and traditional links with science at ITC and in developing countries. Its focus, which can be either conceptual or data-driven, covers all major themes in geo-information. Examples are data capturing, databasing, and the visualisation and interpretation of data. Issues of data quality and spatial uncertainty are also addressed. Of course, in the future JAG will aim at increasing the impact factor, as this is probably the most important quantitative value that can be drawn from the ISI rating.

Please visit <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jag> for more information on JAG, its scope, subscriptions and articles, as well as on how to submit articles for publication.

staff news

Welcome to ITC

Y. Shmilo
I.S. Bijker
Ir. S.J. Oude Elberink

Medewerkster Restauratieve Voorzieningen (per 1 August 2005)
Receptionist, Facility Management Department (per 1 September 2005)
Promovendus Earth Observation Science (per 1 September 2005)

Staff leaving

Dr. H. van Noord
Prof.dr. W.H. van den Toorn
A.D. Wevers
Ir. J. de Ruiter
Dr. W. Siderius

Engineering Geomorphologist, Bhutan project (per 1 July 2005)
Professor of Sustainable Land Resource Planning and Management (per 1 July 2005)
Receptionist, Facility Management department (per 1 July 2005)
Dean Students Affairs – Bureau Education Affairs (per 1 September 2005)
Assistant Professor Earth Systems Analysis (per 1 September 2005)

life after itc

Indonesian ITC Alumni Association (IA-ITC) Meeting

Paul van Dijk

vandijk@itc.nl

Coinciding with the Map Asia 2005 conference, Indonesian ITC alumni gathered together on the evening of Tuesday, 23 August, in Hotel Atlet, Century Park, Jakarta. About 40 alumni attended the function, with much talking, laughing, seeing familiar faces, renewing old friendships and making new, and last but not least: a birthday cake for the 55-year-old ITC! Many other alumni would have liked to attend, but were unable to do so and sent their apologies.

Among the notable guests were Professor Jacob Rais, honorary fellow of ITC, and Dr Sudibyakto from UGM. Two alumni generations of the Lukman Aziz family were also present in the persons of Dr Lukman Aziz and Arlan Lukman. Dr Lukman Aziz received his MSc degree in 1976 and his PhD in 1982, while his son, Arlan Lukman, received his MSc degree in 2003. Dr Lukman Aziz was the oldest (according to academic year) alumnus who attended the gathering, and new alumni from the year of 2005 were also among the throng. Furthermore, the executive chairman of the Netherlands Alumni Association of Indonesia (Ikaned), Mr Chandra Soemitro, attended the meeting, as well as three alumni from Iran.



Cutting the anniversary cake

ITC staff present also numbered three: Michiel Damen, Paul van Dijk and Joan Looijen.

The highlights of the evening were - in addition to the wonderful buffet - the speeches by Professor Jacob Rais and Dr Lukman Aziz. An introduction to the IIAA and its plans was given by Anggoro Santoso (NRM.2-2005), and Mr Chandra Soemitro spoke on behalf of the Netherlands Alumni Association of Indonesia.

As a surprise, a very large, beautifully made, and delicious birthday cake was brought in to mark the 55th anniversary of ITC. The ceremonial tasks of candle-blowing and cake-cutting fell to Paul van Dijk, and the first pieces (decorated with Indonesian and Dutch national flags) were handed to Professor Jacob Rais and Dr Lukman Aziz. Some slides composed of old photos from the 1970s, courtesy of Mr Riadika Mastra (C.2-1979), and new photos from the years 2000 to 2005 were shown to revive memories of Enschede and especially of studies at ITC. The video of

last year's ITC International Evening, courtesy of Michiel Damen, was also shown during dinner so that the alumni could watch the performances of ITC students while enjoying their meal.

And that was not all. Nicely designed Indonesian ITC alumni T-shirts were presented to Professor Jacob Rais, Dr Lukman Aziz and the ITC staff present. Since we were all supposed to wear the T-shirts, the ITC tie worn by Paul van Dijk was won by Mr Kris Sunarto (N.4.9.0-1985) in a quiz supervised by quizmaster Michiel Damen. The lucky winner managed to give a good answer to a rather unclear question (which is quite an achievement when you think about it!).

Finally, the entire group was shepherded back into formation for a second group photo (the first was taken at the start of the meeting), this time everyone wearing the IA-ITC T-shirt.

The hard work of organising the meeting had been carried out by Syarif Budhiman (EREG.2-2004), Iwan



Group photo at the end of the meeting

Setiawan (GFM.3-2001), Hartanto Sanjaya (NRM.3-2003) and Anggoro Santoso (NRM.2-2005). On this occasion, IA-ITC declared their definitive board and elected Dr Ridwan Djamaluddin (AGS.2-1993) to be the first chairman. IA-ITC was actually founded on 7 February 2005 (ITC staff present at that time were Tom Loran and Aneke Nikijuluw) and, until selection of the board, the organisation had been in the hands of three alumni acting as co-coordinators (Hartanto Sanjaya, Syarif Budhiman

and Iwan Setiawan). IA-ITC also launched its new-look website created by Anggoro Santoso, where everyone can read about association news and activities (www.itc-alumni.or.id). The most challenging task for the new board is to compile a good database of all Indonesian

alumni - said to number approximately 1,500.

The Indonesian alumni and ITC staff really enjoyed this meeting, and are grateful to ITC for supporting this initiative.

The board of the Indonesian ITC Alumni Association (IA-ITC) is composed of:

Chairman:	Dr Ridwan Djamaluddin
Secretary General:	Syarif Budhiman
Treasury:	Iwan Gunawan
Internal Commissioner:	Hartanto Sanjaya
External Commissioner:	Anggoro Santoso

ITC Alumni Association of Pakistan: Get-together Turns into Real Party

Falak Nawaz

association-pakistan@alumni.itc.nl

We're pleased to announce to ITC alumni and associated communities spread across the world that finally a formal ITC Alumni Association has been established in Pakistan.

It was decided to organise a get-together to elect representatives on Saturday, 1 October, at 5 pm in Hotel Depape in Islamabad, Pakistan. I was expecting the get-together to last for two hours at the most and therefore booked a hall in the hotel accordingly. But the interest of the alumni was astonishing to see and the get-together became a party that continued well into the night. Not only was this party an opportunity to meet old mates who had graduated from ITC, it also provided a platform to discuss future plans and collaboration and to formulate strategies geared to further strengthening the association.

In Pakistan, there are more than 300 ITC alumni, the first Pakistani gaining a one-month certificate in photogrammetry in 1951. The majority of the alumni are from the Survey of Pakistan, the Soil Survey of Pakistan

and the Geological Survey of Pakistan, but many come from other government and non-government organisations. Coming from far-off districts such as Peshawar, Lahore, Chitral and Muzaffarabad, 29 alumni, ranging from senior alumni such as Raja Atta Ullah, Hayat Zaffar and Jalil Ur Rehman (sessions 1982 to 1985) to the most junior - Fasih Ur Rehman from the Survey of Pakistan who will join ITC this month - attended the party.

During the meeting the following issues were also discussed:

- Some of the alumni are concerned that the Professional Master Degree is not considered equal to a Master's or a PG diploma by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan and that the HEC is not giving equal credit hours for MPhil/PhD research scholars against their degree or diploma. So it was decided to approach the HEC higher authority, requesting it to view the matter sympathetically, and if necessary to ask ITC to help us by writing to HEC Pakistan.

- Most of the alumni are actively working on GIS and remote sensing in their respective organisations, but because of rapid changes and advances in these fields, it was felt that ITC should organise more refresher courses and should give alumni the chance to refresh their GIS- and RS-based knowledge inside and outside Pakistan. The alumni requested that a refresher course be organised in Pakistan so that most of the alumni can participate in the training.
- From 2001 until now, many students applying for NFP and NUFFIC scholarships have been rejected because of a ban on Pakistan. Now this ban has been lifted but the alumni would like more chances of scholarships to be given to Pakistani students.

At the end of the party, an election was carried out and the following alumni selected by majority vote for the posts concerned:

- Patron: Raja Attah Ullah Khan, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Islamabad

(session 1982, PGD: NRM)

- Country Coordinator: Falak Nawaz, National Centre of Excellence in Geology, University of Peshawar (session 2000-2001, PM: EREG)
- Sind Province Coordinator: Ms Shahnaz Hussain Bhatti, Survey of Pakistan, Islamabad (session 1989-90, PGD: Cartography)
- N-W.F.P. Province Coordinator: Professor Noor Jehan, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Peshawar (session: 1998-99, MS: Geology)
- Baluchistan Province Coordinator: Aftab Baloch, Pakistan Nuclear

Regulatory Authority, Islamabad (session 2000-2001, PM: UPLA)

- Punjab Province Coordinator: Post vacant (shortage of alumni; to be elected at next meeting)
- Azad Kashmir Coordinator: Ghulam Murtaza Khan, Local Government Muzaffarabad (session 1989-90, PGD: SIG)
- Treasurer: Mubushar Hussain, Institute of GIS, National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad (session 2000-2001, PM: UPLA).

It was decided that the next meeting should be held in January or February to elect a coordinator for the Punjab, and also to encourage more alumni to participate. It was also decided to work on organising a refresher course, with the collaboration of ITC and other partner organisations in Pakistan, at the beginning of next year.

At the end of the party small refreshments were served and some good photos taken of the event.



Attendees at the formal establishment of the ITC Alumni Association of Pakistan



Professor Noor Jehan (1997-1998), Ms Shahnaz Hussain Bhatti (1992-1993), Aziz Ali Khan, Mubushar Hussain, Abdul Rasool Naseem, Falak Nawaz and Aftab Baloch (all 2000-2001)

letter to the editor

Dear ITC News,

First of all, I would like to say thank you very much for always sending the ITC News to my address.

Just for your information, I was a student at ITC in 1966/1967, studying geography (aerial photos for geographical planning). Dr John van Genderen was my friend; we were in Spain (Zaragoza) together on fieldwork.

Professor Verstappen, Dr Mayerink, Mr Van der Waag and Professor van Doorser were all ITC staff members at that time in Kanaalweg Delft.

Please send my greetings to all my teachers (and ITC staff members), particularly Professor van Genderen. I am able to follow the news of ITC through your newsletter.

My brother, Mr Soekiman Atmosudaryo (forester), last visited ITC in Enschede in the year 2000. He is now 83 years old and still active in some events.

So thank you again.

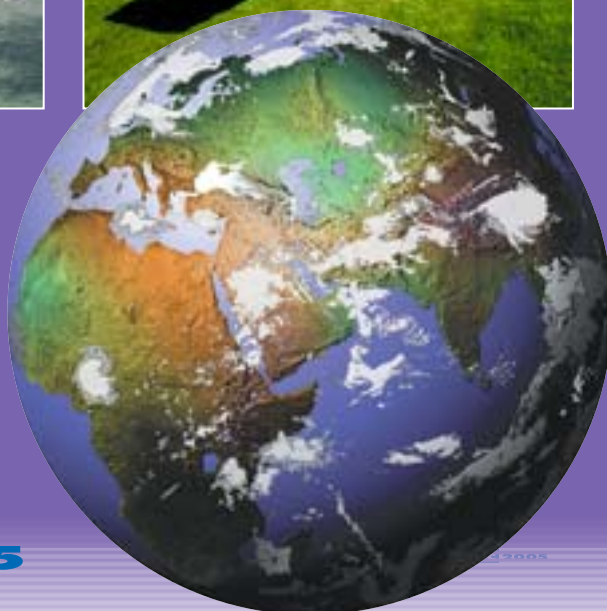
*Your truly,
Sardjono – Atmosudaryo
Leuser Street no.5.a.
Kebayoran Baru Jakarta*

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR GEO-INFORMATION SCIENCE AND EARTH OBSERVATION

ITC News

special alumni section

contains 160 contributions from alumni all over the world



1950 ITC 2005

Anna Spiteri, Malta

Geomorphological Survey 1981-1982

irmco@keyworld.net

I arrived at ITC on a Saturday, the first week of September in 1981, at around five o'clock in the afternoon. Joseph, a cartography student from Zambia, who happened to be at the reception desk, helped me to my room and invited me to a party that evening. I still remember vividly that very first party. Most of the lecturers were there, including Aart Karssen and his lovely wife Susan (with whom I'm still friends), and a hall teeming with beautiful people from all over the world.

That was my ITC baptism. I had left Malta determined not to have a boyfriend ever again, but one week at ITC and I'd changed my mind. I fell in love with life and with everyone - and I still am (with the first, not the second!).

I followed the course on geomorphological survey, and spending a year systematically peering down a stereoscope doing various landscape exercises proved a good platform for my later work in understanding and studying the environment. And I still like to take every opportunity of doing the "hands on" part in a study as I feel it is much more creative than image processing. I now run a private company called Integrated Resources Management, conducting impact assessments and doing research in the areas of water resources and coastal zone management. Over the years, we have become very successful in bidding for and winning EU research projects, and this year we celebrated the award of our 10th EU research project. Most of the work is in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East - although currently we have ventured into bidding with consortia and this includes countries in Africa and Latin America. We use remote sensing and GIS applications in most of our projects, and we even use ILWIS on many occasions.

I hope that is good news for my teachers at ITC - that I am a success in my work and that I have made good use of what they taught me. I fondly remember Professor Verstappen, ever the gentleman, giving me good advice. Actually, the pace of study at ITC was calm, and the fact that one could stay until 10.00 o'clock at night at the Institute to do the exercises fitted in with my way of studying - a habit I have kept to this day, as most evenings are dedicated to the "thinking" part of my work.

Three weeks after I arrived at ITC, I was elected social commissioner in the Student Council, which meant I was in charge of organising the social activities at ITC. I enjoyed doing this (except for bingo, which bored me), but I also ended up being involved in various student issues that proved an eye-opener with regard to the human diversity that was the united nations of ITC. Coming from a small island in the Mediterranean, this experience vastly expanded my personal horizons concerning the world out there.

After three months at the residents hall, I moved out and rented a room with the Karssens. They had a beautiful house in Thorbeckelaan, with a parrot in the front room that gave me a fright every time I tiptoed home late at night. It was fun at the Karssens and I enjoyed many parties there too. Living outside ITC meant I needed to cycle to school and, sure enough, Jan the receptionist, who had already started teaching me to ice-skate every Monday night, now gave me a bicycle that I *had* to learn to ride. In spite of various bruises, by the time I left ITC I could ice-skate and ride a bicycle quite well. But alas, I have not practised either since 1982.

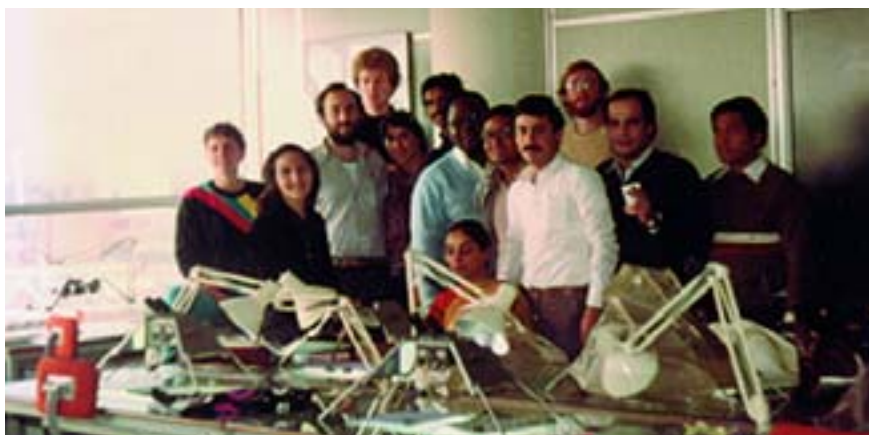


Anna Spiteri

I vividly remember our fieldwork trip to the semi-arid Carinena region in Spain. I was in charge of my "class colleagues" for the journey by train from Enschede to Carinena, crossing the border with France in the Pyrenees. At the small border village, I was the only person stopped for questioning as, unlike the others, I had no visa and nobody knew about the existence of Malta. (I had the same problem at ITC but solved it by going to the library upstairs and sketching the Maltese Islands in every atlas).



Dancing with Joseph ... four hours after arriving at ITC!



Class

My fieldwork partner was Stan from Burundi, who had a PhD in climatology from France and who taught me how to look for climate indicators on the ground (I often wonder what happened to him). He was a very conscientious co-worker, always picking me up at the agreed time, and he did not approve if I said "Let's drive to Zaragoza for a change". But many times I was alone in the field and once, feeling hot and tired after trudging to the top of a hill, I opened the maps on the ground, took off my thick dungarees and, half wary of the circling vultures above, closed my eyes. Half an hour later, I found myself surrounded by a group from the Guardia Civil, who were eyeing my aerial photos, field stereoscope, hammer and camera with suspicion. But the letter in Spanish I carried from ITC convinced them I was no spy and they escorted me back to the road. I still

keep as a memento the old shrapnel I picked up on the hill that day.

I also have vivid memories of days spent in the field with Nico Donker. Having lunch under the only tree for hundreds of miles around, he would object to the merry chirping of the birds above! But I have fond memories of him, of Robert van Zuidam, who at no time approved of my "Mediterranean behaviour", and also of Robert Voskuil, who complained about me kissing the lecturers at inappropriate moments (!)!

I was very sad when I left ITC. Susan and Aart threw a big farewell party for me and everyone from ITC was there. It was a soul-fortifying year, and now, when I look back and see myself there, I laugh and think how simple life was then. I enjoyed living in Enschede and enjoyed meeting,

talking and dancing with everyone. In actual fact, I've never been to so many parties - before coming to Holland or since! Every time I hear the Caribbean song Dayo ... disco show - very popular in the '80s - my heart drifts back 20 years, and I reflect on how I miss dancing every Saturday night.

I have very fond memories of ITC, and have lost contact with many of my classmates: Rick from the Philippines, who was always quick; Richard from Canada, who very patiently shared a table with me; the ever so charming Mrs Nahar from India; the kind-hearted Khalil from Iraq; and others whose names I am presently, painfully, unable to remember - although I remember their faces very well!

Life Post-ITC

I followed a postgraduate course in hydrology in Belgium, married one of the lecturers, Dirk De Ketelaere, in 1985, went to live and work in Tanzania, and then in 1989 came back to work and settle in Malta. We have a daughter called Sophie, who is 14 years old and taller than I am. We've run IRMCo Ltd together for the past 10 years.

Company websites:
www.environmentalmalta.com;
www.colasu.com;
 Other website (Fourthways):
www.mara.mediterra.com.

Mohsen Badawy, Egypt

Photogrammetry (P.4) 1976-1977

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I attended the P.4 postgraduate diploma course from August 1976 to August 1977. Through this study, my professional field changed from civil engineering to surveying and mapping. The course was very interesting and informative, and the 12-month stay in Enschede was more than wonderful.

Ten years ago, I established a small company working in the fields of mapping, remote sensing and GIS. I am still

CEO and chairman of the company, but soon my son, who is completing a course at ITC, will take my place as CEO.

My name is Mohsen Mostafa Hassan Badawy. However, during my study at ITC I was known as Mr Hassan, whereas in fact my family name is Badawy. This sometimes creates difficulties in communicating with my ITC colleagues.

It's my pleasure to attach to this e-mail a photo of the P.4 course students (1976/1977), and I hope they can recognise themselves 28 years ago! The photo was taken at the WILD company in Switzerland on 3 March 1977.



P.4 course students 1976-1977

Antonio E. Balce, Philippines

Photogrammetric Engineering (P2) 1972-1974

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Before I came to ITC, I was teaching undergraduate courses in geodetic engineering at St Louis University in Baguio City, the Philippines. When the ITC fellowship was announced in the faculty lounge, I immediately applied for it. I was accepted for the P.1 programme, which led to the ITC postgraduate diploma in photogrammetric engineering in February 1972. On completion, I was accepted for the P.2 programme, which led to an MSc in photogrammetric engineering in November 1974.

My trip to the Netherlands was my first trip abroad in the middle of winter. I felt homesick during my first six months but then I met someone who changed my life completely. She became my inspiration while I was studying hard at ITC. She was a nurse from the Philippines working in Amsterdam. When her contract expired, she immigrated to Canada. Although I had a contract to go back to the Philippines and teach for at least two years at St Louis University, I decided to follow suit. I joined her in Toronto, where we got married and started raising a family.

Emigrating to Canada was easy but getting my credentials recognised was not so simple. I immediately found a job during my first month in the country. I started as a technologist doing survey fieldwork and later on was reassigned to the office handling survey computations. During the first three years, I was not happy with my job and made a lot of effort to find a better position. In 1977, I was hired as a senior technologist by the Alberta government. My major accomplishment in that position was the computerisation of the process called slotted-template triangulation for producing bases for forest inventory mapping. Instead of the analogue way of doing this, which re-

quired huge floor space, I managed to use a digitiser, a mainframe computer, a drum plotter, and a suite of software for analytical computations of stereo models. I even used the programme I had developed at ITC for my MSc thesis.

After six months, I moved to a survey engineering post. At the same time, I was registered as a professional engineer without taking any examinations. Since then, I have accomplished more projects, including the development and implementation of the Alberta Photogrammetric Control System, and the completion of acquiring and processing digital elevation models (DEMs) in Alberta. Other accomplishments include converting NAD27 coordinates of photogrammetric control and DEMs to NAD83 datum, and converting DEMs to the Canadian digital elevation data format, which are now available on the Internet in Canada.



Antonio Balce in an office in the ITC building on the Boulevard (1974)

I've been with the Alberta government for 28 years and I was eligible for full retirement in February 2004. However, I still enjoy my job and might continue working for a few more years. Currently, I am leading a team concerned with developing a system for managing our digital imagery. We use a Leica Helava softcopy photogrammetry system for aerial triangulation and mapping.

My wife and I are blessed with three children. The eldest has just got married, while a girl and a boy are still studying at college. We live in Edmonton in Alberta, which could very well become my final resting place.

Please accept my story and the attached photograph. The photo was taken in an ITC office when I was following the MSc programme in 1974 - an office I was sharing with a fellow student from Jordan

J.B. Cole-Davies (Jaybee), Sierra Leone

Cartography (C.4) 1974

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On the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the establishment of the International Institute for Aerial Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC) on 17 December 1950, I feel delighted, honoured and gratified at this opportunity to reflect on my personal association with this great Institute.

Over the years since its inception, not only have there been changes in the curricula and structure of the various courses, but the name and location of the Institute have undergone significant changes as well. From the *International Training Centre*, it changed to the *International Institute for Aerial Survey and Earth Sciences*, to the *International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences*, and more recently to the *International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation*.

However, the fundamental identifying factor binding the above names seems to be the preservation of the popular initials *ITC*.

Following my successful application for a Dutch government fellowship (NFP), I enrolled as a cartography student in January 1974 (no. 740220) at ITC, Boulevard 1945, Enschede. The rector then was Professor A.J. van der Weele. Just prior to that date, the Institute had relocated from Kanalweg in the city of Delft. At present, it is majestically, comfortably and finally at home in the Hengolesestraat in

Enschede. Thus I became the second Sierra Leonean to pursue the C.4 cartography programme, my predecessor being a friend and colleague, Moses Bangura, who had entered two years earlier.

I can recall that 1974 was the 24th anniversary year and I participated in the celebration programmes of my new Alma Mater. The cartography department was staffed by a team of 17 experienced, committed and motivated lecturers and instructors, headed by the internationally renowned cartographer Professor Ferdinand J. Ormeling. With dedication and characteristic charisma, he utilised a blend of professional expertise offered by Dutch, Norwegian, French and British nationals to make a seemingly difficult training course much easier. As most of them were fond of us, they left no stone unturned to make us forget the meaning of homesickness. Special coaching sessions were arranged whenever it seemed that things were not going as smoothly as they should. At various intervals we were invited to visit their homes and families, who extended us warm and friendly hospitality. I cannot forget my director of studies Pat Oxtoby or project supervisors Allan Brown and René Bertrand. Other names that come to mind are Dick Venema, Beer and Blan of the reproduction section, Aalders, Bos, Weinreich, Karssen and Van der Steen.



J.B. Cole-Davies

Our class of 1974 was a unique mixture of 24 students from 14 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. There were 13 Africans: six were Nigerians, while the others hailed from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia. The rest came from far-flung places such as Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka. With such a variety of cultural and academic backgrounds, the stage was set for the more mundane tasks of learning and teaching in an unfamiliar but technologically equipped environment. Even the most conservative came to terms with the virtues of interpersonal and group activities, which quickly bridged any age, language or cultural gaps and thus fostered friendly cooperation in learning. Of course, the language of instruction was English but, because of our non-academic contacts with the local Dutch community, most students were soon communicating in some form of Dutch. I vividly remember the

names Charles Wokoma, Boniface Nzimba, Kassim Ulaya (Kangara), Tun Aye (smallest man around), Merlous Terweil, Jane Miduda and Tesfaye Gilazi - whom I happily met at the Ethiopia Mapping Authority in Addis Ababa while attending a United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa in 1993.



Once the training progressed, there was never a dull moment and certain peculiarities were observed at ITC that were contrary to expectation or what pertained elsewhere. The course content was greatly condensed and the standard of lecture and practical exercise programmes was correspondingly high for most students, who had only limited previous experience. Local and international study trips were organised, offering students the opportunity to observe and compare how principles and concepts learnt at ITC were executed by other cartographic institutions and agencies. Not only did these visits provide work experience, they usually assisted in easing the tension after a long session often leading to examinations. I recall visits to the Dutch Topographic Services in Delft, Wolters Nordhoff (atlas producers) in Groningen, Falk Plan Maps in The Hague, the Institut Géographique National (IGN) in Paris, the Bartholomew Atlas Company in Edinburgh, and Ferranti and Tullis Russell (manufacturers of drafting equipment and paper respectively) also in Scotland. There were visits to the universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow as well.

This reflection cannot be complete without mentioning other members of the ITC family whose contributions equally made my stay meaningful: Mrs Vorgers of the Student Affairs Department, Mr and Mrs Bakker, who managed the Schermerhorn Student Hostel, Nurse Grootenboer of the clinic, Mrs Tattersel of the bookshop, and all the other workers that I cannot remember by name. I am proud to have been a product of ITC because the professional training acquired greatly enhanced my career as a competent and proficient cartographer. I have thus contributed to the na-



tional development of my country through teaching cartography and, even after retiring from public service, I am currently engaged as a private

map editor and acting president of the Cartographic Association of Sierra Leone. Indeed, education at ITC would be incomplete if the hand were not as equally trained as the brain.

On this auspicious occasion of the 55th anniversary, a moment of silence is observed in memory of all founding fathers, staff and students who have been called to higher service. May their souls rest in perfect peace!

I congratulate the rector, staff, students and alumni worldwide on this occasion, and wish them all a very happy celebration. May ITC continue in the years ahead on its path of excellence in the fields of education, research and project services relating to geo-information science!

Long live the ITC!
Long live the city of Enschede!
Long live the government and people of the Netherlands!

PROOST!

Subodh Dhakal, Nepal

Earth Resources and Environmental Geosciences (REG.2) 2002-2004

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ITC has changed my lifestyle and career to a great extent in many ways. I believe I will never forget ITC; it is simply part of my life. Rather, I will say that whatever I have learned and in whatever position I am right now, most of the credit goes to ITC. I will never forget the wonderful company of unbelievable friends from different parts of world; nor will I forget the fantastic cooperation and teaching capabilities of the respected teachers. I had never studied or applied geographical information systems (GIS) or remote sensing (RS) in my career before studying at ITC. But after graduating from ITC in 2004, GIS and



Subodh Dhakal

RS have become part of both my academic and my research career. As a university lecturer, I am involved in the fields of research and teaching; both these fields have been influenced by these two modern and versatile techniques. Application of these tools is now the primary objective in any project. The confidence level on completing any challenging project is now increasing day by day.

Another influential factor that comes with studying at ITC is the international exposure. Exposure to European countries and interaction with professional scientists not only from Europe but also from America, Africa and Asia confer important psychological benefits and the opportunity to know the varying status of research in different parts of the world - and to know how that status can be improved. At the same time, I am quite impressed with the teachers and teaching methodology of ITC. The interaction between teachers and students, and the way of dealing with students in any circumstances are a lesson for university teachers like me from Third World countries. Furthermore, I feel there is no other place where one can learn, study and work under pressure as well as at ITC.

The teaching capability, methodology and efficiency have greatly increased since I graduated from ITC. More knowledge and efficiency mean more opportunity, which in turn means more money. So naturally lifestyle has also changed due to increased economic status. Getting the opportunity to take part in different international seminars, workshops and training courses, both as a participant and as a resource person is, I suppose, a big achievement.

Unquestionably, another great ITC achievement is the strengthening of knowledge in my own field of study. Engineering geology has great scope in Nepal, with challenging opportunities in civil engineering projects (roads, tunnels, bridges, etc.). The construction of one project frequently invites environmental problems or another disaster, and there are considerable uncertainties in estimating proj-

ect costs, as indicated by the vast increase shown in the actual cost of a project. Tackling such types of problem with numerical modelling techniques is another great achievement due to knowledge gained from ITC. The numerical modelling technique is quite a new approach to problem solving in Nepal. Many of my seniors have acknowledged my thesis work in dynamic modelling using the finite difference program (FLAC), and have approached me with a view to sharing the idea and knowledge. During my thesis work, I used FLAC for determining the amplification of ground motion during an earthquake, which is the main cause of destruction of the earth surface. Even researchers and engineers from Europe and Asia have acknowledged my work. I got the opportunity to meet Dr David Petley from the University of Durham (UK) in a seminar-cum-workshop in Kathmandu. He was quite impressed by my research paper presented there and encouraged me to continue the research for a PhD, making some fantastic suggestions. Similarly, Professor Kazuyoshi Iwashita from Saitama University (Japan) has happily chosen me to be his PhD student after carefully examining my thesis work and academic degree from ITC. Hopefully, this means I will be continuing my ITC thesis work with PhD research at Saitama University. This is the way in which studying at ITC has changed my work, career and lifestyle to such a great extent.



EREG.2 2003-2004 course participants

José Espinal, Colombia

Survey Integration for Development Planning (IS.1) 1983-1984

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Thanks a lot for your communication. Congratulations on the 55th anniversary. I myself was involved in the graduate course on survey integration for development planning 1983-84.

It was not only a great experience as regards living and learning in Europe and an opportunity to visit Sri Lanka and India for the practical aspect, but also a new field of work for my university in Colombia. I could work closely with the public sector and go into social management, even having a Formacion de Formadores course at INDES-IADB. During the last 20 years, I have directed special programmes for cities in my country and academic programmes at my university (Universidad EAFIT).

I remember gratefully the period of my life at ITC, the intercultural experience with people from different countries, and the good teaching of the ITC staff.

Godfrey Olang, Kenya

Earth Resources and Environmental Geosciences (EREG.3) 2000-2001

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Technological advancement has revolutionised all spheres and aspects of life on the planet. All sectors of science are in a rush to uncover new and maybe more efficient ways of doing things. In the geo-information sciences sector, remote sensing has made it possible to acquire large amounts of data, and hence information, on large areas of the Earth, and GIS has simply made the processing of such information much easier.

Information is said to be power. Access and manipulation of information is absolute power. Many countries in the world have for a long time lagged behind others simply because of lack of information. The situation has been aggravated by the fact that the more developed countries have had both access and control of information at the expense of the so-called less developed countries. Most of the information acquired from space was used primarily for military purposes until the end of the cold war. Since then, a completely new frontier in the usage of such information has effectively opened up a hitherto unknown potential of and application of geo-information.

My idea behind going to study at ITC emanated from the fact that I encountered such diverse applications of modern geo-information technology that I felt obliged to improve my skills and increase my knowledge.

Prior to my study at ITC, I was involved as a geologist in several mineral exploration projects for various companies and worked as an environmental research project officer in a mining area in western Kenya. The nature of my work involved data collection, collation and interpretation - manually a daunting task! The most challenging and demanding of all jobs is data analysis and presentation in a

manner transparent to the lay mind. One is often accosted by a team of accountants, economists, project managers or chief executives who haven't the least idea of what geology is all about. All that these people care about is a discernible outcome of a tedious one- or two-year job, with thousands of samples and dozens of maps. Arriving at such a result is a process of producing several layers of maps and ideas, which involves input from several teams. The capacious maps and data files that one has to carry to meetings is simply menacing.

Life at ITC was neither a bed of roses nor a jar of vinegar. What with a modular programme with an exam every three weeks (when one has been out of school, with exams only once a term, for 10 to 20 years)! What with a thoroughly African man who has never seen the inside of a kitchen (who has to become a complete chef)! (In Africa it is taboo for men to be in the kitchen. Women regard it as their rightful domain and



jealously guard that right. Some women have never had the chance to experience full womanism. Nothing against affirmative action here! Men have more treacherous domains.) What with a dawn-to-dusk schedule! What with the horrifying weather! (In parts of Africa it is summer the year round). Everything, though, comes at a price and this is the price of getting knowledge from ITC.

After ITC, I was involved in some consultancy work when the NGO for which I worked completed a project assignment in my area of proficiency. Presently I am working as chief project geologist for a gold and base metal exploration and mining company based in Kenya. The relevance and necessity of the ITC knowledge cannot be over-emphasised in my present capacity. Though more demanding and consuming at an individual level, the utility of GIS is more hands-on, and offers versatile output for reporting and presentation.

When we lack it, we crave it. When we have it, we abhor the accompanying unpleasantness. So goes the cycle. We want more to look for more. Knowledge supposedly makes life easier but we want more knowledge to avoid the responsibilities created by knowledge. Life's like that. Maybe, after retirement, I will still consider going back to study at ITC.

Granie R. Jayalath, Sri Lanka

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Applied Geomorphological and Engineering Geological Survey (AGS.2) 1996-1998

I still well recall the day I arrived at Enschede railway station.

It was 13 September 1996. It was my first overseas visit and I was quite nervous, but still managed to arrive at the DISH hotel at around 2.30 in the afternoon. I had come to ITC for a 20-month MSc course. I was really a reserved

student, so when I arrived at ITC I was a little afraid when I was told that I had to reach an average exceeding 75.0 in the postgraduate examination in order to proceed to the MSc course. I worked so hard and was able to complete the MSc on 15 April 1998.

Even though I had seen aerial photos earlier, it was the first time that I learned that so much information could be extracted. It was also the first time I learned of the capability of GIS to manage and model this information so that information on larger areas could be visualised and analysed quantitatively, eventually facilitating the decision-making process. I realised how important and economical it was to have such information, especially for countries such as ours, where the spatial decision-making capability is a crucial tool in all spheres of development. The knowledge gained from ITC studies has always tipped the balance and I have been able to secure a job as a manager (highway designs) in an international design firm. I still allocate time to learning and being in touch



Granie R. Jayalath

with new developments in GIS - in this the ITC news bulletin is an asset.

I was unfortunate not to gain NUFFIC financial assistance in the year 2004/2005, otherwise by now I would have been about to complete my PhD under the supervision of Professor Van Westen, the best teacher, from whom I learned so much about GIS tools in geotechnical engineering applications.

I should thank two other good teachers, Drs Kingma and Drs Voskuil; they helped me throughout my studies at ITC.

I loved the ITC lifestyle. Getting up early each day, I used to reach ITC by 7.30 and then walk back to the DISH hotel around 18.30, on the way stopping off at the NW shop to collect something for dinner, and then on to room number 814. Some days I used to work at ITC until 10.30 at night. On Saturdays I used to work at ITC until 3.00 in the afternoon and then proceed to the Enschede market to collect my food for the week. During my stay at ITC I was fortunate to visit France, Belgium, Germany and Spain.

I am now dreaming of an opportunity to visit my Alma Mater again, and hope I will be fortunate enough to have this opportunity. I love ITC so much. I feel I have been greatly privileged to have this letter published in the special jubilee issue of *ITC News*.

Ian Hall, Australia

Photogrammetric Engineering (P.1) 1974-1975

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Hello fellow alumni on the occasion of ITC's 55th anniversary! It seems ages since I studied and then worked in Enschede. In 1975 I completed the postgraduate Diploma course in photogrammetric engineering and then had the privilege to join the staff of ITC as an instructor and occasional lecturer.

ITC opened my eyes to the sciences of photogrammetry and computing, which I have since combined in my small business, producing image rectification, mono-plotting and analytical stereoplotter software packages.

I went to ITC as a simple surveyor and came out as a photogrammetric software specialist. I sell my software all over the world via the Internet.

I have chosen in my advancing years (I turn 60 this year) to semi-retire to the most beautiful part of my Australian home state of Victoria. We live 300 km east of the capital Melbourne, which I visit regularly on my motorbike. We are surrounded by lakes, rivers, mountains, trees, birds and strange native animals. Kangaroos, wallabies and wombats are all a problem when riding at night. My wife Nola and I often head off into the bush for three or four days of camping and fishing - sometimes also with my son Philip.

If you remember me when I was younger, slimmer and dark-haired, I would love to hear from you. I made

some very good friends in Enschede and regret having lost touch with so many interesting and vital people.



Ian Hall

Hisham Zantout, Lebanon

Photogrammetry (P.1) 1985-1986

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I received the magazine *ITC-News 2005-1* and read the article "ITC 55 years 1950-2005" (page 21) requesting contributions for the special jubilee issue. May I begin by thanking the Institute for arranging such a happening, which we are all sure will enable and encourage alumni to keep in touch with one another and exchange information, as well as discuss personal experiences and share them with ITC too.

After graduation in 1986, I actually enrolled for map production with MAPSgeo-systems, starting with hybrid systems for digital mapping and customised cartographic CAD presentation. Our production techniques were regularly updated using the latest techniques in aerial photography, land surveying, mapping, GIS, image processing, system development and system implementation.

I feel that whatever I have achieved in my career is entirely due to the train-

ing I received at ITC, to my dean, my teachers - Dr Radwan, Dr Amer and Mr Hendrikse - and to the huge support that I received from the partners of MAPSgeosystems, the company for whom I have worked since 1978 right up to today.

The *ITC News* magazine has continued to reach me, and I'm very proud of the management and editors who have kept all alumni so well informed regarding the latest happenings at ITC.

All ITC alumni have approximately the same wonderful memories of ITC and the time spent during their studies, and this is due to its great teachers and responsible managers who have kept this place alive. I am very proud to be a member of this society.

I take this opportunity to pass on my sincere regards to all my ITC teachers, the management and the board members, as well as my good wishes



Hisham Zantout

to all the students and especially to all my classmates - we graduated together in 1986.

May ITC continue its mission for a hundred years, serving both science and students and following the same scientific track as the founder Dr Schermerhorn, whose achievements we all so admire.

Saeed Khan, Pakistan

GIS for Rural Application (GIR.2) 1998-2000

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This is a portrayal of my personal milieu and professional development before and after ITC. I am from Mingora, a small city located in a beautiful valley (Swat) in the North Western Frontier Province of Pakistan. Mingora is the district headquarters and commercial centre of Swat valley. It is one of the greenest valleys of northern Pakistan and is famous for its rich culture, gigantic mountains, pleasant weather and, above all, the unbelievably hospitable inhabitants.

I received my secondary education in my hometown of Mingora and then moved to Peshawar, where I received my BSc degree in forestry from the Pakistan Forest Institute. After completing my forestry education, I joined a Dutch-funded forestry project as a research assistant. The project introduced a new concept in forest management called "social forestry" and proved to be very successful because the main stakeholders were included in the planning process. During this work, I was exposed to the use of GIS in natural resource (forest) management, but at this stage I was using manual GIS (e.g. using hardcopy



Saeed Khan

maps to trace the existing vegetation, find places for future plantations, and prepare activity maps for the project region).

After working on this project for about three years, I was finally offered a scholarship under the Netherlands Fellowship Programme to study for an MSc degree. Many thanks NFP! In this way I travelled from the small city of Mingora to the wide meadows of the Netherlands. Yes, it was certainly a social and cultural shock, but I got used to it very quickly.

My course was called GIR.2 1998-2000 (MSc in GIS for Rural Application). It was a joint venture between ITC and Wageningen University, so I spent the first seven months at ITC Enschede and then moved to Wageningen.

Before I knew it, Enschede had become like a hometown and ITC like home to me. It was a wonderful experience living amidst people from all corners of the Earth - learning and knowing about one another's culture and hearing amazing stories from around the world. Most of our sentences in social conversations would start with "In my country ...". The memories etched in my mind include social events in the SIC room, the Enschede open market and city centre, International Day celebrations,

and above all the corridors of that unique ITC building. After seven months of great fun and learning at ITC, we (GIR.2) moved to Wageningen University - but still used to visit ITC every now and then.

The study approach was highly practical and I do appreciate the assignments and presentations that turned out to be so helpful later in professional life. The spatial data integration project in Spain was a great help in bringing different disciplines together and working with real-world problems.

After completing my MSc in 2000, I returned to Pakistan and my career path moved from forestry to the broad range of "application of GIS in natural resource management". I worked again on a Dutch-funded project, this time as a GIS specialist. Interestingly, this project was also called ITC (Institutional Transformation Cell). I was responsible for spatial data collation from different sectors within the Forestry Department of the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. I also contributed to ongoing forestry projects (Forestry Sector Project) and the establishment of the GIS Laboratory.

In September 2000, I received a job offer from RPS Consulting Engineers in Dublin (Ireland) and since then have been working for this company. RPS is Europe's leading engineering and environmental consultancy, providing a variety of services to the public and private sectors. I am leading a team of GIS experts/analysts in the Irish offices of the company. Over the last five years, I have been involved in many projects, ranging from catchment management to environmental impact statements, flooding studies, landfill siting studies, route selection and risk assessment mapping. I've also been actively involved in training, staffing and budgeting for GIS-related activities, and coordination with public and private data providers and national and international GIS data/software providers.

This is how my studies at ITC and Wageningen have changed my career. It's always an honour when I'm referred to as a graduate of these prestigious institutes. I would very much like to get in touch with my classmates and other ITC staff and alumni and to share professional and personal experiences.

Le Minh Son, Vietnam

Earth Resources and Environmental Geosciences (EREG.2) 2000-2002

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I arrived at Schiphol airport on 16 September 2000. As there were no direct trains to Enschede, I reluctantly took an intercity train via Utrecht Central. Shortly after departure, however, the train stopped and I was instructed to take a bus to Utrecht station because the railway workers were on strike. How unlucky on my first day in the Netherlands!

After carrying my heavy suitcases around several bus and train stations, I sighed with relief when I finally stood in front of the ITC hotel and then picked up my smart card from the receptionist. I had a good impression of the ITC hotel right from my first glance because it looked snug and tiny.

Studying at ITC

The ITC building in Enschede is really spectacular. The rooms, tables and desks have strange shapes but a harmonious colour combination.

The first week at ITC is just for warming up: opening a bank account, registering an e-mail account and such-like. We also learnt the meaning of "ITC": international training in cooking! Well, from this point of view, I certainly wouldn't achieve a Master's degree because my cooking ability, even after studying at ITC, is still only at a very basic level.

If you have ever studied at ITC, I don't think you'll ever forget those coffee breaks. In my mind there is a

picture of a long queue in front of a coffee machine, some people even with two mugs in each hand!

After the first week, we started to live under the high pressure of work. Every three weeks we had an examination - a nightmare for most ITC students. Our group, which was specialising in geological engineering, moved to Delft after finishing the first

stage in Enschede. The ITC building in Delft was hot and cramped, and there was a lack of facilities.

However, to compensate for the shortcomings of the building, we had an amazing library: the TU Delft library. We could find almost anything in this library and we could directly access many online articles on many subjects. In addition, we could go from Delft to other famous locations,

such as the Maeslantkering in Rotterdam, The Hague, the miniature city of Madurodam and the Keukenhof Gardens.

I did not gain more knowledge on geological engineering while studying at ITC but I learnt a lot about GIS and how to integrate GIS with other technical fields. Furthermore, I had the chance to learn from Dr Niek Rengers, Dr Christine Pohl, Dr Robert Hack, Ir Wolter Zigterman and Ir W. Verwaal, and I also had the chance to make friends with people from other countries.

Although I was disappointed with some aspects of ITC management policy, nevertheless I am proud to tell my son: "I used to study at ITC in the Netherlands."



Le Min Son and his fellow students in front of the ITC building in Delft (2000-2002)



Le Min Son on fieldwork in Spain

Mahavir, India

Urban Surveys 1988-1989 (US.1) and 1993-1996 (PhD)

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Studying at the world-renowned ITC in Enschede had been my ambition ever since I came to know about it during a training programme at IIRS, Dehradun, in 1980. At that time I could not apply for admission or a fellowship owing to various constraints at work and at home. But it had to happen. And it happened all of a sudden when I was asked by a visiting team of ITC faculty to complete the necessary formalities. I was at Enschede in less than a month. Ten months later, in June 1989, I obtained my PG.Dip. with distinction, achieving first place in the class. Little did I know that this was only the beginning of a long journey.

In 1993, I was again invited by ITC, becoming one of the first two candidates admitted for the PhD programme at the ITC Division of Urban Survey. Subsequently, in 1996, I also became one of the two "doctors" graduating from this division. The *promotie* at the University of Utrecht was no less than a wedding ceremony. When asked, a Dutchman explained, "In the Netherlands, you may marry (or change your girlfriend) more than once, you may change your job, your house and so on, but only once are you awarded a PhD, and hence the ceremony!" This statement may be a bit overstretched in the Indian context, but I wish PhD defences at home were more ceremonial.



From left to right:
Ms Wilma Grootenboer, Mahavir and Ushu Prasad Mahavir

Attending the two courses at Enschede, a total of more than 50 months, gave me a tremendous opportunity to experience the Dutch culture. I stayed with two Dutch families, one year each. While I learnt dishes such as *broodje-kaas* and *pannenkoeken* and concepts such as *alsjeblieft* and *eetsmakelijk*, I shared the recipe for *daal* and *chhole*. One lady I stayed with even called my box of spices a

"magic box"! Incidentally, I was a hopeless cook before I left for ITC but today I cook some of the main dishes at home. Being *vegetarisch*, the ubiquitous *patat friet met mayonaise* was my survival kit.

Being in the Netherlands for long time took me to beautiful places such as Terschelling, Haarlem, Emmen, the Efteling, Brummen, Maastricht, Uitgeest and Leiden, and of course to the more popular ones such as Madurodam in The Hague, the Keukenhof, Delft, Amsterdam and Rotterdam. The people were very friendly and helpful everywhere. Ms Rennie Boonstra of NUFFIC and Ms Wilma Grootenboer of ITC accompanied us on many of these trips, introducing us to the beautiful people and beautiful places. *Grolsch* in the East and *Heineken* elsewhere remained the other companion ... and I miss it. Regular events such as the carnival and *Koninginnedag* were other interesting features. My first experiences with the metro, an ATM-cum-debit card (I can't forget the omnipresent ABN-Amro Bank) and VAT also date back to the Netherlands.

Many of my experiences in the Netherlands were also shared by my wife Usha (who works for HUDCO, New Delhi). Not only did she join me to witness my PG.Dip. graduation ceremony and my PhD defence, but she also studied at ITC for the PG.Dip. during 1994-95. While ITC was a bit reluctant to admit her, fearing that the couple would romance (which we did of course) rather than

study, she also topped her class and graduated with distinction.

And hold on! My son Lakshit, now 14, is also a Netherlands alumnus. He went to the *openbare basisschool* and the *kinderopvang* Okidoki in Enschede. Although he does not remember much about the Netherlands now, he does exclaim *heel lekker* spontaneously when encountering very tasty food. We still sing "*Lang zal je leven ...*" on his birthday.

Both the great professors who initiated my entry into ITC, namely Professor Dr Morris Juppenlatz and Ir C.A. de Bruijn are unfortunately no longer alive. But I am endowed with a large number of friends within and outside ITC, within and outside Enschede, and within and outside the Netherlands. So much so that during my last visit to the Netherlands - for about 10 days in the millennium year 2000 - not for a single day did I have to stay in a hotel.

I must also share a strange coincidence. I bought a new two-wheeler in August 1988. In September 1988, I left for the Netherlands for 10 months. In April 1992 I bought a new car and had to leave for the Netherlands in December 1992, this time for three years. I am in the process of replacing my car with a new one. Who knows, I may again be heading for this *mooi land*, with *mooi bloemen* and *mooi mensen*.

Tot ziens!

A.A. Mohamed Aroos, Sri Lanka

Geoinformatics (GFM.3) 2003/2004

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I am Abdul Ali Mohamed Aroos from Sri Lanka and I studied at ITC for a Professional Master degree in geoinformatics (GFM-3) in the academic year 2003/2004 (student no. 07976).

Currently I am working at the Survey Department of the Center for Remote Sensing (CRS), Sri Lanka. In fact, I joined the department in 1997 after working at a semi-government institute (Sri Lanka Standard Institute) as an executive officer. Looking back over my career, I have had various experiences working with different people in society - people in business, in government, and in the non-government

and academic sectors. All changed me indirectly. I learned a lot when I was at a semi-government institute exposed to the industrial and business environment. I can proudly say that there I was really exposed to the world. In the year 1997 my life changed as I moved into the technical environment by joining the Survey Department. In 1997 I embarked on a compulsory three-year training course on surveying and mapping and gained the Higher Diploma in Surveying with considerable success. I still remember when, in my third year of training in 1999, my lecturer-in-charge, Mr S.D.P.J. Dampegama, the superintendent of geodetic sur-



Going to London by sea

veys, happily announced in his first lecture that the year 1999 was a milestone in our life because we were stepping into the professional field.

It was really true. From 1997 onwards I worked as a lecturer in our own Survey Institute, in the field as supervising officer for cadastre work, and in the Surveyor General's Office in the mapping branch.

My dream came true in 2003 when ITC invited me to follow a course. Life at ITC was very sweet. Fortunately I entered ITC with a good background in surveying and mapping, and I learned more advanced techniques and about current trends in spatial data acquisition, handling and management. The kindness and teaching skills of the staff are excellent. The confidentiality of student records is strictly maintained; only the student concerned and the staff know the contents, not others. As well as the SAB, the student advisor plays a great role in solving student problems. Prompt responses to anything at any time by both academic and non-academic staff - marvellous!

I very enthusiastically studied all the modules in my degree course, having actively participated in all my lectures and practicals. The module on spatial data management gave me very good insight into current trends in spatial data and geo-information. I studied the clearing-house and spatial data infrastructure concepts. The visualisation module was very helpful in regard to mapping and new trends in visualisation on the World Wide Web. Indeed, real spatial exploration and spatial data dissemination techniques via the Internet are very useful in my working environment. The database, GIS, remote sensing and digital photogrammetry components were all covered to some extent and all are very useful in my work. The optional modules gave students the opportunity to gain knowledge in different fields. The field trip organised to wind up the degree programme gave us a true impression of the studied concepts and theories in geo-information in practical situations. I had the opportunity to go to the UK,

where we visited Laser Scan, BAS, the Land Registry Office, Harper Collins, the Bodleian Library, the Ordinance Survey and Casa, covering the northern, eastern, southern and western parts of the country. I liked the way of teaching and the approaches to problems - very efficient and effective lectures! The students have the opportunity to see their exam papers, making the marking transparent. It is a nice kind of attitude to adopt.

The SAB organises some very nice trips for purposes of motivation and enjoyment. I went to Paris and the UK with them. The UK trip was unforgettable as I travelled via the European tunnel from Paris. ITC gave me the opportunity to explore European countries. I visited Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, England and most parts of the Netherlands. The Keukenhof Gardens and the flower parade were beautiful beyond words.

An unforgettable experience in my life, because my stay has made a real impact on my career. I can't forget the pleasant and helpful DISH staff, past students, and the SAB with their advice and guidance. I had good friends from Asia, Africa and North America. I can say that, for a professional like me, ITC is an ideal place to enhance, and become acquainted with new, technological knowledge in the field of geo-information. I am very proud to be an ITC alumnus, and very thankful to the Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP) of the Netherlands government, to ITC, and to the Surveyor General and senior staff of the Survey Department, Government of Sri Lanka.

What after ITC? I have really felt confident in my career in the field of geo-information. I had the opportunity to use my fresh knowledge on GIS, remote sensing and visualisation techniques in making instant maps for the nation during the tsunami period in Sri Lanka. I worked at the Center for

National Operations (CNO) created by the President of Sri Lanka after the tsunami devastation. Indeed I worked with my senior staff with UK-based Map Action on producing situation maps depicting damaged hospitals, schools, affected roads, food distribution maps, relief team positional maps, and so on, depending on the requests from the various organisations involved in helping tsunami-affected areas. I was very happy to help my nation by using the knowledge I had gained at ITC. Thanks to the staff of ITC!

Currently I am working at the Survey Department of the Center for Remote Sensing, with overall responsibility for the branch. The land use maps are prepared, and updating is carried out, based on aerial photographs. High-resolution satellite images (Quick Bird) have been successfully used to update maps, and in the future we intend to produce and update coastal maps using such images.

I would like to study further and hope that I will achieve my dream one day. In conclusion, I am very thankful to ITC for enabling me to explore the world to some extent and for laying a path for the bright career ahead. All best wishes to ITC on its 55th birthday for rendering tremendous service and leading the dissemination of spatial and environmental knowledge in various ways. And all best wishes to the staff of ITC for their well being and in achieving their goals.



Working at CNO with Map Action UK

Robert Mwangi Gitau, Kenya

Cartography (C.3) 1977-1978

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My name is Robert Mwangi Gitau and I'm formally employed by the Survey of Kenya as a cartographer. I joined the Survey Department in April 1964. I was initially trained there and after my training I was assigned to large-scale topographical mapping (1:50,000 topographical map series). I progressed well to the level of officer in charge of topo-map production.

While still working in the topo-maps section, I was fortunate to get a Dutch scholarship to further my cartographic knowledge at ITC Enschede. This was in 1977/78. I went to ITC to follow a technician course but, after the entrance examination, the lecturers under the leadership of Professor Ormeling Sr decided that the technician course was too low for me. So they recommended that I switch to the technologist course (C3), which has proved very useful to me - not only at the time, but even now, many years after I took early retirement.

At ITC, we learned very many useful techniques, which included map production using the full-colour method, as opposed to what we used to do in the Survey of Kenya. We also learned photography, photomechanical processes, proof (quick proof) printing, and so on. The ITC cartographical section covered map reproduction - a very different process to that used at the Survey of Kenya. All these new techniques equipped us to tackle major cartographic tasks better than before.

I left the Netherlands towards the end of January 1978, after graduating with an International Diploma in Cartography (C3). I reported to the director of surveys and my diploma impressed him. The first job he gave me was to compile the *4th Edition of Kenya National Atlas*. The director was convinced that I would be able

to interact with university academia to obtain the appropriate researched data for the atlas project.

After working on the national atlas for two years, I was recommended for an appointment as a cartography teacher at the Survey of Kenya Training School. I taught cartography for about six years. It is at this time that I started developing the idea of forming a cartographic company in Kenya. While I was still working as a teacher, I formed a company under the name of Rowanya Enterprises (K) Ltd. I was running it in my free time but after three years I decided to request early retirement so that I could devote all my time to my mapping company.

When I retired in 1989, I ran my company under its old name for only one year. In 1990, I changed its name to Tourist Maps (K) Ltd. Since that time, I have struggled like any other business, although my company was quite unique as it was the first African cartographic company at that time.

Company objectives included designing, drawing and publishing various tourist maps, travel maps, and maps for different bodies, as shown below:

- Kenya Wildlife Service
- Big Five Safaris
- Somak Safaris
- Discover Kenya Safaris

- Across Africa Safaris
- Liberty Africa Safaris
- Fairview Hotel
- Cooper Motors Corporation
- American Embassy
- Tea Board of Kenya
- Kenya Tea Development Agency
- Kenya Planters' Co-operative Union Ltd
- Books First
- Save the Children Fund UK
- Nation Marketing and Publishing.

I would like to add that it was God's plan that I acquire this knowledge, both from the Survey of Kenya and later on from ITC. I became equipped with the skills to start a cartographic business that not only offers cartographic jobs to other people but has assisted a few cartographers to start their own companies. As you can see from the list of maps above, we have managed to help the tourists and tour operators, educational bodies and the general public.

Of course, we encountered difficult situations along the way, particularly regarding the new technologies linked to the digital mapping era. People of our age were forced to go to computer schools or otherwise be rendered jobless. Now we have completely adapted to computer mapping.

Nadeem-Ul-Haq, Pakistan

Exploration Geophysics M.2W 1985-1986

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For a long time now I have been planning to contribute to the ITC newsletter but, alas, laziness! However, a couple of interesting papers such as the one on tsunamis have compelled me to break these shackles, and here I am.

Although almost two decades have passed since I was in Holland at ITC Delft,

Nadeem-Ul-Haq



I still remember each and every moment of the wonderful time that I spent there - for example, even my room number.

At that time I was working on a project exploring the groundwater potential in one of the four provinces of Pakistan, the North West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan to the west. That project was in collaboration with the Dutch organisation TNO. The knowledge that I gained at ITC was extremely helpful in understanding the survey interpretation report writing, and I also acquired the presentation skills required for a comprehensive project such as the one of which I was a team member.

I remained associated with, and dedicated to, this project for another eight years after studying at ITC, sharing not only the technical skills with my colleagues but also the message of respecting a person's abilities, learned during a stay of almost a year in Holland. The stay in Holland was beneficial not only to me but also to Holland, as even today, after

two decades, I quote the best aspects of Holland.

°Employed by WAPDA (Water and Power Development Authority), I am responsible for looking after the big dams in the country. As a seismologist, I was therefore assigned the job of monitoring and analysing earthquake data in 1993. So, since 1993 I have been involved in earthquake studies related to the safety of dams and this is the reason why I take an interest in the printed material of *ITC News* regarding geo-hazards, particularly earthquakes.

I would love to hear from my friends who followed the course M.2W, 1985–86, at ITC Delft (nadeemulhaq58@yahoo.com).

Finally, I have one wish: to visit Delft again with my family and show them the beauty of the lakes and the beauty of the tulips.

I finish this letter with the words: Good luck to Holland, to ITC, and to all my teachers and friends!

Samuela Naicegucegu, Fiji

Geoinformatics (GFM.4) 1997

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Eight years have gone by since I had my last glimpse of the DISH Hotel as I headed home after nine gruelling months of walking to and from its doors to the new ITC building. We were the first group for the Diploma course in geoinformatics.

I vividly remember the foreign but friendly faces that I met for the first time on that February morning hurrying in for the orientation. Those were to become my family for the next nine months. Tino from Zambia, Matere from Botswana, Simon from Uganda, Major Soares from Portugal and the *bandit* from Namibia, together with the lovely ladies Linda, Chipppo, the Swazi lady and others, provided an atmosphere that felt like home. Then there were the guys like Ralph (PNG) and the late *Professor* on floor 2 from whom I learned a lot about cooking.

Since then I have progressed in my career and I am now head of photogrammetry for the Department of Lands and Surveys in Fiji. The diploma I obtained spurred me on to do other courses in remote sensing in Japan and a degree in land management and development at the University of the South Pacific.

I learned a lot from the academics at ITC - simple and professional in their approach. I take my hat off to them as I ponder the road ahead. They set the momentum for me and I thank them and ITC for that.

Well, I missed the daily routine along De Ruyterlaan through the Prinsesse Tunnel to and from the new ITC building. The smiling faces of all those Dutch people I met on the way until I confronted the likes of Knippers, John Horn, Phem, Ackermann, Sharif, Bouloucos and others. I still cherish the memories of getting to the market after school on Tuesday and on Saturday morning.

To me life at ITC was a challenge that will always be with me. My thanks to the Netherlands government for the fellowship!



Samuela Naicegucegu

Fenneke Reysoo

Integrated Surveys 1981-1982

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On 1 October 2005, I was appointed adjunct director of the Graduate Institute of Development Studies in Geneva (IUED).

Since graduating from ITC in 1982, my professional career has been an ongoing learning process, especially in the fields of gender, anthropology and development issues. I've had the opportunity to teach and conduct research in many countries (including Morocco, Bangladesh, Mexico, Mali, South Africa) and to meet again some of ITC's alumni. For those who are interested in the activities I am involved in, please visit www.genre-dev.org and www.iued.unige.ch. Particularly worthy of note is the International Gender Colloquium on "Gender, cities and environment: local organisations and social transformations" to be held at the IUED (Geneva) on 24 and 25 November 2005. You are most welcome!

Asit Saha, India

Geoinformatics (GFM.3) 2001-2002

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My sojourn at Enschede turned out to be an indelible part of my life. It was on the wet chilly morning of 23 September 2001 that I landed at Schiphol Airport, along with a few of my colleagues who were as ignorant as me as far as anything Dutch was concerned. We knew windmills and cheese and of course ITC, and that was all - until Rolf gave us a crash course in Dutch heritage.

When the Air France flight ultimately took off from New Delhi, a tingling sense of trepidation engulfed me. I was tormented by the thought of leaving my family behind. My mind ran riot with wild possibilities of what lay ahead. It was something that I had never experienced before. The realisation that I could not go back even if I had a change of mind mortified me. I was not in a train where I could get out at the next station and

call it a day. This Air France flight was taking us non-stop to CDG, Paris. Trapped! I fought within myself to control this bizarre sense of despair - for the first time in my life (and probably also the last), I would be stepping onto the soils of Europe. Even a lazy, laidback, third-worldish person like me was not ready to miss out on this opportunity. I decided to make the most of it - of course, in my own way. The small LCD screen in front of me showed the progress we'd made geographically over the Eurasian land mass - miniscule compared with what I had achieved mentally. Here we go!

The Air France flight from CDG to Schiphol had a small-town ambience. Breakfast was a humble croissant and black tea; I was still hungry and could muster enough courage to request the grim-faced hostess for another helping. Her curt, polite "later" never got a chance to materialise. Within an hour we were greeted by Dr Colin Reeves, who was waiting for us at Schiphol to dispel our anxiety and guide us to Enschede.

It was a Sunday afternoon. Even then the absolutely deserted look around Enschede railway station took me aback. I am accustomed to wading through an entangled mesh of thousands of people, taxis, porters, vehi-



Asit Saha in his room

cles, shanties and whatnot around a station. To me this desolate atmosphere was eerie, out of this world. Back home in my city, this would be unthinkable, inconceivable. The clinical cleanliness, cloudy sky, cold weather and streets bereft of any other living being cast a pall of gloom over me. The first feeling of warmth was provided by Uday Bhaskar, a research scholar from Hyderabad (literally so, as *Uday* means "rising" and Bhaskar means "Sun"). Uday, Ram and JP had a fast lunch of frozen pizza and milk ready for us hungry souls. Finding my apartment at Stadsweide, calling home using a phone card after countless fumbled



All Indians at the International Evening

attempts, a fabulous welcome dinner at Vidyaji's place late at night, and finally sleeping like a log brought my first day in Enschede to an end - my first day in Europe.

After four years, a forgetful soul like me loses track of events, but I still fondly reminisce about those supremely wonderful 11 months I spent at ITC. For me the best part of it was coming into contact with loads of interesting people from all over the world, sharing time, space, moods and thoughts with them, and being enriched in turn. The service desk at DISH was a favourite joint for all of us, purely because of Saskia, undoubtedly one of the most vibrant, smiling, compassionate, humorous and accommodating people I have ever encountered. There used to be times when I was down with the deadly boredom virus, stricken by a bout of acute homesickness, or incapacitated by good old loneliness; it was Saskia's demeanour that used to rejuvenate me to a great extent. I'm sure she's still around, 'cos she's irreplaceable.



Katrin Moenter and Asit Saha

Then there was Marta (*Are you there Marta? I am still waitin' for the Gipsy King CDs*) with her aura of mystery, her independent thoughts, her camaraderie, her god-knows-why vegetarianism, her candour, her funny Spanglish, which enchanted everyone around. She was an intern in NRM for

a few months only but managed to make friends throughout the institute. Enschede was not the same once she left for Namibia in search of a new world. I still remember the flurry of stirring messages we used to exchange, our mutual cooking lessons, and our walk-the-talk sessions.

Katrin Moenter was the epitome of quality consciousness. She was utterly serious about maintaining *Deutsche* standards regarding two aspects: guzzling beer and studying. Poor girl, she lost her mother during that period, but she coped with this terrible tragedy with remarkable resilience.

Alan Robinson, the drummer and music lover; Sean the sleep walker; Blanca, pint-sized dynamite with starry eyes; Andrea the diva; Santiago, the dreamy guitarist and wily footballer; Misbahuddin and Vishnu, with their endless humorous one-liners; Bettine Geerdink, always going out of her way to help us; Martin Blankenstein, building a *Salsafied* network; Gilbert the Rapper, who drove us to Paris; Nicoline Emmer, my dainty no-nonsense supervisor - the list is endless. All these people have reserved compartments in my mind eternally. Some day I will probably write a book - there are so many things to say. Now that would be a challenge for a lazy soul like me!

There are so many incidents that I will cherish always. The first time I went to Aldi I was completely exasperated - I was not able to locate the SALT! I think back to the day when I was guiding newcomers about Sino-Indonesian shops that stock all Indian groceries. I loved to shop in the open market on Saturdays; my favourite hangout was the fish stalls. I can still savour the fleeting aroma of fried fish, chips and mayonnaise. In the beginning, an omnivore like me had to jostle for sacred kitchen space with a devout vegetarian like Hegde the flutist; I could experiment with my culinary traits only after fleeing to



Marta, Alan and others

DISH. Honestly, everyone should spend a reasonable part of their lifetime in the DISH kitchen; it's a microcosm of the exhilarating aspects of diverse human culture. I wonder if anyone else has ever experienced a Nepalese *momo* party, where the whole DISH kitchen transforms itself into a conveyer belt: dough being prepared at one end; dumplings acquiring myriad shapes by getting stuffed with spice; flavoured minced meat, finally steamed over a hot plate - just to get popped into the gaping mouth of anxiously waiting connoisseurs at the other end. Wash it down with beer. Pop till you drop!

I always fumbled with the Dutch instructions at the ATM and my pig-headed bank card developed a penchant for staying inside the stupid machine every time I tried to coax it. Until the day when the frustrated benevolent lady from the bank decided to intervene and gave a short, effective lesson in taming a shrewd ATM. Needless to say, I proved to be a worthy student thereafter. When the euro took over from the guilder, I found my not-so-healthy bank balance dwarfed overnight. We were dead sure that we were victimised by the euro-induced inflation. We drew solace from the fact that some millionaires in Italy were also feeling the same way. There was a brighter side too; I started collecting about-to-be abolished coins from all my European friends and today I can proudly proclaim I have a treasure in my possession.



Asit Saha's farewell party



A day out and a barbecue



Asit Saha with Bangladeshi friends in front of the Holland Casino

One of my favourite pastimes was loitering along the lanes and streets of Enschede, at times trekking miles up to the plantations in the north. I walked across the centre, around the *Oude Kerk*, inspected the progress of the Holland Casino, and searched the floors of Vroom & Dreesman for souvenirs, looking out for *kortingen* - window shopping at its best! I could ultimately collect a treasure trove of souvenirs at bargain prices from the Queen's Day market and from *Het Goed*.

My friends from Bangladesh provided me with the much needed break from always blabbering in English. I could converse with them in Bengali, my vernacular, and thus refresh myself. I still remember a Bangladeshi family settled in Enschede who took pains to entertain us. They arranged for that unforgettable barbecue on a day out at the lakeside. My friends from India: Sanjayda the unpredictable; Anoop, master of all trades except singing; Jegan the idealist; Jamil the maverick; Talat the whizkid; Prasun the brat; and of course LP (Lalan), my buddy, my brother; they all contributed in every way to make my stay memorable. Talat and Prasun are still at ITC, pursuing their goals.

ITC renamed itself for the umpteenth time during our stay. What did we do with the old name? We ate it. No, we drank too. Each of us received a bottle of red wine to commemorate the

occasion. Wine drinking became a passion very quickly, threatening to dislodge trusty beer from its podium. We received an Indonesian dinner pack as a Christmas gift - all ingredients plus candles, chopsticks and of course a large wok. Only the cook was missing. Within no time, the cupboards of our Indonesian friends were overflowing. Our Christmas holidays were spent in Paris. We came back to a snow-white Enschede after four days; first snowfall ever in my life. It had its ups and downs. I still recollect slipping on hardened snow: a split-second flight into the air before crashing down on my back.

I have not talked about the course much. I was enrolled for GFM.3. I slept through it, conserving my en-

ergy for extracurricular pursuits such as sleeping. Nonetheless, whatever little managed to break through my *barrier* helped me immensely. The course gave me a global perspective about the why, how, what and when of geo-information. I am continuing with my job at the Geological Survey of India, doggedly trying to do something different, something worthwhile - something that will celebrate my sojourn at ITC, Enschede.

One last thing, no write-up about a stay in the Netherlands would be complete without mentioning bicycles. So here I go. I never tried a bicycle. Even though it was a sanctuary for cyclists, I still feel sure and steady on my legs!

Pepe Salas, Peru

Geo-information for Urban Planning (USH.2) 2000-2002

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Reviewing my pictures from ITC, I found one in which a group of students are working together - coming from different countries, different cultures - and acquiring the same knowledge to make a unique fraternal world. So I send you the picture attached.

From Peru:
Always grateful to you!



Varoujan K. Sissakian, Iraq

Engineering Geology 1975-1976 and 1980-1982

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On 23 August 1975 I arrived in the Netherlands for the first time, to follow the N.22e course (Engineering Geology) under the supervision of Mr Rengers. His very kind behaviour towards the group of the students allowed us to consider him a friend (photo 1).

On 30 May 1976 we went to Spain (Pont de Suert) on fieldwork. Mrs Rengers with her daughters came with Mr Rengers. After a while I suffered from continuous sneezing. I went to a Spanish doctor with Mrs Rengers (as translator). After explaining what I was suffering from and hearing what the doctor said, Mrs Rengers started to laugh. She told me that the doctor had said: "It's because you are in a sunny country." He had forgotten that in Baghdad (where I live) the sun shines almost the whole year round and the temperature in June is 40 to 45°C. We passed some very nice days in Hostal Cotori.

On 2 September 1976 I left the Netherlands to return to Iraq with a diploma for attending the course Engineering Geology.

On 10 November 1980 I arrived in the Netherlands again, coming from a very hot front where I was serving as a soldier. It was a miracle. Mr Rengers' letter welcoming me to follow the MSc course was the reason for my release from the army.

During the period 1980 to 1982, Mr Rengers was again more than a supervisor, also Mr Soeters and Dr Koopmans. I can't forget his continuous efforts to simplify all the difficulties I encountered, especially when my son was admitted to hospital for serious reasons. And then his continuous efforts to enable me to stay in Enschede till the war had ended!



Varoujan K. Sissakian

On 3 May 1982 I was awarded my MSc (photo 2). I can't forget what Mr Rengers said during the ceremony concerning my work, nor that Mrs Rengers was attending such a ceremony for the first time. That was a great honour for me.

On 20 May 1982 I left the Netherlands to go back to Iraq. I am still in contact with Mr Rengers. He is the most helpful and compassionate man that I have ever met. I wish him and his wife all happiness and success, especially in retirement.



Photo 1 Delft 1975: (first row, left to right) Mr Al-Farado (Ecuador), Mr Otagaki (Japan), Mr Zahra (Syria); (second row, left to right) Mr ?, Mr ? (Chile), Mr Charles (Nigeria), Mr ? (Netherlands), Mr Chan Choo (Cameroon); (third row, left to right) Mr Sissakian (Iraq), Mr Rengers



Photo 2 Enschede, 3 May 1982: (left to right) Mr Sissakian, Mrs Rengers, Mrs Sissakian, Mr Rengers, Mr Woldai and Mr Soeters

Stanlaus Msuya, Tanzania

Geo-information Systems for Rural Applications (GIR.3) 1998-1999

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Life after ITC in one way or another is shaped by the knowledge gained from the Institute and from the Netherlands' community.

I left Enschede on the 24th day of August in 1999. The journey started by train to Schiphol International Airport. I checked in - thank God all my luggage was of the required weight! I left Amsterdam with KLM. We had a non-stop flight to Kilimanjaro International Airport in the Kilimanjaro region, my place of birth. All the same, I had to proceed to Dar es Salaam International Airport, where my wife, my son and some of my relatives were waiting to see me after a year of separation. It was a happy moment.

From there I spent a night in Dar es Salaam and I left for Dodoma the next day. Dodoma was my work station. I had to report to my employer, who told me that I was to be transferred to Kongwa District Council to head the town planning section. It was not a shock to me as I was aware that during my study in the Netherlands the government of Tanzania had conducted a restructuring exercise that had abolished regional offices in order to decentralise power to the local authorities.

My first shock came when I reported to Kongwa District Council. The council was newly established. It had a shortage of almost everything, including office space - let alone a computer. Can you imagine a GIS expert working in an area without a computer and power?

I wrote a proposal to the district executive director for office space and working tools, including a computer with ILWIS software. You don't have to guess the response I got from my boss. The answer was ... no funds.

So I initiated community participatory land use planning, with the focus on detecting land cover changes.

"Detection of land cover changes" - this was the title of my final dissertation at ITC. The interest was to manage changes that bring negative environmental impacts.

To do this, I enabled the community to produce historical maps on the land uses of their villages as they remembered them. These maps were spaced in 10-year periods. I was satisfied to see that the community could provide good maps. These maps were drawn using the same scale on transparent materials. The community overlaid these maps to identify the changes that had occurred during the different periods of time they had managed to map. In reality the product was quite rough, although it was very interesting to practice manually knowledge gained from ITC.

The community agreed that most of the perceived changes were negative and hence needed mitigation. We compiled a schedule for different activities, including tree planning, contour bund construction and terracing, and farming on the sloping areas. Other activities included strip grass planting and pond construction. The programme started in one ward; however, it has been adopted in nine other wards.

In 2001 I was invited to participate in mapping all the district health facilities, using a handheld GPS and health mapper GIS software. This project was under the auspices of Helen Keller International, which deals with trachoma and general sanitation at community level. The task was interesting and it took me from village to village. There are 167 villages under the jurisdiction of Kongwa District Council.

In 2002 Kongwa District Council was included in a programme that prepared digital maps for the whole district. The Swiss government financed this programme. I was made contact person in the district for the project. I attended five days' training on using MapInfo GIS software. I heard that this software, like ILWIS, was developed in the Netherlands. Whether this is true or not, I have no doubt about the ability of the people of the Netherlands to do the same. We prepared a topographical map in digital format, and today all other layers can easily be produced depending on the theme and requirements.

During my stay at Kongwa District Council, as part of my routine work I managed to design and map 10,000 urban housing plots. These plots were surveyed and offered to individuals for development.

In 2004 I left Kongwa District Council to join the Institute of Rural Development Planning as a lecturer in physical planning at the Environmental Department. At the institute, I participated in developing curricula for GIS to be taught in the new academic year 2005/2006 for Bachelor degree students following courses on regional environmental and population studies.

Since I left ITC Enschede, I have not regretted a moment of my stay. I have so far managed to introduce and successfully help more than five people to come and join ITC Enschede. This to me is a great achievement, not to mention the many different people of different nationalities and from different cultures that I met in the Netherlands. As a lecturer, I hope to pass on the knowledge I acquired from ITC. I hope one day I will be able to do a PhD, although some of the institutes and universities find it

hard to understand the qualification of Professional Master's degree.

Finally, I am happy to let you know that at my place of work three of us lecturers are from ITC Enschede, and one is currently pursuing her studies

at ITC for an MSc in natural resources planning. I wish that one day we could undertake a collaboration project here in Dodoma, Tanzania. Pass on my love to the staff and all alumni of ITC Enschede, as well as to the community of Enschede.

Thanks go to the embassy of the Netherlands here in Tanzania, who has supported the Netherlands Alumni Association of Tanzania, where we sometimes get to exchange news and ideas for capacity building in daily performance.

Usha Prasad Mahavir, India

Urban Survey and Human Settlement Analysis (USH.3) 1994-1995

Usha-mahavir@yahoo.com

Dames en Heren!

Penned below are some of the memories that I have after 10 years of being an ITC alumna. "*Goed Morgen, DISH Hotel*" would be the reply from the other end and then I would be connected to my husband, then a student at ITC. I joined him in June 1989 during the last month of his course (USH.3). During my stay in 1989, I was very much impressed by the country, people and ITC.

So much so that I myself wanted to study at ITC. Since I had the requisite qualifications and experience, I applied for USH.3 in 1994.

Fortunately, I gained admission and the fellowship, and was required to report to ITC in September 1994. The people at the Royal Netherlands Embassy in New Delhi were very helpful and provided guidance and help in obtaining a visa. At ITC, both the teaching faculty and the other staff were all very caring. One never felt as though one were living in a foreign land and soon became part of the large global family.

At ITC, I acquired immense experience in different techniques used in urban survey and human settlement analysis and was awarded the diploma with distinction. I would like to make special mention of Professor Dirk Bolt, then head of the department. He was a father-like figure and would give you all possible advice and affection. It was also an opportu-

nity to gain exposure to and experience of an international community, their cultures, habits, and so on. The International Evening was just enjoyable and an unparalleled learning experience.

Just after two months of my joining ITC, my son, who was four at that time, also joined me. I was very worried about how my son would adjust to the new community and environment. Surprisingly, the little ones adjust to a new environment better than grown ups. The teachers at the openbare basisschool and at kinderopvang Okidoki made him feel at home and gave him the basic education and exposure to Dutch culture. Now aged 15, he looks forward to studying in the Netherlands at university level.

My third visit to ITC was in 1996 to witness the PhD award ceremony of my husband. All our friends at ITC and in Enschede attended and graced the ceremony in Utrecht. Although we were far away from our family, friends and country, we never felt so. We got the opportunity to visit other places too but I must admit the people at ITC are heel mooi, heel goed! Given the opportunity, I would love to be at ITC again.

Just to refresh memories, I attach two photographs.



Professor Dirk Bolt, then head of the UPLA department at the graduation ceremony (June 1995) of Usha (on his right). Also shown (on his left) is Dr Sahar Al-Amir Tushuizen, then a PhD scholar at ITC.



Students and staff of the USH.3 course during their fieldwork at Hatyai, Thailand (May 1995) (first row, left to right) Chuthipa Changtongkum, Thailand; Julie Torres, Philippines; J.O. Asiedu, Ghana; H.S. Mtutwa, Tanzania; (second row, left to right) Victor Pollé, ITC staff member; Samankanthie Bandara, Sri Lanka; Arias Rodriguez, Cuba; Usha Prasad Mahavir, India; (third row, left to right) ITC staff; Gerard Küper, ITC staff member.

Christina Veiga, Brazil

tcristina@pv.sivam.gov.br

Urban Survey and Human Settlements Analysis (US.1) 1985-1986 (US.2) 1987-1989

My name is Teresa Cristina Veiga, but at ITC people know me as Ms Veiga or just Cris. I was born in the very south of Brazil, Bento Gonçalves-RS, but lived in Rio de Janeiro-RJ for about 30 years. When was I born? I can say that I commemorated my 34th birthday in the Schermerhorn student party room on 21 November. It was the first day of snow of 1985.

I arrived in Enschede full of enthusiasm to follow the course Urban Survey and Human Settlements Analysis and I left at the end of the course with much more than theoretical and practical knowledge. I had many books in my luggage and many friends in my heart.

The subjects I learned in the regular course opened my mind to a new technology being developed, which made me apply for the MSc course to complement my technical education. I came back to ITC in 1987 and left again at the beginning of 1989, taking with me the MSc degree and the possibility of improving my career.

Back home I had the opportunity to join the Urban and Regional Development Information System (SIDUR) project implemented by the Rio de Janeiro state government through the Urban and Regional Development Secretary. The project and the people working on it were transferred to the Center of Information and Data of the Rio de Janeiro state government (CIDE). In both places, my work was concerned with GIS and remote sensing and I could apply what I'd learned at ITC.

In 1997, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) opened new places for geoprocessing analysts and I applied for one at the Department of Cartography to work

with digital cartography and GIS. There I had the opportunity to work on compiling the Brazilian Digital Cartographic Database at 1 to 1 million scale, which is also being used as the Brazilian part of the Global Mapping Project.

In February 2002 I finished my PhD in geography (specialising in geoprocessing) at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

In 2003 the Brazilian government opened places at the Amazon Protection System (SIPAM) for public workers from all over the country. Once more I applied for a place and now I'm living in "the jungle", in the city of Porto Velho, Rondonia State, helping to get digital information from satellite images and other digital databases for use in protecting the region.

Concluding my MSc studies at ITC played a big role in getting these opportunities and opened many doors for me. I can say my professional and personal life after ITC was a successful challenge.

The time I lived in the Netherlands is still very special for me. I adapted perfectly to the cold and to the food, but not so much to the Dutch rules. I lived first at Schermerhorn and later at Snuijstraat 32. I greatly enjoyed living in Enschede: the market on Saturdays, de Kater's beer, cycling to Germany, *vanille vla*, *witlof met ham* and *kaas, spekulaas*, *Sinterklaas* and *Zwarte Piet*, the snow, *het Rutbeek* on a sunny day. All I have at this time now are good memories that help me a lot to overcome bad moments.

I miss this time a lot and the friends I left there. I feel very sorry that many of them are dead now. Fortunately I could meet some of them again when I visited the Netherlands in 1992 and 1995.

I still want to return to Enschede to see the new building and to meet old friends from ITC and from outside, to exchange with them experiences of our lives after ITC. With some of them I still keep in contact: Silvia Erni, Sohki, Lucio Graça, Luisa Pereira - but I would like to know how Mrs Chen Fan Fen is doing, how many children the Kiessy couple have, and where Khanty Vitarana is working now.

My memories of ITC won't be complete without mentioning Age. He is in part responsible for the special care I feel for the Netherlands and the Dutch people in particular. My memories of Enschede wouldn't be complete without mentioning Anne and Henny van Adrichen. Henny died last year but I still exchange handwritten letters and have a strong friendship with Anne.



Christina Veiga

Anita Zaitunah, Indonesia

Forestry for Sustainable Development (NRM.2) 2002-2004

zaitunah@alumni.itc.nl; anitazh@lycos.com

Hello, my full name is Anita Zaitunah. People call me Anita. I am a lecturer at the Department of Forestry, Faculty of Agriculture, North Sumatra University, Medan, Indonesia. The subjects that my team and I teach include remote sensing. We offer GIS as an elective subject. Since 1997, after finishing my study at the Faculty of Forestry, Bogor Agricultural University, Bogor, Indonesia, I had been looking for an MSc course and a source of funding. It became a reality in the year 2002, after three years of working. I became an MSc student at ITC with a scholarship from the Netherlands Fellowship Programme.

I am so lucky that I had the full support of my family to pursue my goal. When I remember the first time I went to the Netherlands, I always smile. Funny things happened. I had a very long journey from Jakarta via Singapore, Kuwait and London to at last Amsterdam. It was already late at night at Schiphol when we collected our baggage. After waiting for quite a long time, I realised that my baggage was not there. My friends and I made a report to the "lost and found" section. Can you imagine such a horrible thing happening? I was so disappointed because I only had one small bag left. After making the report, we tried to catch the train to Enschede, but it was too late. So, home sweet home Schiphol! We stayed the night near the information section, with the baggage of four people (not mine!). For a couple of days I wore the same clothes until my baggage arrived from London.

At ITC, I followed the course Forestry for Sustainable Development. I am so grateful to my supervisors Dr Hussin and Mr Corsi and all the lecturers, especially in FSD. On March 2004,

I came back home full of beautiful memories and friendship. My ITC friends and I still communicate with each other through e-mail.

Two months after coming back to the office, I was promoted by the rector to be head of the Forest Inventory Laboratory. As a new department, we always try to develop our quality of education and facilities for our students. In August 2004, I had to leave my students to take a PhD course on the recommendation of my two professors in Bogor and Medan. Right now, I am in the second semester of the forestry study programme at Bogor Agricultural University. In the course, I will have three semesters full

of lectures and practicals. After the examination to become a PhD candidate, I will conduct research on the application of GIS and remote sensing in mangrove forest management and rehabilitation in Aceh Province and Nias Island in North Sumatra Province.

I have known about GIS/remote sensing since I was a student at university. Since then I have wanted GIS and earth observation to become my field of expertise. ITC has given me knowledge and more as regards GIS and earth observation. Life at ITC will always be kept inside my heart as a beautiful memory.



Fieldwork in East Kalimantan



Farewell gathering of forestry group 2002-2004

55 years of memories in 135 short stories

In this special alumni section you can read about life at ITC in different years, how students have been living, cooking, studying and dancing. Alumni have also contributed many impressions of their life after ITC. Diverse stories spanning more than 40 years are shared in this section. How people experienced their stay in the Netherlands and what has happened in their lives since graduating from ITC. You can read what people's ambitions are and what positions they hold in the international geo-information society. These are stories from your classmates and friends - to whom you are still connected through the ITC alumni network.

1965

Name: **John Trinder**
 Email: j.trinder@unsw.edu.au
 Birth: **Australia on 28 October 1938**
 Course: **GFM - MSc - 1965**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are different levels of Lecturer to Professor at the School of Surveying and SIS at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia. I am now an Emeritus Professor at UNSW. Also, I have held various positions in ISPRS, including Secretary General from 1996-2000 and President from 2000-2004.

The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was that it gave me entry into academia in 1965 and a path to a Professorial appointment.

In 1963-1965, I studied photogrammetry. What I liked about ITC was the total immersion in the subject. This was brought about by the total dedication of all of the staff to the subject, all of whom have passed on or retired. I would like to salute their contribution to my education at ITC.

My best memory of the Netherlands is enjoying the culture and the Netherlands landscape with the windmills and especially spring time with the tulips.

Although I am retired, I wish to continue to learn about the technologies and make a contribution to the profession. To my fellow alumni I would like to say that I wish you continued success in your careers. ■

Map reproduction

1966

Name: **David A. Tait**
 Email: d.a.tait@ntlworld.com
 Birth: **United Kingdom on 16 August 1943**
 Course: **Post Graduate - 1966**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are lecturer and Senior Lecturer, University of Glasgow until 2000 Freelance editor, 2000 - present

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/d.a.tait/GES/frame.htm>

What I liked most about studying at ITC is the international atmosphere and the making of life-long friends. My best memory of the Netherlands is the old town of Delft. I am now more or less retired but I still have lots to do. To my fellow alumni I would like to say that you have to try to be professional in all you do ■



1969

Name: Henry Brecher
Email: brecher.1@osu.edu
Birth: Austria on 29 August 1932
Course: 1969

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Research Associate, Byrd Polar Research Centre, and The Ohio State University. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the emphasis on "hands-on" training in addition to "book learning" and contact with some outstanding teachers. My best memory of the Netherlands is living there. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I hope you enjoyed the experience as much as I did. ■

1969

Name: Eduardo Plata Rodríguez
Email: epalro@hotmail.com
Birth: Colombia on 16 February 1938
Course: Diploma - 1969

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are university professor in Undergraduate and Graduate in the Universities Distrital (7 years), Nacional de Colombia (20 years) and Santo Tomás (5 years) where I'm an author of a book "Foundations of Cartography in the Natural Resources." Also Professor Emeritus of the University of Distrital and Professor Associated University of Nacional de Colombia. Investigating Professor in the University of Santo Tomás (Bogotá - Colombia) In Directive positions of the Government like Coordinator from the Regional Medellín in the Colombian Service of Meteorology and Hydrology (5 years), General Sub manager Environment and Sub manager Operative General of Natural Resources of theINDERENA (3 years). The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was this specialization "Photo Interpretation for Forestry" has been of great utility in national and international consultancies in studies for basins hydrograph, conservation of rivers, channels for watering, reservoirs for hydroelectric, lineal projects on roads, railroads and spread electric. My main experience in the ITC corresponded in all the courses to the combination of the theoretical thing with practical exercises and the field work in the near temperate forests to Brussels in Belgium, where it was integrated all the experience of the participants and educational with that of the course of the ITC. To achieve a final work with applications of the statistic and important results in the study of the vegetation of the temperate areas. Always memory to Holland with a lot of gratitude and admiration for their welcome and great experiences during my stay in that country. Another aspect to highlight was the permanent attention toasted by group of Dutch ladies to my wife Libya and son Edwin that accompanied me during the year of my postgraduate of the ITC, same thing in all the places that we visit of Holland with presentation of the credential of the ITC where we felt the affection and



Eduardo Plata Rodríguez

Dutch people's characteristic welcome. My ambition in that time when I finished my studies in the ITC they were achieved in the measure that I could apply the discipline of the analysis of the air pictures and thematic cartography to the diverse studies of national and international consultancy that I have carried out in the thematic of covering of vegetation and uses of the floor for hydroelectric projects, highways, railroads, airports, thermoelectric, oil wells and pipelines. The demands of considering contents of the remote sensors in academic plans of careers like Agronomy, Biology, Engineering's and Administration in different universities of the country. The elaboration of a book in cartography, modality for studies at distance and present in postgraduate and graduate "Foundations of cartography in the natural resources Santo Tomás University". It is a pleasing memory and unforgettable from the new knowledge acquired in the sciences of the earth with the application of the remote sensors, guaranteed by the experience and trajectory of the ITC. I invite to professional futures that are contagious of that Dutch human heat in spite of the gelid times that there are presented and to acquire new knowledge from all the topics of the science with application of the Photo Interpretation and modern sciences of the remote sensors. I would like to repeat this experience. ■

1969

Name: David Hughes
Email: david.hughes@bluewin.ch;
david.hughes@gi.leica-geosystems.com
Birth: New Zealand on 28 October 1941
Course: Post Graduate - 1969

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are 1969 - 1972, Photogrammetry Operator, Weissmann Surveys, Zurich Switzerland. 1972-1992, Business development, consulting, project management, on overseas mapping projects in Libya, Egypt, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Oman, Yemen, Indonesia; Swissair Photo and Surveys Ltd. Zurich, Switzerland. 1993 - 1997, Leica Geosystems AG, Head, Marketing and Sales, photogrammetry and LIS Department. 1997 - 2000, Vice President, LH Systems GmbH, Heerbrugg, Switzerland. 2000 - 2005, Regional Sales Manager, Middle East and Africa, Leica Geosystems Spatial Imaging GmbH., Heerbrugg, Switzerland. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was receiving the chance to use my education in land surveying and photogrammetry to appreciate and understand many different countries and cultures, through working in these countries and with the local people. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the international atmosphere of ITC, high level of post graduate education, developing international friendships among fellow students, learning the culture and history of Holland and Europe. My best memory of the Netherlands is the cold and windy Delft in winter, tolerance and language skills of the Dutch people, short trips to Rotterdam and The Hague to taste the food and the night life and the flowers. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve promote international education and student exchange, maintain contact with past class-mates, learn more about the fascinating technology of photogrammetry in its developments over 35 years and more. To my fellow alumni I would like to say to use understanding, international friendship, an excellent education, thirst for learning and honest work for achieving your goals of making a difference to society in your chosen geomatics profession. ■

1969

Name: **Hans de Jong**
 Email: hans.dejong@han.nl
 Birth: **Netherlands on 04 March 1944**
 Course: **Diploma - 1969**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are assistant in a museum for natural history in Denekamp, The Netherlands; - junior lecturer aerial photo interpretation University of Amsterdam - teacher in geography in a secondary school - senior lecturer physical geography and earth observation in a teacher training college in Nijmegen - guest lecturer Universidad Autonoma Barcelona Espana. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the possibility to teach physical geography with the indispensable help of aerial photographs in secondary and university education with the fascination I have experienced for myself when I saw aerial photographs for the first time of my life. What I liked most about studying at ITC is making a complete geomorphologic map from only aerial photographs. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve more knowledge about interpretation of satellite and remote sensing images. To my fellow alumni I would like to say the skills and knowledge you have picked up during your stay in the ITC will never devalue. ■

1971

Name: **Gary Washburn**
 Email: wcinvestments@msn.com
 Birth: **United States**
 Course: **Post Graduate - 1971**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Junior College Teacher: Geography, Remote Sensing. Co-owner of Aerial Information Systems- Redlands, CA. Provide photo interp. for ESRI. City Council and City Mayor 1990 - 1996 - Lake Ellsinore, CA. Commercial Industrial Broker and GIS consultant. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the student interaction and field work. My best memory of the Netherlands is field work in Italy and teacher/student memories. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve use the experience and help expand GIS in my related field. To my fellow alumni I would like to say Hello and have fun. ■



1974

Name: **Dr Isi A. Ikhuoria**
 Email: ikhuoria@uniben.edu
 Birth: **Nigeria on 03 January 1952**
 Course: **Diploma - 1974**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are (a) Academic & Administrative Positions: (i) Associate Professor of Geoinformatics, Dept of Geography & Regional Planning, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria (ii) Co-ordinator, University of Benin Liaison Offices (Abuja & Lagos), 2005 to date (iii) Manager, Consultancy Services Unit, University of Benin, 2003 to 2005. (iv) Head, Cartography Unit, Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Survey, Ile-Ife, 1992-1993 (v) Acting Head, Department of Geography, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna, 1991-1992. I was in ITC for the in 1974 for the C.3 Diploma in Cartographic Engineering. It was not satisfactory to me then to return to Nigeria without a BSc degree in cartography so I went with five other colleagues to the United States to obtain the degree. Some of us continued up to the Ph.D. But ITC training did give us the technical proficiency that has sustained us. Thus, I have the satisfactory professional competence to discharge my duties and to make contributions to the geoinformatics discipline in my school of thought. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the acquisition of practical expertise enhanced with field excursions and social events. My best memory of the Netherlands is its beautiful country with very hospitable people. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve professional and academic excellence, raise a school of thought and committed students and professionals. Perhaps improve the state of mapping and cartographic products in Nigeria which, as at now, is rather neglected. To my fellow alumni I would like to say Notwithstanding the strains and stresses, ITC training will prove to be about the best in the world in geoinformation science and it will make you a valuable addition to the profession if you work hard. ■

1975

Name: **Mohammad Osman ATIF**
 Email: osmanatif@ybb.ne.jp
 Birth: **Afghanistan on 23 January 1946**
 Course: **Diploma - 1975**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are:
 - From 1976 to 1980: Chief of Forest and Range Technical Centre and director of Afforestation Projects of Kabul Region in the Forestry Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Afghanistan; - From 1987 to 2004: Researcher, Japan Forest Technology Association, Tokyo, Japan; - 2005: Technical Advisor, Green Kogyo CO., LTD. Tokyo, Japan; - August 2005: Retired. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was obtaining my doctorate degree in watershed management from Hokkaido University, Japan in 1987. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the highly qua-



The ITC building at the Boulevard, 1945, in Enschede

lified teaching staff with research and work experience in various regions of the world; - Excellent combination of class work and field work; - Up-to-date educational facilities. My best memory of the Netherlands is the site of a dyke (I have forgotten the location & name of the dyke) that I visited as part of my class field work in the Netherlands. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to I am planning to start soil conservation and reforestation projects at community level in my homeland Afghanistan, through establishing an NGO which will work closely with farmers in the villages. To my fellow alumni I would like to say that I still remember you. ■

1978

Name: **Eugene H. Silayo**Email: silayo@uclas.ac.tzBirth: **Tanzania on 15 October 1947**Course: **Post Graduate - 1978**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are: Map Editor at the Cartographic Unit of the Surveys and Mapping Division of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Lecturer and later Associate Professor in Cartography including Map Projections, Cartographic Production and Reproduction, Digital and Thematic Mapping at Ardhi Institute, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Head of Land Surveying Department at Ardhi Institute, and University College of Lands and Architectural Studies, Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Senior Lecturer in Cartography, Digital and Computer Assisted Cartography at the University College of Lands and Architectural Studies, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the basic Course that I attended at ITC made me develop keen interest in Cartography and Geo Visualization. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the course structure and the international flavour of the student community. My best memory of the Netherlands is the social evenings organized by ITC staff for students at weekends made us feel as one community away from home. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to publish a book on Cartographic Principles, notably on the graphic design aspects, which is an area that is seriously being undermined/ignored when producing maps from GIS systems especially by non cartography trained people. To my fellow alumni I would like to say let's keep in touch. I look forward to receiving comments/contributions on my yet unfulfilled ambition. ■

1980

Name: **Nusrat Kamal Siddiqui**Email: n_kamal@ppl.com.pk;
nusrat.kamal@gmail.comBirth: **India on 04 May 1946**Course: **Diploma - 1980**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are: From 'Geologist' in 1980 to 'Senior Manager Exploration' in 2002 and continuing...

After graduating from ITC returned to Pakistan and after 10 years experience including engineering geology(5 years) and hydrogeology (5 years) and diploma in hydrogeology from ITC I was able to got a job in petroleum exploration (the subject of my MSc from Pajab University, Lahore Pakistan). When I returned to Pakistan in 1980 the subject of Remote Sensing was still new and only because of this training at ITC I was able to get a job in petroleum exploration. I just changed my direction of investigation a full 180 degrees i.e. from synclines and structurally lower places for finding water to anticlines and higher places to find oil! What I liked most about studying at ITC is the family atmosphere of Schermerhorn Hall and the teaching style at the institute. I was living with my wife who became the Lady Secretary of the hostel, and my son Atif (2.5 years).

Atif was so popular that I was rather known as the father of Atif :) Atif is now pursuing his PhD in advanced computer sciences in USA. Am I that old?! When we left, the teacher at the hostel's kindergarten gave a file to Atif containing his coloured papers. While Atif was in USA he contacted the lady by e-mail and it was a great nostalgic experience for Atif. The perpetual working on maps off different assignments taught me a lot at the International Torture Centre :) (ITC) I had reached Netherlands after living for 5 years in Libya and the best memory is as I say " from a brown and dry landscape to green and wet in Netherlands" The frankness of the people about their language as somebody said to me " Don't learn our language, because the moment you cross the border no body would understand it!" To my fellow alumni I would like to say hello and keep in touch. ■

1981

Name: **Sergio Fernandez Fabeiro**Email: sergioferfa@hotmail.comBirth: **Uruguay on 27 April 1952**Course: **Post Graduate - 1981**

Since graduating ITC I have been dealing with irrigation resources, mainly due to gravity and used for rice irrigation purposes. we deal with areas, able to be prepared doing DAM's for collecting the rainy water, my Country has a media of 1300 mm / year , which means that based on the topography, makes very interesting studies about the land and its capacity to use their topography making DAMS. On my personal case I have one with

1,7 millions of cubic volume of water. Close to my place we have one of 40 mio m³. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was a new "landscape" about world surroundings. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the new "ITC-Partners" all around the world, with whom even today, I feel them close like the first time, knowing that we are far away from each other. My best memory of the Netherlands is Mrs. NOOR-GOEMAN, my "Dutch mother" which is very deep on my soul. Dahliastraat 28b / Enschede. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve the next MSc.Course to be done next year. To my fellow alumni I would like to say be good, work, and think about our non-detectable link based on "ITC" students, nevertheless the year, age and country wherever we are. ■

1982

Name: Kamal Prasad Shrestha

Email: shrestha@clear.net.nz

Birth: Nepal on 31 January 1949

Course: Diploma - 1982

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Photogrammetrist Chief Survey Officer. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was I could independently formulate proposal for photogrammetric works. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the Multi-cultural environment. My best memory of the Netherlands is the programme organized by NUFFIC at Delft. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve large scale mapping of urban areas of the country using aerial photographs and also include all land use details. To my fellow alumni I would like to say ITC is a venue for enriching our knowledge with most recent information, interaction with multi-cultural groups. The teachers are most dedicated. ■

1983

Name: Jungchan Choi

Email: jcchoi@pknu.ac.kr

Birth: Korea, South on 13 October 1956

Course: Diploma - 1983

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Post Doc., Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, U.S.A Senior Researcher, water Resources Research Institute, KOWACO(Korea Water resources Corporation, Daejeon, Korea Associate Professor, Dept. of Environmental Geosciences, Pukyong National University, Busan, Korea. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was when I retired from KMPC(Korea Mining Promotion Corporation) in 1989, and I have studied again to receive M.Sc and Ph.D degree at Purdue University, U.S.A . What I liked most about studying at ITC is interpretation of aerial photos through

whole night and having many friends from Pakistan, Spain, India, Japan, Holland, China, Taiwan, etc. My best memory of the Netherlands is flowers, beautiful rural area & cities, open market. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to study on Environmental Geology field such as Abandoned Mine reclamation, Acid Mine Drainage Treatment using Engineering Geology, Geomorphology, Aerial Photo Interpretation and GIS. To my fellow alumni I would like to say Hi! Dionicia Gomez from Spain, Tarim Dahir from Parkistan, Yoshisico Oya from Japan. I became Professor of Engineering Geology in Korea. I am studying on Abandoned Mine Reclamation and Acid Mine Drainage Treatment. If you want contact me, please send your message using e-mail. My e-mail address is "jcchoi@pknu.ac.kr". Enjoy your life and Have a good health!!! ■

1983

Name: Bushra Mohamed Meheissi

Email: bushrameheisi@yahoo.com

Birth: Sudan on 01 January 1952

Course: Diploma - 1983

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are soil survey assistant. Soil survey specialist. Deputy Head of Gedaref soil survey substation. Land evaluation & Remote sensing unit Wad Medani. Soil Researcher, Land & Water Research Centre, and ARC, (land degradation &Desertification studies, assistant prof.). The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was increased my capabilities in soil survey work. Remote sensing gave me the chance to winding my imagination about problems facing me and their solutions. I am able to teach myself by myself. What I liked most about studying at ITC is that the theories were very linked to the practical. Up to date studies. My best memory of the Netherlands is the pleasant spirit of The Netherlands nation. The beauty of the people and their land. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still to have a direct contact with the ITC, and to updating my knowledge the field of remote sensing and GIS. To my fellow alumni I would like to say collectively we have to work for better life for word wide nations. Best wishes and regards....thanks. ■



The ITC building at the Kanaalweg in Delft

1983

Name: Eduardo Sta. Romana Salvador
Email: salvadored2003@yahoo.com
Birth: Philippines on 02 January 1952
Course: NRM - Post Graduate - 1982

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are 1. Section Chief, Watershed Mgt. Dept., National Power Corporation 2. Project-in-charge, Integrated GIS/GPS Project, National Power Corporation 3. Consultant, Universal Cartographic Dev. Corp. 4. Local Service Provider (Consultant), Phil. Ecogovernance Project (EcoGov) 5. Director, Sylventures Forest Resources Dev. Assoc. Inc. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was that I am more confident on my technical capabilities and expertise on the application and use of aerial photographs in the surveys, inventory and monitoring of natural resources, particularly forest resources. I was also given more responsible tasks, for instance, I was assigned to supervise our agency's part in the photo interpretation and mapping of some regions in the 2nd National Forest Resources Inventory Project, a joint Project of the Bureau of Forest Development and Natural Resources Management Centre. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the theory and practice approach of teaching by the very competent and patient professors is what I liked most at ITC. Through this method, the students understand more clearly the subject matter in the afternoon's hands-on laboratory sessions. My best memory of the Netherlands is first of all, it has given me the opportunity to study and travel some countries in Europe, meeting a lot of people with varied cultures, languages and accents, and of course my first taste of winter, and snow. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to help solve our country's forest management problems by providing accurate data through modern geo-information technologies in order to understand the problem better and be able to formulate appropriate solutions. To my fellow alumni I would like to say Mabuhay! Let us promote ITC's goodwill and support ITC's programs in our country. ■

1984

Name: Jose Espinal
Email: jespinal@eafit.edu.co
Birth: Colombia on 16 November 1944
Course: Post Graduate - 1984

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Head of department of practice. Consultor for public & private organizations Professor of graduate and undergraduate students at my university and other universities in Colombia and out of the country. Student of diploma in teachers teaching in social management in Washington, D.C. 1998 Diploma in Non-violence in Rhode Island Univ. 2000. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was working for public sector in many municipalities of my country and others, like Peru and Bolivia. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the cultural interchange with my companions of different countries and the practice in Sri Lanka. My best memory of the Netherlands is the meetings we

had with students from different countries and the opportunity to travel through Nederland and other European countries. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve more interchanges with people from other countries. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I remember you too much, especially our practice in Sri Lanka Best regards to you all. Probably my companions of the course in Survey integration for development planning in developing countries remember me because I was the only Colombian and also one of the oldest in the course. I was married and had two children, living with me at ITC. Several Sri-Lankan and Philippines were at the course. One Jamaican and one Canadian, some from Africa, India, Bangladesh, Thailand. Now I'm finishing my laboral life. I received, many years ago the visit of Mr. De Vos. I remember Veenstra, And Luning, Rikert. My greetings to them. ■

1984

Name: Robert Rusk
Email: robert.rusk@aerometrex.com.au
Birth: Australia on 03 July 1947
Course: Diploma - 1984

At the time of my ITC studies I was employed by the South Australian Government as a Senior Cartographer, within the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Since that time I was promoted to several positions including Manager of Spatial Data Delivery. In 2001, I took the opportunity to leave the government and joined a private mapping organisation, AEROMETREX. I am currently the Operations Manager and oversee the marketing responsibilities. Possibly the most significant event in my professional life has been leaving my government job after 37 years and joining a vibrant and successful private mapping company specialising now in digital aerial photography capture,



ITC's Aircraft NADAR with a Wild RC-10 aerial survey camera inside



Chalon-sur Saone 3 August 1986. Students in photogrammetry, on their way to fieldwork in the South of France, pay a tribute to Nicephore Niepce (1765-1833) the inventor of photography (1822)

remote sensing, orthophotography and DTM generation. Working with a team of young, enthusiastic spatial professionals has rekindled my passion in the mapping industry. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the valuable information from the studies at ITC enabled me to better appreciate the complexities of mapping and presenting spatial information to the community. Mixing with students from many countries provided me also with an appreciation of the variety of cultures within our turbulent world. I still reflect on one of my greatest experiences in having studied at ITC. I have many memories from having spent over a year in the Netherlands. They include the bleak winters, the enjoyable balmy summer days, the stress of exams, mixing with many students from all parts of the world, the charm of the Dutch and their lovely countryside, riding a bike over greater distances - more than I had previously achieved, a Christmas with snow and the joy of graduating. These are the many memories of having spent a year in the Netherlands. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve maintain an interest in the amazing advancements in technology that support and improve the way we map and present our world - and ultimately retire but still follow this valuable profession. To my fellow alumni I would like to say that I hope all those with whom I had an association with at ITC - the students and staff of ITC are well, enjoying their lives and feel free to re-establishing contact. Email me and visit my companies' website: www.aerometrex.com.au Best wishes and health for the future. ■

1985

Name: Fethi Ayache
Email: fayaches@yahoo.fr
Birth: Tunisia on 07 March 1957
Course: Post Graduate - 1985

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Head of protected areas, Ministry of environment, Tunisia Lecturer in biogeography at the department of geography "Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines" Sousse, Tunisia. The most important

change in my life after graduating from ITC was applying remote sensing to earth sciences especially land cover (vegetation). Become more aware about cultural differences. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the friendly environment and facilities offered for students. My best memory of the Netherlands is a flat country with a lot of rivers and canals. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve more expertise on geosciences and be able to promote education in our university (department of Geography) in cooperation with ITC. To my fellow alumni I would like to say good continuation in your respective work and keep always in mind these nice days of study and friendship at ITC. ■

1986

Name: Jean Félix Mupande
Email: jeanmupande@yahoo.fr
Birth: Congo, the Democratic Republic of on 22 July 1955
Course: EREG - Post Graduate - 1986

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are:
 1) Expert engineer at the Head of state Office 2) Chief geophysicist at Meteorological and remote sensing agency (METTELSAT) 3) Director of Remote Sensing department at METTELSAT 4) General Director of METTELSAT 5) Technical Adviser of the Head of state in Mining, mapping and strategic affairs. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was climbing in professional position. What I liked most about studying at ITC is professionalism of teachers, practical character of the courses taught and of course friendship. My best memory of the Netherlands is the International Evening. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a PhD diploma in EREG. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I miss you very much. ■

1986

Name: Wan Bakx
Email: bakx@itc.nl
Birth: Netherlands on 05 February 1964
Course: 1986

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are:
 Various jobs at ITC; Data Analyst, Lecturer, Programme Director, Head Geo Technical Support. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was a job at ITC. I always say, they knew me but anyhow hired me . . . ;-)
 What I liked most about studying at ITC is the stimulating atmosphere.
 My best memory of the Netherlands is still going on. When abroad I mostly miss the daily/monthly/seasonal changing weather. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a status in which we continuously learn from each other. To my fellow alumni I would like to say Have fun, stay healthy. ■

1987

Name: Chaala Bouchaala
Email: bouchaala11885@alumni.itc.nl
Birth: Algeria on 01 March 1957
Course: Post Graduate - 1987

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Teacher/ Mathematics/ topography/ survey informatics and Expert land. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the method of work, I followed the fold of my Dutch teachers. What I liked most about studying at ITC is Géomatic/ GIS/Remote sensing. My best memory of the Netherlands is everything: Holland and its beautiful cities, Enschede and its inhabitants very nice, ITC and its nice staff.

As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve my studies in GIS/Geomatic

To my fellow alumni I would like to say tighten your hand to your next, does not weary him to fall, and know, that the sky is still above you. ■

1987

Name: Carmen Lucia Vergueiro Midaglia
Birth: Brazil on 03/09/1960
Course: N.9.2 – 1987

Are when I was selected to join ITC Rural and Land Ecology Survey I was just at the beginning of my professional life...and I worked as junior geographer at São Paulo Environmental Agency. Going to ITC was perfect to promote the integration between things I've learned at university and the new challenges on my new profession/job. ITC has result in a real input at my carrier. I've coordinated some work projects but besides that, the most important change was to get married, take care of 2 children and do a Master degree, everything at the same time in a chaotic metropolis like Sao Paulo!!!! Now I coordinate the geographic characterization of inland rivers for a water monitoring quality program, still at the same company (CETESB). Else, I'm starting a Phd... What I liked most about studying at ITC is living in Holland...I loved the school, the teachers, the country and the people.... everything except the rainy weather. Being there has added an extra "spice" to my Brazilian way of being...not only regarding knowledge but also life-style. The fieldwork in Thailand and the ITC multicultural atmosphere were the highlights. I was very happy while there. I loved to live in a very flat country and

see the things by another angle!

I also enjoyed biking without being smashed... I felt like if I have lived 3 lives at same moment, time running so fast, new places, new friends...sorry but very best memory was to wait for the winter season and see the snow falling through my windows.....

As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve ITC has opened the World's door to me. I was my first time abroad, and since there I visited many places and got in touch



Carmen Lucia

with people everywhere.... ITC's staff and students have a special way to travel and arrange things, and no matter where we are in the world they perform like being in Enschede...and I see that people share this feeling at the refresher courses, meetings and congress. Well, my ambition to achieve as geographer it's to participate in a project, course or whatever in Africa (where I never been) and also here in Brazil, where I could welcome my dear ITC fellows. To my fellow alumni I would like to say my relation to Netherlands is quite alive, still have some friends, even after all those years. ITC has worked a lot to be in touch with the ex-alumni and the institution is always open to new ideas...like courses, webmail, and ITC journal, etc so we are interchanging very well. To my all ITC's friends I left a big hug !!! ■

1988

Name: Kole Belta Makato
Email: kole08267@alumni.itc.nl
Birth: Kenya on 23 December 1958
Course: 1988

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are: 1. Technical (Cartographer) 2. Senior technical (Senior Cartographer). The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was become more confident and forward/positive looking in life. The hands-on method of teaching is the best I liked about studying in ITC. Too many memories, I find it hard to pin down on just one. The whole experience was good as it was my first time to travel abroad. Social life was good in the classroom and outside. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve A PhD from ITC. Hopefully when distance programme is started because I think winter will prove to be a big challenger to me given my age. To my fellow alumni I would like to say ITC is the place to be. ■

1989

Name: Jena S.K
Email: jenahome@rediffmail.com
Birth: India on 02 September 1954
Course: Post Graduate - 1989

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Headed the aerial photography and Photogrammetry mapping division in NRSA, Dep of Space, Govt. of India while functioning as Scientist 'SF' from 1990- 2001 Heading the Photogrammetry, GIS and mapping division in Speck Spatial Tech Ltd., Hyderabad, India. from 2001- till date. Graduating from ITC brought in me a marked metamorphosis as a professional in the field of Geomatics, pumped up with lot of adrenalin of knowledge and a boosted ego with the DISTINCTION that ITC conferred on me rightfully. I could get the maximum range of knowledge and critical analysis



Sportsday

capability from my course in ITC to deal in the subjects of Remote Sensing, mapping and photogrammetry with high level of confidence to enable me getting recognized as a professional par excellence within the country and abroad which otherwise would have remained a dream. This enabled me to further my understanding and knowledge in all other areas of Geomatics effortlessly. A great change in a carrier that I fully owe to my graduation in ITC " A haven for learning Geomatics in its true scope". I liked the course curriculum, it's global culture and a good mix of theory and practicals, the evaluation systems that allows passing with reasonable efforts and sweating for Distinction. They teach every thing at the postgraduate diploma level and leaving only the thesis for masters to complete in six months. If one completes the PG diploma he has practically gone through the highest level of formal education in the subject. What a nice system. The open book tests to bring out the original you as to evaluate ones application capability in the subject. The perfect blending of colours in Cultural meets. The thorough breed of teachers especially in the field of Photogrammetry having - no parallels/few parallels. Immediate test after 14 to 20 hrs of lecture on each subject. Visit to industry and the field trip in south of France. The sweet memory of my teachers : Mr. Amer who calls me Mr. Capitalist, Mr. Hendrikse my director of studies, Late Mr. Kure the fantastic teacher with a perfect language and understanding of the subject who taught me the error budgets in mapping, Mr. Hostchisky a good and thorough teacher of theories of orientations with his stylish cigar in hand and effortless smile on lips who once admitted I should not be the culprit in denying you your Distinction while i repeated his subject to improve, Mr. Grabmier the surveyor in heart ready to come on any healthy technical debates, Mr. Lorenz the aerial photography and photo processing master who could always play effortlessly with the logarithmic numbers. Most friendly and tolerant Dutch people towards foreigners, the open markets and neat environment, and the well decorated windows of houses. The advanced outlook of most of the people, the busy port city of Rotterdam, the TV programs in the evenings, the historical wind mills and visit to some remote villages. Most nostalgic is the stay in Dish hotel, a home away from home. Seeing the Sun rising towards North and setting in the North unlike for the sun to rise at the centre of the eastern horizon and coming up your head at noon and setting at the centre of western horizon with marginal changes in different seasons in India (it is true for other north latitude countries as well).By writing this I feel nostalgic and go back to that memorable one year in the peak of my youth to associate with the Enschede lanes and by lanes, the post office, the staves in Dish hotel, roaming around in V&D super mart after the classes, spending time in the Adolf electronics shop and so much so forth. The desire to see the place again is so intense I am afraid it should not remain as a wish of my life.

I wish to achieve all that contemporary knowledge that should keep me continuously abreast of the trends in the industry. Get opportunity at certain intervals to update with refreshers course at ITC on front running subjects like LIDAR data based feature classifications, automated feature extraction for photogrammetric mapping etc.

Dear all, I met recently Khalifa the head of military mapping and Nasser Al shemmy now a well groomed professor in Calgary University. It gives a great pleasure to know our class mates in ITC doing well in their respective field. ITC has made us internationally linked and known in our profession. Let us be linked and know each other and be connected. The communication has made it all possible now. Hope this effort of ITC will connect me to all of my class mates. Hi !Zubi, Hi! Anke I am growing old , I would like to see you once at least in the web. Bye Bye. ■

1989

Name: **Tulinagwe R.Kibona**Email: tkibona@hotmail.comBirth: **Tanzania on 01 December 1958**Course: **Post Graduate - 1989**

Since I graduated from ITC I have held the following positions
1) I was appointed to be senior survey in my Department 2) Now I am principal surveyor and head of survey section in my Department. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was that I have improved a lot in my professional carrier as well as my living standard. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the methodology of teaching is very impressing and the teaching facilities available at ITC are very advanced. My best memory of the Netherlands is the life itself in Netherlands was good and interesting. My ambition is to achieve more knowledge in the field of GIS and mapping in general. I would like to advice my fellow alumni that , we should use the knowledge which we obtained at ITC to improve the life standard of our people. ■

1989

Name: **Teresa Cristina Veiga**Email: tcrisveiga@pv.sivam.gov.brBirth: **Brazil on 21 November 1951**Course: **MSc - 1989**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are technical Assistant - Urban and Regional Information System (SIDUR)for Rio de Janeiro State Government; Geoprocessing Analyst - Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) Technical Assistant - Amazon Protection System (SIPAM) The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the improvement of my career and the continuity of my PhD studies, concluded on February 2002. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the possibility of exchange knowledge with people from different cultures and the availability of high quality equipments, programs and bibliography.

My best memory of the Netherlands is my 34 years old birthday party, at Schermerhon, with the first snow of the year outside. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve the opportunity to teach to graduate students what I've learned during all this time.

I would like, also, to have the opportunity to return to Enschede to know ITC's new building and to meet old friends. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I miss a lot the days we spent together and that I would like to have the opportunity to meet them again someday. ■

1989

Name: **Glynis Ford**
Email: gford@cwjamaica.com
Birth: **Jamaica on 23 June 1959**
Course: **Post Graduate - 1989**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Land Capability Planner Regional Rural Planner Regional Land Use Planning Consultant -FAO GIS Consultant -FAO GIS Lecturer. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the advancement of my career into related areas such as GIS and land evaluation for land use planning at the M.Sc. and currently conducting research at the Ph.D. level. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the ability to share with and to learn from the cultural experiences brought about by the integration of persons from many different countries. My best memory of the Netherlands is the well planned, orderly and timely way of everyday life of the people. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve contribute to sustainable land use development from a top level position that rewards effort based on competence. To my fellow alumni I would like to say the experience at that point in time has etched lasting memories in my mind, memories that are priceless and would not have been possible without you. ■

1989

Name: **W.W.S.K. Seneviratne**
Birth: **Sri Lanka, 30 October 1952**
Email:
Course: **C3, 1989**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are: Cartographer(Grade 1), In 1996 I've got a promotion as a Technical Officer (Cartography)-Supra Grade, From 2000 I am working as a Staff Grade Technical Officer(Cartography). The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was I've got a valuable Certificate of the "Diploma in Cartography". It is very useful to me when applying for promotion or any other relevant jobs not only Sri Lanka as same as other countries. What I liked most about studying at ITC is when doing practices in the Cartography room, because most of the time we spent in cartography room and improved our friendship with other country friends. My best memory of the Netherlands is field trip to Germany for one week and Brussels trip. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still to achieve to improve my GIS knowledge and if I got a chance to study at ITC again it will be a great success in my life. To my fellow alumni I would like to say let me know any future progress about our alumni association and I would like to keep my membership in my whole life. ■



The Schermerhorn Lounge in the 1970s

1990

Name: **Yun Jiao**
Email: jiao99@hotmail.com
Birth: **China on 27 August 1955**
Course: **Diploma - 1990**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are: Senior GIS Analyst Senior GIS Consultant GIS Coordinator GIS Analyst GIS Specialist Graduate Research Assistant. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the training at ITC give me a solid foundation of GIS and Remote Sensing and help me made a right decision go to a graduate school for Geography which is concentrated for GIS and RS. What I liked most about studying at ITC is diversity of the students and we have wonderful teachers. My best memory of the Netherlands is that it is beautiful and peaceful. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a very high position. To my fellow alumni I would like to say ITC is the best school I have ever been and I miss all of the nice professors. I hope I have a chance to visit ITC again. ■

1990

Name: **Sandro Moretti**
Email: sandro.moretti@unifi.it
Birth: **Italy on 05 May 1955**
Course: **Post Graduate - 1990**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are University Researchers, then University Professor. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was working abroad for several months. What I liked most about studying at ITC is multidisciplinary approach. My best memory of the Netherlands is my wife. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve fully satisfaction. To my fellow alumni I would like to say enjoy. ■

1990

Name: **Shaukat Hussain**
Email: hussain11594@alumni.itc.nl
Birth: **Pakistan on 03 September 1962**
Course: **Post Graduate - 1990**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are aerial Tringulation Analyst Shift Manager Senior Digital Photogrammetrist Production Supervisor. ITC studies significantly shined my career. I captured key positions and proudly shared my knowledge to train many individuals. When I was at ITC, among students ITC was "International Torture Centre" because the amount of knowledge one has to absorb in very short period of time. Now I realize that although it was tough but this was the best part. My best memory of the Netherlands is the very best people of Netherlands. I would love to do my Masters at ITC if at all possible. I think the best would be information sharing amongst all alumni members. In practical World, sometimes a little trick saves huge amount of time. Therefore, any tip or trick, any development at individual level may not only be recognized this way but may be beneficial a lot for others. ■

managed to have my own transport and my own house. Managed to have a Refresher course in GeoSpatial Data Infrastructure held in Durban SOUTH AFRICA. Ground Manager for Agricultural shows responsible for surveying, planning, organization, coordination and management shows at national, zonal and regional levels. What I liked most about studying at ITC is availability of capable and competent teaching staff. Availability of teaching facilities for easy communication and learning. Interaction with many people of different culture and learning from each other. A case study to Thailand which is a tropical country like Tanzania, made the study very easy. My best memory of the Netherlands is kindness and friendly cooperation of the Dutch people. Peace which is prevailing the same as Tanzania. Initiatives of the Dutch people to reclaim land for the habitat. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve higher learning in Rural and Land Ecology. To have a sustainable land productivity for increased agricultural production and improved income of the rural people. To my fellow alumni I would like to say to keep in touch with fellow Alumni so as to share information on technologies, approaches and knowledge experiences from each other. To learn the performances of Alumni fellows after ITC life. ■

1991

Name: **Robert M. Kanoni**
Email: rkanoni@hotmail.com
Birth: **Tanzania on 18 December 1958**
Course: **Post Graduate - 1991**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are: 1. Municipal Surveyor 2. Sustainable Moshi Programme (SMP) Programme Coordinator 2004-Todate. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was Graduating in 1991 and married one year later in 1992. Studying at ITC changed my professional carrier to space and ICT technology as such enabled me to take part in solving some of the complexity of our environment. My best memory of the Netherlands is the dykes and the cities below sea level. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a Msc. Degree. To my fellow alumni I would like to say ITC is an Intellectual Service Station. ■

1992

Name: **Bianca Nijhof**
Email: bianca@infobonaire.com
Birth: **Netherlands on 04 February 1970**
Course: **Diploma - 1992**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are scientific employee in respectively University of Greifswald (Germany), Carmabi Foundation (Curacao, Netherlands Antilles), and Alterra - Green Research Centre (Netherlands)

The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was leaving The Netherlands for an undetermined length of time. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the international and relax atmosphere while learning. My best memory of the Netherlands is green pastures. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to be good in my job and achieve happiness with my colleagues

To my fellow alumni I would like to say that it is difficult living abroad, but also a good way of getting to know yourself! ■

1991

Name: **Mwakibete Gideon Kasilati**
Email: kasilatimgl@hotmail.com
Birth: **Tanzania on 30 June 1955**
Course: **Post Graduate - 1991**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are:
 1. Assistant Land Use Planning officer responsible for formulating integrated soil conservation extension package for agriculture, livestock and forestry. 2. Municipal Land Use Planning Officer responsible for promoting indigenous and conventional soil and water management technologies for sustainable productivity. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was



1992

Name: **He Yuhua**Email: he_yuhua@sina.com; yuhuahe@itc.nlBirth: **China on 09 December 1960**Course: **UPLA 1992**

I am a manager of remote sensing research and application. The last unit is land investigation institute, Chinese aero-geophysics and remote sensing center, and I work for Department of land remote sensing in Chinese Land survey and planning Institute, Ministry of land resources. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was that I have changed a new government unit. And I am enjoying my job, Researching and application of RS in land use investigation has been being my favour job. What I liked most about studying at ITC is RS, image processing, image classification, information extraction and so on. My best memory of the Netherlands is the beautiful Enschede city and people of the whole country. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve more new knowledge from ITC in above list of fields. To my fellow alumni I would like to say anytime you should not give up your goal and dream! Believe yourself! ■

1992

Name: **Francis B Gadrinab**Birth: **Philippines on 21 August 1955**Course: **RLE.3 course 1992**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are present: point person for operations, office of the director, bureau of land development, department of agrarian reform; previous: (1) office-chief, survey monitoring division, bureau of land development; chief of staff, office of the director and assistant director; head secretariat, centre for land use policy, planning, and implementation, department of agrarian reform. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was responsibly contributed in the creation of the centre for land use policy, planning and implementation; and in institutionalization of the same in regional units or nationwide. Actively participated in national level inter-agency technical working group in the formulation of a national physical framework plan. Instituted reforms in various units resulting to better delivery of services to stakeholders of the agrarian



Each year at 5 December Sinterklaas and Zwarte Piet pay a visit to the Netherlands



The 'Kronkel' in front of the former building at the Boulevard

reform program, particularly on land use management and development. What I liked most about studying at ITC is foremost, the ambiance and prestige; abundant of friendliness; the methodologies applied facilitates learning. ITC tampers weaknesses; draws out strength and best to the max. The process used enhances critical thinking with pragmatism and strengthens skills; professors are excellent; no subject seems too difficult. Professors and staff are most helpful and extend personal attention when need arises. Should I be given another chance, I would take another course at ITC. Hail to ITC. My best memory of the Netherlands is plenty of them, and who could ever forget: the cold weather; the freezing snowy field work; winter white Christmas; the bus trips around the Netherlands; the oneness of Filipinos; marketing and preparing meals in droves; holy week not observed by many; spring festival; visits or gatherings of Filipinos on birthdays and holidays. As graduate on RLE.3, I wish I would still be given a chance to have an MSc degree at ITC! To my RLE.3 batch mates, drop me a line or two. To all fellows, wouldn't it be nice to form a borderless ITC republic? What do you think? ■

1993

Name: **Hassan Al Nassri**Email: nassriha@aramco.com.saBirth: **Saudi Arabia on 05 April 1961**Course: **Diploma - 1993**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are supervising the cartographic area in our unit hydro graphic survey. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was after graduating from the ITC I came home as a different person, the way I use to deal with people change to the best. The best thing I like in the ITC you can say the whole world together you can visit the entire world with no charge since the ITC has many nations and different cultures. My best memory of the Netherlands is I think Netherlands has my best ever things I still remember: the land, the people and the climate, are still in my mind. To my fellow alumni I would like to say you guys doing a great job, wish you all the best and hope to visit Netherlands again. ■

1994

Name: Patrick Alukwe Wakhu**Email:** wakhu@aicad.or.ke**Birth:** Kenya 07/02/1962**Course:** SIG3/2 - 1994

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are:

1994-1995	Research Assistant (World Agroforestry Centre - ICRAF)
1995-1999	Programme Officer (World Agroforestry Centre - ICRAF)
1999-2000	Private Consultant
2001-2002	Heartland Coordinator/NRM Specialist (African Wildlife Foundation - AWF)
2002-2003	Private Consultant
2004-present	Assistant R&D Director (African Institute for Capacity Development – AICAD)

The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the training at ITC enhanced my capacity and confidence. It enabled me to encounter new exciting opportunities & challenges and gain many valuable professional experiences. What I liked most about studying at ITC is ITC courses are extremely demanding and challenging because of the content and tight schedule within which the participants are expected to operate. What I liked most was the kind of person I had become after completing the course successfully. It was a very empowering experience. My best memory of the Netherlands is the landscape. Everything so meticulously planned with extreme consideration to the environment.. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve if possible, I would love to return one and do my PhD. to my fellow alumni I would like to say professionally, ITC was one of the most positive life-changing experiences for me. I hope it was for you too. ■

1995

Name: Mario J. Molina**Email:** mario.molina@acapomil.cl**Birth:** Chile on 01 October 1953**Course:** Diploma - 1995

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Chief of Technical Department at the Tactical Simulation Centre in the Chilean Army. We used there digital cartography and satellite images to simulate the terrain and its characteristics. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the "vision" about the management of the digital information. Now I am working in Medical Informatics and I will use a GIS with a Digital patient's records. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the opportunity to know wonderful people of other continents. My best memory of the Netherlands is the Golf Clubs. I had the opportunity to play my favourite sport and to know a lot of people.

As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve the knowledge and the experiences lived there. To my fellow alumni I would like to say thank you for your friendliness and I would like to hear something from you. All of you have a friend here in Chile. ■

1995

Name: Eslami Rad, Ali**Email:** a-eslami@ncc.neda.net.ir**Birth:** Iran on 10 March 1966**Course:** GIM - MSc - 1995

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Head, Photogrammetry Department, and National Cartographic Centre of Iran. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was being a specialist in Photogrammetry who is capable to work on national projects. What I liked most about studying at ITC is studying in an international environment with well known professors and professional staff within a beautiful country is everyone's dream which was achieved for me during my study at ITC. My best memory of the Netherlands is hospitality of Dutch people. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve continue to study at ITC and up date my knowledge in my field of profession. ■

1996

Name: Nadine Dawson**Email:** hope300571@yahoo.com**Birth:** Jamaica on 30 May 1971**Course:** GIM - MSc - 1996

I was the Production Manager/GIS Analyst at the Survey Department of Jamaica until 1998 I am now the GIS Analyst at the Planning Institute of Jamaica working in the Sustainable Development and Regional Planning Division. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was watching me grow and



Highlight of the year: the International Evening

mature after facing and overcoming significant challenges that life threw my way. What I liked most about studying at ITC is too many things to mention but I will try: Location: Enschede, nice and friendly people. The ability to "country-hop", visiting many different countries without boarding a plane. Exposure- I liked the melting pot of culture and peoples that was the ITC, it was like being at a UN summit everyday. Certainly adjusted my worldview. It taught me how to respect the beliefs and culture of others. My Msc. Colleagues - we were 7 from 7 different countries, we were like family, still are. We still keep in touch to share important milestones, birth of children, call each other on birthdays etc. I love you guys. Nurse Grotenboer and the DISH Hotel Reception Staff - loved Nurse she always pinched my cheeks and made me feel better. Jan, Saskia and all the other lovely people at reception always made me feel at home. ITC Christian fellowship - I was the choir director while I was there. Sunday mornings with Rev. Hinne was always a pleasure All the great friends I made. My best memory of the Netherlands is SNOW. Walking in it, feeling it fall on my face, playing in it, watching it fall...FOR THE FIRST TIME. Walking up to the podium on graduation day to collect my hard earned MSc. Riding to various towns on a Sunday, Oliebollen, chips and mayonnaise. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve the knowledge gained at ITC and thereafter to contribute to the advancement and sustainable development of my country, to the extent where lives are changed for the better. To my fellow alumni I would like to say the opportunity to study at the ITC was an awesome one, make it count, for you, your family, your community, your country, YOUR WORLD. ■

1996

Name: Igor Jaramillo Bustos

Email: igorjaramillo@netscape.net

Birth: Ecuador on 02 April 1967

Course: MSc - 1996

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are back to Ecuador at Cotopaxi ground Station until January 1998. Then at CLAS, ITC sister institute until January 2002. Other posts at Bolivian projects supported by IADB, and since may 2005 back to Ecuador for a Land tenure Project called PRAT under a Spanish company INYPSA. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was that I was married a Bolivian MSc. student, and went to Bolivia for seven years. What I liked most about studying at ITC are my friends. My best memory of the Netherlands is winter, believe it or not. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve having more professional experience. To my fellow alumni I would like to say hello my friends. ■

1996

Name: Suroj Raj Rajkarnikar

Birth: NEPAL on 25/08/1957

Course: US.1 and USH.2. 1988-1989/ 1995-1996

The job positions I held since graduated from ITC are Town Controller, Chief Architect Planner and Project Chief of Bhaktapur District of Kathmandu Valley Town Development Committee looking after overall planning, implementation of urban development and land development projects. Since 2003 I am Section Chief of



The new ITC building at the Hengelosestraat

GIS section, Department of Urban Development and Building Construction. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was exchanging and sharing the experiences of different peoples from different discipline and the knowledge I gained after interacting with the professors and pals during my dual stay at ITC. My first phase stay was for 10 month during 1988-1989, which I felt a bit primitive because GIS was just introduced and everything used to be done manually but my second phase of stay at ITC during 1995-1996 was the fast phase everything I experienced was modern and advanced in terms of technology and management. This was the time ITC shifted to new location with its new Architecture look. What I liked most about studying at ITC is that I found it to be the second United Nation Organisation for the scholars and education ambassadors of a worldwide network in the field of development and transformation of knowledge on geo-information science and earth observation. To add more I would like to appreciate the good efforts of ITC assigning great importance in updating the knowledge and skills of its alumni regularly organizing refresher course as well as attending the get-together programs organized by respective alumni associations.

My best memory of the Netherlands is visit of Kokenhauf tulip garden with my wife Radha and son Shrijan who was just four year old that time, it was like natural heaven on earth full of colourful flowers that we can visualise with our naked eye. Now he is in United State doing his under graduate in electrical and computer engineering, he often writes me about his memories of that garden. As an ITC graduate my ambition is still to achieve new dimension to improve the institutional capacity of the government organisation where I am working now in responsible post dealing with urban planning, land administration and the management of infrastructure. We have introduced the production and use of the digital base map for all the municipalities of Nepal for their periodic planning and decision-making process at the local level. To my fellow alumni I would like to say that I would like to revive and share our experiences the time we spend together at ITC and our field works as well as real world experiences now you are going through and also share the social aspect of our life ups and downs. The world is so small now that we can interact in fraction of second, so I would like to request my classmates 1988-1989 and 1995-1996 and all my professors and well wishers to mail me to be in touch. ■

1997

Name: Abdul Hamid Marwat**Email: marwat67@yahoo.com****Birth: Pakistan on 05 March 1967****Course: NRM - MSc - 1997**

I was one of the lucky persons to be appointed as Project Manager for the Provincial Forest Resource Inventory (PFRI) Project immediately after returning from ITC. The project was involving both terrestrial sampling & survey and use of satellite images. I benefited from the fresh knowledge gained at ITC and accomplished the task successfully within the stipulated period. I was supervising a team of about 30 professionals besides my own technical input. After PFRI, I was employed by the IUCN-The World Conservation Union as Expert NRM. With IUCN I was in charge of GIS lab also for five years. Now a day I am working as Natural Resource Specialist (NRS) with Planning Commission Government of Pakistan. After graduating from ITC, I attended a refresher course at Kathmandu, Nepal in December 2002 organised by ITC under supervision of Dr. Yusif Ali Hussin. ITC has broadened my vision and practically I am thinking globally acting locally. The most unique thing about studying at ITC is that it combines both science (knowledge) and information technology. My best memory of the Netherlands is everything was done as planned.

As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a PhD from ITC. To my fellow alumni I would like to say work hard and learn more as this the cream time of your life at ITC. ■

1997

Name: Dr. Solomon Bhunu**Email: Solomon.Bhunu@capetown.gov.za****Birth: Zimbabwe on 01 September 1997****Course: WREM - MSc - 1997**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is lecturer-University of Cape Town Manager Corporate GIS (City of Cape Town). The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was become more fussed on GIS. Become more aware of the GIS issues that surrounded me, much more than before. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the modular structure of the courses and meeting people from all over the world. My best memory of the Netherlands is the Open market. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve write books on GIS (3D data modelling). To my fellow alumni I would like to say that ITC remains the best home for GIS. ■

From analogue to digital photogrammetry



1997

Name: Hsiangyu Weng**Email: hsweng0925@yahoo.com.tw****Birth: Taiwan on 08 May 1964****Course: MSc - 1997**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is Government Employee as a surveyor in local Land Administration Office the most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was knowledge about GIS, GPS, RS and etc. in surveying affairs and technology. What I liked most about studying at ITC is Cadaster Map reconciliation. My best memory of the Netherlands is studying living condition air. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a Ph D. degree. To my fellow alumni I would like to say take care of yourself and Good Luck. ■

1997

Name: Mr. Rolando I. Calomarde**Email: ricalomarde@yahoo.com****Birth: Philippines on 17 January 1956****Course: MSc - 1997**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is senior Geologist OIC, Chief Geosciences Chief Geologist, MGB-Regional Office 6, Iloilo City. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was gain more self confidence and carried my best weapon(knowledge on GIS/Remote Sensing)to challenge and become victorious against more sensitive, relevant and important works. What I liked most about studying at ITC is my enthusiasm to study heightened when we transferred from the old building in Enschede to its new/present building. Our batch was the first occupants in the new building. The atmosphere got even better. My best memory of the Netherlands is when Air France plane I was in landed safely in Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam. I know for sure that it was the beginning of better and prosperous life, not only for me but to my family. Really it did happen. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a higher learning in the field of GIS/Remote Sensing application in Environmental Management. Likewise, it is my utmost ambition to see my son enrolled at ITC and experienced the same good memories I had. To my fellow alumni I would like to say be thankful, particularly those in the Third World Countries, for the generosity of The Netherlands. Use your acquired knowledge and technology from ITC for the benefit and progress not only of your country but of the human race as a whole. ■

1997

Name: Grace Namanda -Ssali**Email: gssali@hotmail.com****Birth: Uganda on 01 December 1961****Course: WREM - Post Graduate - 1997**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are: (1) Hydrogeologist (2) Senior hydrogeologist. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was that I got a relatively good job with COWI consulting engineers from 1998 - 1999. Then later I got a well paying job (2000 -to-date) with a Carl Bro Int.a/s, a Danish engineering consulting firm. I produced a baby

girl in 2001. What I liked most about studying at ITC is quality education provided at ITC. Interacting with different people, from all over the world. I learnt a lot about other people's cultures. My best memory of the Netherlands is Land reclamation from the lake. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve an MSC degree from ITC, through distant learning and contribute more to the development of my country. To my fellow alumni I would like to say always keep in touch and always update me on the new developments in your countries. ■

1997

Name: Ignatius V. Mwanyekange

Birth: Namibia, on the 3rd August 1963

Course: GFM4 course -1997

The job position I held since graduated from ITC are head of the GIS unit (Natural Resource Information Service NRIS) The most important change in my life after graduated from ITC was: Being promoted to head the cartographic section within the Directorate of Survey and Mapping (DSM), Ministry of Lands and Resettlement. Leading on the updating our National Topographic Maps at the scale 1:50K and 1:250K. What I liked most studying at ITC is the way you're being taught to be independent and the most advanced technology towards remote sensing and surveying. My best memory of the Netherlands is: I could not forget ever had any bicycle accident and I do think this time I do not need Dutch Bike license any more, To los Latinos fiesta must go on!!! As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve being in a third country which is among the countries that requires to have to new technology and that we to be on their own feet, thus we had opted to the new technology, we have to grab this opportunity, I hope ITC will always be there to helped us and continue to offer more short courses as well on GIS and Environmental Development. I want one day to a PhD holder. To my fellow Alumni I would like to say hi guys over theeeere!!!, Life is full of miracles; do hope again to do MSc. I love you guys all special my former classmates. To Naicengucengu Fiji Islands, Martin Phiri of Zambia and General Jose Soares of Portugal what's up? No more writing, communication breakout, come down to Windhoek men!!! To ITC staff and the Dutch People in General we're grateful of you and we wish you all the best and continue to promote the high standard of education. God Bless! Thanks. ■

1998

Name: Umesh Ghimire

Email: umesh.ghimire@undp.org,
umeshghimire9@yahoo.com

Birth: Nepal on 01 April 1966

Course: MSc - 1998

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are:
1) Worked as a Soil Science Consultant with International Wheat and Maize Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), Regional Office, Kathmandu, Nepal 2) Worked as a GIS Specialist in UN World

Food Programme, Kathmandu, Nepal 3) Worked as a Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Officer in UN World Food Programme, Kathmandu, Nepal 5) Currently working as a Vulnerability Officer in UNDP, Yangon, Myanmar. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the entry to the United Nations System and Holding of International Position in the UN system in Myanmar. What I liked most about studying at ITC is my friendly colleagues and gathering celebrations. My best memory of the Netherlands is: 6 months of stay in DISH Hotel without family. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve enhanced mapping capacity linking to remote sensing. To my fellow alumni I would like to say to make an e-group for idea sharing and supporting each other in time of need. ■

1998

Name: Binod Prasad Dhakal

Email: bdhakal@yahoo.com

Birth: Nepal on 31 December 1958

Course: GIM - Professional Master - 1998

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is Mapping and GIS Officer GIS Specialist. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was to understand correctly the importance of spatial data with all its attributes for best practical use to implements the natural resource management programs. What I liked most about studying at ITC is Cooperation and coordination from all the teachers and friends. My best memory of the Netherlands is travelling in train from Enschede to all part of the Netherlands. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to be a famous GIS specialist of the world. To my fellow alumni I would like to say work hard to get new innovation in the field of Geoinformation science and provide the efforts for your nation development. ■



ITC building Delft

1999

Name: Gilbert Jemwa**Email: jemwagil@yahoo.com****Birth: Zambia on 09 January 1970****Course: EREG - Post Graduate - 1999**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are regional geologist (ngezi mining company zim), lecturer (university of Zimbabwe) principal economic geologist (geological survey of Namibia). The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the link with a reputable international education institute has raised my profile hence professional advancement progression. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the practical nature of the courses and both in depth and industry knowledge of the lecturers. My best memory of the Netherlands is meeting people from all over the world. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve till need to do a PhD. To my fellow alumni I would like to say ITC equipped you with the state-of-the art knowledge it is your duty to be assertive in the organisations you work for and make a name for both yourself and the institution. Good luck and god bless you all. ■

1999

Name: Anna Charles Macha**Email: mkundena@yahoo.com****Birth: Tanzania on 24 October 1966****Course: Professional Master - 1999**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are the head of town planning section at ilala zone the ilala municipal GIS coordinator (1999 -2001) the ilala municipal coordinator community infrastructure upgrading programme (ciup) (2002 to date) and the ilala municipal coordinator cities alliance programme (ca)(2004 to date). The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was being recognised in my organization as a pf/master graduate hence given responsibilities according to my level of education. Even after submitting my CV at the World Bank, it was accepted to hold a ciup coordinator post. The most I liked about studying at ITC is a well organised and programmed time table for the studies, new but well elaborated subjects, enough studying materials and study tours to different areas apart from Enschede. My best memory of the Netherlands is: the queens' day. It was really wonderful day. Keep it up. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a PhD. To my fellow alumni I would like to say: use the education you obtained at ITC for the benefit of yourself and your organization(if you are employed). ■

1999

Name: Anthony A. Duah**Email: aaduah@yahoo.com****Birth: Ghana on 25 June 1962****Course: WREM - MSc - 1999**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are research Officer in charge of GIS application in Water Resources. The most



Map making

important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the knowledge gained in ITC programme has been a turning point in my career as a professional hydrogeologist. The GIS knowledge has brought a lot of work to my establishment as consultants. Our output has improved and my work load has quadrupled over these few years. What I liked most about studying at ITC are the wonderful friends I had in ITC some of whom are still in touch. The wonderful interactions between students and professors were unparalleled. Also the football sessions we had once in a week is really missed. My best memory of the Netherlands is visits to other European countries. I had the chance of visiting Belgium, Germany, France, Spain and Portugal. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve complete my PhD and will love to visit ITC again just to see the place and the wonderful people including some of my professors still around. To my fellow alumni I would like to say keep up the contacts and lets find time to meet sometime somewhere and celebrate the old times. God bless you all. ■

1999

Name: William Mujuni**Email: wb_mujuni@hotmail.com****Birth: Uganda on 20 August 1965****Course: Professional Master - 1999**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are 1. District Forestry officer 2. consultancy with FAO of United Nations on capacity building of forestry middle managers in strengthening participatory approaches for sustainable forestry mgt and poverty reduction. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was my analytical skills were tremendously sharpened. What I liked most about studying at ITC is very hospitable and friendly community of Enschede and very knowledgeable and supportive lecturers of ITC. My best memory of the Netherlands is riding a bike on a fairly flat terrain. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to be able to help communities significantly reduce poverty and at the same time attain sustainable forestry mgt. challenging in a developing world, isn't it???? To my fellow alumni I would like to say always aim higher and remained focused of your vision. ■



Dutch games in the Schermerhorn Lounge

1999**Name:** **Mugisha Mbanzarugo Charles****Birth:** **Uganda on 24th April 1962****Course:** **FRD3, and FOR2 --1996 and 1999**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is lecturer at Nyabyeya Forestry College. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was being appointed as a Lecturer. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the state of the art facilities for learning, the dedication of ITC staff, the efficiency at every activity, the international community I interacted with and the hospitality of the Dutch people and the beautiful country. My best memory of the Netherlands is the Dutch family that lead a group of us on a bicycle ride for 60 km across Holland landscape. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a PhD from ITC. To my fellow alumni I would like to say ITC will remain a great institution for international learning and I wish an opportunity would arise to enable us meet there once again. ■

1999**Name:** **Odetha Vianney Nyarubaji (Karamaga)****Birth:** **Tanzania on 22 September 1964****Course:** **GIC.2 - 1999**

The job position(s) i held since graduating from ITC are database administrator at a ministry level. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was I moved to a new department dealing with information systems of which I am proud of, because i am using my GIS knowledge in the department. What i liked most about studying at ITC is 1. The knowledge acquired 2. The friendly environment from both students and lecturers. 3. Friends i made who are now part of my family. My best memory of the Netherlands is 1.visiting the polderlands, places that i used to learn in geography and never imagined that i will ever see them physically. 2. The very flat terrain of the country. 3.The friendly environment of the Dutch people. 4. Birth of my second born son with the name Donald Andrew. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve: the maximum knowledge that i acquired and excel in geographic information systems. To my fellow alumni i would like to say: let us use the knowledge we acquired from ITC for the development of our countries, by doing so, we will raise the name of ITC as one of the best institutes in the world that teaches geoinformation system! And also let us keep in touch through exchanging our experiences through ITC alumni mails and through our alumni associations. ■

2000**Name:** **Mario Giovanni Molina Masferrer****Email:** **gmolina@snet.gob.sv****Birth:** **El Salvador on 20 June 1966****Course:** **EREG - Diploma - 2000**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are GIS Coordinator at Servicio Nacional de Estudios Territoriales from El Salvador. My skills and knowledge in GIS Applications were better from my study at ITC. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the teachers and Students. My best memory of the Netherlands is its people. The Dutch people are nice. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to contribute that poor people in my country reach a better situation. To my fellow alumni I would like to say Go ahead. We can do this world a better place to live. ■

2000**Name:** **Chu An Truong****Email:** **chuantruong@hotmail.com****Birth:** **Vietnam on 10 October 1976****Course:** **NRM - Professional Master - 2000**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Head of Planning and Project management division of Centre of Land Investigation and Planning (CoLIP) under Vietnam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The most important change in my life is... marriage and have a son!!! What I liked most about studying at ITC is: Working in group, Sharing and co-operating, Listening to and understand. My best memory of the Netherlands is too many wonderful memory, and the best is Stadeweig(may be wrong spelling). (Ed. Stadsweide)I lived there. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve have a chance to back ITC to study. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I miss all my friends, after 5 years, I always remember your faces, smiles. Hope all you be happy. Give my best regards to your family. ■

2000**Name:** **R. Srinivas****Email:** **sriini863@sify.com****Birth:** **India on 08 August 1962****Course:** **UPLA - Professional Master - 2000**

Since graduating from ITC,I have been working as Associate Town & Country Planner, M/O Urban Development, Govt. of India i.e.,2000 onwards. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC has vast improvement in my way of working. With exposure to GIS technology all my assignments have been solution oriented. Further ,studying at ITC also helped me in maturing my thinking and how to cope up with strain and stresses of work. In overall ,there has been vast improvement in my performance and personality as well. The things which I liked most while studying at ITC are: ITC approach towards imparting education (GIS&RS Technology),interaction with fellow students coming from various countries and of course ITC emphasize on the field work which helps the students to ascertain the practical difficul-

ties/ground realities. The stay at Netherlands is absolutely unforgettable. The exposure to Dutch culture, hospitality was simply outstanding. Further, the country of flatland, dykes, windmills, cheese, tulips left me mesmerized. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve:

The ultimate ambition as an ITC Graduate is of course to reach at the top level in my organisation and also to lead the National Urban Information System of my country(India). I advise my fellow alumni to come out at their best as a follow up to the rigorous training we had in ITC and to serve their country to their best abilities for the betterment of the society. ■

2000

Name: Asli Harmanli Olgun

Email: aolgun@ilbank.gov.tr

Birth: Turkey on 06 September 1973

Course: EREG - Professional Master - 2000

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is geological engineering.

What I liked most about studying at ITC is studies, experiments, field work and etc. my best memory of the Netherlands is good parties, nights. ■

2000

Name: Sekela Kibona

Email: kibona01537@alumni.itc.nl

Birth: Tanzania on 06 June 1963

Course: MSc - 2000

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is head of Regional Hydrogeology Section. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was I am now able to work efficiently and confidently than before. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the exposure to possible solutions of global challenges. My best memory of the Netherlands is the goodness (hospitality) of the Dutch people. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve I just want to be up to date as the Technology is changing everyday. To my fellow alumni I would like to say they should work hard for the benefit of their people (Nation). ■

2000

Name: Gautam Shakya

Email: gautam@geosp.com

Birth: Nepal on 28 February 1960

Course: GFM - Diploma - 2000

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is Operation Manager GeoSpatial Systems Pvt.Ltd. I was promoted to Operation Manager from GIS Supervisor after gaining knowledge from my course. What I liked most about studying at ITC is: The study environment of ITC is the most excellent I ever had mainly available of study resources with the most experienced Professors, Lecturers and the management team. My best memory of the Netherlands is the terrific wind in the winter must have to reach ITC in dark. But I really love that kind of weather. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to reduce technological gap

between the north and the south. To my fellow alumni I would like to say always keep in touch through ITC alumni activities , the best of any other alumni. ■

2000

Name: Tran Nhu Trung

Birth: 10 July 1971.

Course: GIC2 - 2000.

I am now is a team leader of a consultancy group focusing on natural resources and environment in a consultancy company in Vietnam. It is a quite difficult for me to say what the most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was. It might be that I have better knowledge on land administration and Geoinformatics. Therefore, I have a better plan for my works and my life. Certainly, after ITC I know how to make a research. I like most the studying conditions and atmosphere in ITC. I have a compact studying institute (ITC) and a very convenient accommodation (DISH) in a centre of a pretty city Enschede. There is not much influence from outside to my study. However, it is the most I hate because I have less understanding of the Dutch culture! My best memory of the Netherlands is the weather: wet, windy, less sunny and no ice in winter's time. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to study and research more so that I can implement a modern land administration system in Vietnam. To my fellow alumni I would like to say: Hello and see you in the international conference, where we have the same interest and study as we did in ITC. ■

2000

Name: Md. Billal Hossain

Birth: Bangladesh on 18 January 1962.

Course: EREG- 2000.

The job positions I held since graduating from ITC are Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)(Chief executive officer of sub-district) at different stations. Present position: Deputy Director, Department of Environment. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was I am now very much submissive to my collea-

Santa Claus and his brother visit ITC



gues and staffs in my office and don't bother to sit any place in a meeting if I come late. Have no strict choice about my dress in the office but before I was very much choosy about this, because of my position in the office. I am now very careful to drop any litter or spitting in any public place or any open place. During any discussion meeting not to interrupt anybody before finishing his speak or question. Try to maintain friendly behaviour with the people even he is a lower level staff or man and When I get the chance try to teach the people how to save the daily expenditure of individuals or the country by using different ways of saving measures. I liked most at ITC, the friendly behaviour of all academic members and staffs of ITC. Weekend is weekend, it is for pleasure, but my experience in my country in most cases is that, after weekly holidays the first working day there will be exam. The think is that, a student will get time to prepare for his exam, so Stress less weekend I liked most at ITC. My best memory of the Netherlands is I don't know whether it is best or not but my memory was that, I have lost my beloved mother during my course. I am very much thankful to ITC authority that, when I informed to my supervisor (Dr.Abbas Farshad) about my mother's illness over telephone, he informed duly to the respective desks and finally within short time and availing best possible airlines I reached to my ailing mother in Bangladesh in a hospital. It was my ultimate satisfaction that, though she was serious ill, she recognized me and wiped my face and head. Since graduating from ITC I was posted in such a place where there was no computer and internet facility. That's why it was very much difficult for me to work with GIS and RS. But my present posting place is very much conducive to work with GIS and RS. So still I have to wait to comment about my achievements. To my fellow alumni I would like to say: One year we have seen each other. We talked to each other. We worked and walked together. We did fun each other. Every thing was like that, we will remain together for long time. But reality is that we are now very far from each other. May be we will not meet ever again. ■

2001

Name: Akorio Ibrahim

Email: akorioibrahim@yahoo.com

Birth: Uganda on 05 August 1967

Course: WREM - Professional Master - 2001

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is DISTRICT WATER ENGINEER. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was that I become organised by keeping time and my salary scale increased. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the topics a learned were more practical. My best memory of the Netherlands is Saturday shopping for personal cooking and the queens' day. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve I still need to go for master course in WREM and specialising in ground water in ITC. To my fellow alumni I would like to say work hard in your job and keep time as always in ITC time was important and to men do not forget to cook at most four times in the year. ■



Instrument room

2001

Name: Edify Hamukale

Email: ediham@yahoo.co.uk

Birth: Zambia on 15 April 1969

Course: NRM - Professional Master - 2001

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are I was promoted whilst studying at ITC from My Previous Position of Provincial Manager to that Assistant Director. To take up this position, I was transferred from the Provincial town(Chipata)to Lusaka(Zambia's Capital City). After six months of service in this position, an international Seed Company(Pannar Seed www.pannar.com)heard of me and asked me to join them. I did not apply for the job. Now I am The Regional Manager in charge of four provinces out of nine Zambian Provinces in my new job. This is about half of my Country, Zambia. It's a very busy job but I like it. At least I did not go to another country to work. I am still contributing to the development of my country as signed for in the NFP. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was How to live in a multicultural environment, tolerance, patience, the maturity and cumulative wisdom. I didn't know a well qualified Professor and PHD holder lecturers like Dr. Van De Zee, Dr. Kees De Bie, Drs De Smeth and others could come with students to the gymnasium for exercises. This was a very humbling experience to be with my student advisor in The GYM. The most important change in my life after ITC is that I am very popular now in my country and I no longer have privacy. In Enschede, I played music with my Dutch friends at Church along Haaksergestraat at "de zeven Dag adventeisteit Kerk"(Seventh Day Adventist church) and I played Bass guitar. I was the only student in the band and the rest were Dutch. Then I bought some guitars in Enschede and carried them home after graduation. I have so far recorded two music albums and they are regular features on national Television and radio. Because of this, i was nominated by the Zambia National Tourist Board to explain on scientific phenomenon during the celebration of the hundred(100)years of Victoria Falls history. I never expected this and I owe this to my Dutch Masters Degree, my Dutch guitars and my Dutch Friends van de kerk. Dit is geode. What I liked most about studying at ITC is I now have friends almost all over the world because of the cosmopolitan nature of ITC students. I have many Dutch friends too. I got a feel of the whole planet earth. My best memory of the Netherlands is playing music with my Dutch friends and weekend student parties. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to get a PHD and get in the politics of my country. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I miss you all. Have confidence in yourselves and aim high in anything you do. Whatever needs to be done deserves to be well done and NEVER WELL SAID. ■



Flight simulator

2001

Name: Christopher Anthony Patterson

Email: Patterson.ca@gmail.com

Birth: Jamaica on 25 May 1970

Course: GFM - Diploma - 2001

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is senior Image Analyst GIS specialist. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was upon my return the changes were as follows: a)supervise the imaging department b)Conduct Training courses on air and space borne image manipulation & visualization in the public and private sector and educational institution. c)Attend and do presentation at seminars overseas. What I liked most about studying at ITC is ITC educational programs are designed for your success not just at ITC but at your home country as well. The labs are well equipped and the field trips are life changing. My best memory of the Netherlands is Howard Emerson. It was challenging and I was alone, far away from home but Mr. Emerson's encouragement and assistance will never be forgotten. Also Six Flags. I went to six flags and it was awesome. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve Master Degree in Geoinformatics and also to help other Caribbean nations to become self-sufficient in the field of geoinformatics and not depend on England for accomplishing mapping task. I have conducted training classes in Trinidad on image processing and manipulation and also have had talks with senior Government and private sector personnel about getting trained, empowering themselves and start doing at home jobs they now send abroad. I have been empowered, thank GOD for ITC. To my fellow alumni I would like to say life is a beautiful thing and that's because of the things that have impacted us on our journey through it. These things that impact us needs to be shared with others so they can be impacted as well, then life will be great for everyone. ITC is one of those things, let's help others to experience "Life at ITC" while we enjoy "Life after ITC". ■

2001

Name: Hoang Viet Anh

Email: hoangvietanh@gmail.com

Birth: Vietnam on 28 July 1974

Course: NRM - MSc - 2001

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are researcher on forestry ecology and forest mapping at Forest Science Institute of Vietnam (FSIV). The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was Self confidence to work in an international environment. What I liked most about studying at ITC is very broad range of expertise on every topic of Earth science. My best

memory of the Netherlands is clean, well organize, friendly. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve better application of earth science to solve real-life problem. To my fellow alumni I would like to say stay in touch and work for what we dream when we was at ITC. ■

2001

Name: Dao Viet Dung

Email: dzungdv@yahoo.com

Birth: Vietnam on 01 January 1960

Course: WREM - MSc - 2001

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are: Researcher. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was that I got promoted to senior researcher in water resources studies. To be confident as a consultant in many development projects concerning water resources management. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the study environment, the useful knowledge's of GIS & RS. The international friends I have made during my study at ITC. My best memory of the Netherlands is a beautiful country & friendly people. Interesting student life. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve PhD level. Doing more with the knowledge obtained from ITC to my current job. To my fellow alumni I would like to say Hey, I found that was great of studying at ITC. That was my happy time. Do you also feel that??? ■

2001

Name: Simon Yanuar Putra

Email: simon.putra@gmail.com

Birth: Indonesia on 07 January 1976

Course: UPLA - Professional Master - 2001

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are PhD research scholar, Dept. Architecture, National University of Singapore. Singapore Millennium Scholar, Singapore Millennium Foundation Ltd Lustrum Visiting Researcher, ITC. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was 1. I got married in 2004 2. I can pursue my PhD in NUS, Singapore, one of the best universities in the world.

What I liked most about studying at ITC is friendly staffs, meet lots of people from around the world, pleasant environment, and of course in-depth technical training on GIS & RS. My best memory of the Netherlands is cold weather but warm-hearted people.



Geology fieldwork

Excursion to the Biesbosch 1966



ple. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve 1. Research position in the best universities in the world. 2. Run a successful geo-information business. To my fellow alumni I would like to say thank you for everything! I've enjoyed wonderful time with you in ITC. May we all benefit the society in the same way we've prospered! God bless you all. ■

2001

Name: **Taye Alemayehu**

Email: taye_77@yahoo.com

Birth: **Ethiopia on 28 March 1962**

Course: **EREG - MSc - 2001**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Head, Water Resources Management Department. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was may be it is difficult to put it in words. When I compare myself with what I had been before I joined ITC the difference is enormous. Apart from the direct advantage that I drew from the courses I took I have developed a very good communication and management skill. I'm now wide scoped – a sort of global thinker. I care for every corner of the globe more than ever, because I knew someone whom I'm worrying about. What I liked most about studying at ITC is it is the environment and the academic life. Although it is a place of hard work and struggle for survival, I don't know the mystery why ITC is capable of binding people together. It has been about four years since I graduated. But I'm always longing to see my friends and my instructors once again. My best memory of the Netherlands is the people. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to be the best I could be, so that I can maintain ITC's good profile in my career and academic life. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I love you all, 'iwedachihuwalehu' in my local language. Be strong! ■

2001

Name: **Gina Gacusan**

Email: gtgacusan@yahoo.com

Birth: **Philippines**

Course: **NRM - MSc - 2001**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are supervising Economic Development Specialist of the National Economic and Development Authority - Cordillera Administrative Region, Philippines. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was using GIS as a tool for decision making and doing advocacy work on GIS. What I liked most about studying at ITC is learning GIS and having classmates from so many countries. My best memory of the Netherlands is the Market Day! It's such a refreshing break from ITC work. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve get the local government adopt GIS. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I hope we meet again. ■

2001

Name: **Abdul Rasul Naseem**

Email: naseem03955@alumni.itc.nl

Birth: **Pakistan on 30 April 1962**

Course: **NRM - Professional Master - 2001**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are 1-District Officer(Soil Fertility Department), District Mianwali, Punjab, Pakistan. 2-Assistant Agricultural Chemist (Soil Physics Division), Soil Salinity Research Institute, Punjab, Pakistan. 3-Principal Investigator, Salinity Management Project, SSRI. Pindi Bhattian, Punjab, Pakistan. 4-Principal Investigator, Composting Technology Project, SSRI. Pindi Bhattian, Punjab, Pakistan. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was 1-I became more confident in handling issues regarding Natural Resource Management. 2-Appointed at important decision making positions. 3-Able to use computer technology in a better way. 4-Became more social. 5-Able to correlate soil problems with GIS & RS. What I liked most about studying at ITC is 1-Friendly environment. 2-Module system. 3-Hard-working teaching staff. 4-No discrimination. 5-Training about most modern technology. My best memory of the Netherlands is I can't forget Dish Hotel, Beautiful ITC building, visiting beaches, nice week-end disco programmes and grand flower parks/floats. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a Ph. D. Degree from ITC in Water Resource Management or a job as Soil Science Expert. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I miss you all, want to stay in contact with you, wish you a happy life, I remember your smiling faces and dancing bodies in Week-end/Module-end parties. ■

2001

Name: **Mlengi Fanuel Mgendi**

Email: mlenge@uclas.ac.tz, mlenge@yahoo.com

Birth: **Tanzania on 04 February 1971**

Course: **WREM - MSc - 2001**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are trainer and researcher with the Geo-Information Centre (GIC) (Now Centre for Information and Communications Technology, CICT) of the University College of Lands and Architectural Studies (UCLAS), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Manager, trainer and researcher with the Disaster Management Training Centre (DMTC), the University College of Lands and Architectural Studies (UCLAS), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Webmaster of UCLAS (www.uclas.ac.tz) Member, Board of Trustees, Tanzania Irrigation and Environmental Development Organisation (TIP), a non-profit organisation based at Moshi, Tanzania (www.tiptz.org). The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was when reported back to work, and started sharing knowledge and skills with others. Also When tasked with the implementing training and research activities of the Disaster Management Training Centre. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the conducive international learning environment, with the quietness of Enschede. My best memory of the Netherlands is with the celebrations of the dawn of the year 2000. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve sharing contemporary skills and knowledge relevant to our least developed countries. To my fellow alumni I would like to say let's keep in touch! ■

2001

Name: Maheen Kunjappa**Email: kmaheen2001@yahoo.co.in****Birth: India on 18 April 1969****Course: NRM - Professional Master - 2001**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are manager - Technical & Maintenance Hydroponics Project Hydro Centre for Agricultural Contracting Co Kuwait. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was I could concentrate more on NRM related development activities. Easily participate the discussion and decision making on NRM issues in NGO sector. The friendship circle - ITC is enlarged which is a platform to share ideas and clear doubts in work related matters. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the well designed course modules, course study environment and wider knowledge about NRM issues and decision making skills. My best memory of the Netherlands is the weather, the citizen's interest on Nature conservation and environment makes me to stay back and expertise further in my specialization. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a lot, but opportunities are less in my nature of profession. To my fellow alumni I would like to say guys try to utilize the ITC days to develop your knowledge, linkages in profession. The days will not come again. ■

2001

Name: V. Jayaprakasam**Email: jayaprakasamv@yahoo.com,
jayaprakasam04671@alumni.itc.nl****Birth: India on 24 January 1955****Course: NRM - Professional Master - 2001**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are working as a Forest Ranger in Geomatics Centre of Tamilnadu Forest Department, Chennai, India which is my parent department. The Geomatics Centre is a state of art and done forest cover map for the entire state which has got very high appreciation. Present assignment is concentrating on fire model for the state of Tamilnadu. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was life changed since I was in protecting forest wealth, Wildlife as a protection staff. Then turned as a Forest Engineer and watershed manager through PRA till 2000 before entering into ITC

Fieldwork in Spain



on 22 Nov 2000. Then the life changed after graduating from ITC, now I am becoming a resource person in RS&GIS and keeping me busy with my daily works. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the simplest thing I like is that even a person (I can call a lay-man) who has no knowledge about computer can even become a master in RS&GIS. Because the basic concept of the modules mainly focusing to understand the subject and the teaching staffs. My best memory of the Netherlands is there are many things. The different culture from different country. One need not visit every country to know their culture but be at ITC and the common kitchen. Next the Friday night with chilled tin beer after every busy module. Apart from that the beauty of the country that one can enjoy and always remember. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve I have lot of ambition to do some work on habitat management of wild elephants and grass land ecology of Tamilnadu. To my fellow alumni I would like to say hope my friends from ITC are still having more touch than me in the field of RS&GIS. If not at least spent some time to enjoy the pleasure of RS&GIS. This will give one day an opportunity to meet our old friends and to exchange so many new assignments and experiences. ■

2001

Name: Kabengwa Anthony Luutu**Email: kabengwa02892@alumni.itc.nl****Birth: Uganda on 15/02/1966****Course: WREM 2- 2001.**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are principal Hydrogeologist, Aquatech Enterprises (U) Limited, Managing Director, Aquatech Enterprises (U) Limited, since 2002. In charge of all the technical aspects to do with groundwater evaluation and management. Handling projects for central government, Local governments and NGOs. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was change from working for government to working with private sector. Working in self driven environment to achieve set goals! What I liked most about studying at ITC is the interaction with my lecturers, always available to provide support, especially during my research time. My best memory of the Netherlands is during my M.Sc. defence, when Professor Meijerink said that I have done something out of nothing! The market, ALDI, where I bought 98% of all the stuff I ate in the Netherlands. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve use the knowledge acquired to provide water in Uganda. To my fellow alumni I would like to say thanks so much for the time we shared together, it was so nice and lovely to know you. You should endeavour to be assets wherever you are Bravo ITC, Bravo Alumni. ■

2001

Name: Davaa Narantuya (NARA)**Birth: Mongolia in 1970****Course: RLE3 and NRM2 -1999/2001 respectively.**

The most important in my life is that after graduation I had given birth to my gorgeous daughter and spent two years only looking after my baby. Thereafter, had joined UNDP /GEF funded project on biodiversity conservation where have contributed to the management issues with application of GIS and RS tools. Also, I have



Davaa Narantuya

been assisting the Ministry of Nature and environment with specific issues related to GIS/RS. During the period, we, ITC alumni in Mongolia had meetings and gatherings and came to decision to establish an alumni association as a legal entity of Mongolia- non governmental organization. December 2004 became an official date of establishment of the ITC Mongolia, NGO. Our members are actively participating in the organizational works such as orga-

nizing short term trainings courses, consulting, taking part in the projects and conducting research. I am very thankful to all our members of the alumni association.

The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was establishment of ITC alumni association, letting the society to know about the alumnus of ITC in Mongolia, their capacity and knowledge transfer actions and participation in developing various project proposals in context of GIS/RS application. What I liked most about studying at ITC is strategic approach in study, busy life and exciting weekends with excursion, friends and parties... My best memory of the Netherlands is to have friends- my classmates and course mates, to obtain new knowledge, and get acquainted with teachers from ITC. Cultural knowledge of different nationalities highly organized and developed land management. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to make our association as powerful in terms of consultancy, research and capacity building as possible in the field of GIS/RS application for various disciplines. To my fellow alumni I would like to say dearest Amon, Xiomara, Kifayat, Timo, Ayako, Dante, Suno, Elena, Louie, Lily, Joshi, Maria, Johanna and all the rest, Thank you for your dearest friendship. I miss you all, and would be happy to meeting you again. With the very best and dearest wishes. ■

2002

Name: **Shawn Charles**

Email: charles@itc.nl

Birth: **Grenada on 11 January 1974**

Course: **GFM - Professional Master - 2002**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are: Supervisor of Drafting and Mapping Department Engineering Assistant / GIS Specialist GIS Project Coordinator. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was having a far greater respect to the things around us with the many hidden relationships that exists and how we can use these relationships to make our living simpler. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the ease of the programme. Can be tough sometimes, as everything, however as you meet and talk with the experienced and committed staff and lecturers, then clarity is achieved. At ITC, integration is stressed and sharing brings out a lot in a person and believe it or not, ITC's integration makes studying remarkable. My best memory of the Netherlands is meeting so much people of different cultures and appreciating them for who they are and

their way of life. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a PhD in a related Geoinformatics field. To my fellow alumni I would like to say it was really nice meeting all of you, especially my African and South American friends. You have thought me a lot. Keep focus on the joys of this life, even if it seems as if there's none. True joy lies within you. If I have the chance to do it all over, I will certainly go to ITC. ■

2002

Name: **Tang Yanli**

Email: tyanli2000@yahoo.com, tang04229@itc.nl

Birth: **China on 19 November 1967**

Course: **EREG - MSc - 2002**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are I am working at International Cooperation department (Science and Technology Department) of Heilongjiang Bureau of Surveying and Mapping. As the vice deputy Director of the department, I am in charge of international cooperation Projects such as bidding projects from Asia Development Bank, international research projects, Digital Photogrammetric Projects and so on. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was I am more confident of my ability to manage my work, and also I improved a lot of my English. After I graduated from ITC I changed my position to be a professional manager of international cooperation projects. What I like the most at ITC is that studying environment and facilities that ITC provide. With those internationalization atmosphere I could communicate with the people coming from different countries to know their culture and history, as if I travel through those countries, and of course made a lot of friends who the treasure of my life. With ITC's perfect facilities for teaching and studying I have learnt a lot and became more professional. My best memory of the Netherlands is the kindness and warmth of the Dutch people. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still contribute more on the cooperation between ITC and my organization. To my fellow alumni I would like to say treasure your stay at ITC and try to learn more and contribute what you have learnt from ITC to your own country and to the world. ■

2002

Name: **Germán Urbán Lamadrid**

Email: germurban@yahoo.com.mx

Birth: **Mexico on 23 August 1951**

Course: **EREG - MSc - 2002**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are actually my position has not changed a lot, I am a researcher and teacher in Environmental planning issues, but now managing a bit more with natural hazards. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the demand on my country for people to study and publish about hazards has been increasing significantly. So after my landing in Guerrero, Mexico, a lot of projects related to evaluation or modelling danger on urban areas have passed through my hands. Seems like a pool in the desert. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the great horizon of people, opening minds, and a light atmosphere to act, study and create in perfect freedom. My best memory of the Netherlands is it is a hard issue to confess, I got a lot of experiences rich of memories. Landscapes, biking along river banks with very sensible friends,

and a kind smile in the market please all over around. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to keep in contact with short course, recently I assisted to a great one. Flooding hazard management. This supplied me of new tools for modelling in the subject. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I miss a lot all of them, I miss the activities, even travelling with bike on board bounding to the beach, to feel the windy taste of the west side of the Netherlands. ■

2002

Name: **Le Minh Son**
Email: minhsonsg@yahoo.com
Birth: **Vietnam on 09 May 1966**
Course: **EREG - MSc - 2002**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are head of Soil Mechanics Laboratory. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was I could get new approaches for an old problem. What I liked most about studying at ITC is being in the multicultural environment. My best memory of the Netherlands is the "Keukenhof" flower garden - Amazing library of TU Delft. ■

2002

Name: **Malin Pholbud**
Email: talk2yin@hotmail.com
Birth: **Thailand on 23 October 1975**
Course: **GIM - MSc - 2002**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is surveyor P.C. 6. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was my father just past away for 2 months. This is the biggest change of my life. Myself, I've got promotion which means I have more responsibilities and work harder. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the environment of studying there, for example, the way of supervisors distribute their knowledge and assign for self-study. Also all facilities that ITC provided made our life comfortable. My best memory of the Netherlands is a "bicycle" :) With bicycle, I could go to ITC, supermarket, lake, the Chinese restaurant, my friend's apartment, and also Germany (that time we didn't have the train from Enschede to Germany),



ITC's parking lot covered with snow

etc. I still remember my feeling of riding the bicycle back from Germany to Dish Hotel through the heavy snow. To my fellow alumni I would like to say Miss YOU!!!!!! I still remember our valuable time that we shared together. Hopefully, one day we can get together again in ITC. Last but not least, I would like to welcome all of you to visit Thailand.....write me an e-mail and I'll take care of you!! ■

2002

Name: **Komananda Adhikari**
Email: komananda@hotmail.com
Birth: **Nepal on 13 June 1962**
Course: **UPLA - Professional Master - 2002**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are working as an acting divisional Engineer/planner. Now I am working in Urban and Environmental improvement project as a project Engineer. The most important change is to write the report individually and way of analysis to get required output for particular type of the work. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the very effective interaction with different kinds of ideas among the participants of different countries. My best memory of the Netherlands is combined study and study tour to Germany and Cochabamba, Bolivia. To my fellow alumni I would like to say please keep in touch so that we can share our experience in real practical field. ■

2002

Name: **Joseph Kandeh**
Email: maada_korsu@yahoo.com
Birth: **Sierra Leone on 06 November 1962**
Course: **GIM - MSc - 2002**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are field Coordinator April 2002 - September 2004 International Technical Advisor September 2004 - August 2005 Products Development Manager September 2005 - Present. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the way I reason, spatial reasoning, everything to me now can be reduced to space and time and thus requires Geoinformation Technology solution. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the multi cultural environment, people from different countries, culture, beliefs, religion, all with a common goal; to achieve excellence in Geoinformation Technology. In addition to the academic pursuit, the social life at ITC was wonderful, imagine having party after every Module exams, I always looked forward to those parties. My best memory of the Netherlands is summer in the Netherlands is wonderful, it gives me the opportunity to first of all to wear my clothing, go to the Lake and have a swim & biking to the nearest German Town at the Border such as Gronoe. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve excellence by pursuing a PhD programme of which I have already made contact my professor. Using Geoinformation Technology in managing natural disasters has always been of interest to me, I hope to explore this in PhD programme. To my fellow alumni I would like to say Geoinformation Technology has made the world into a global village, we are all within reach of each other, we need to increase interaction through user groups, professional discussion forums, cross fertilization of ideas and emails, we can contribute to make the world a better place. ■

2002

Name: Wellington Kafakalawa
Email: kafakalawa@yahoo.co.uk
Birth: Malawi on 12 December 1969
Course: GFM - Professional Master - 2002

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are GIS and Remote Sensing Lecturer at University Of Malawi constituent college, The Malawi Polytechnic, Department of Building Science and Surveys. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was lack of equipment such as Good computer and GIS software. Comprehensiveness of the course such that despite being a one year course, one gets a feel of most topics in the field of GIS and Remote Sensing. My best memory of the Netherlands is friendliness of the people, good delicious meals and a society of mixed races. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to accomplish my studies in GFM and get an MSc since sometimes Professional Masters is doubted as a full MSc certificate particularly in an Academic society like a University. After some years GIS and Remote sensing is now being recognized as an important upcoming science even in the third world countries like Malawi, such that I hope I have now acquired even that essential field experience required for a professional assignments. However, people need to be convinced by even the academic credentials hence a need for upgrading. To my fellow alumni I would like to say ITC tough time was never in vain, it was really useful. ■

2002

Name: Allan David Mulando
Email: mulando03735@alumni.itc.nl
Birth: Zambia on 25 May 1973
Course: GFM - Professional Master - 2002

Currently am working for the UN-WFP as a GIS Officer in the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit (VAM). Just after my graduation, I became Meteorologist in charge of Remote Sensing and GIS Unit at the Meteorological Department. My knowledge base has increased in the use of geoinformatics in Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis for Disaster Risk Management and Food Security. Also the level of articulation and technical assimilation of issues that relate to my job has increased. The number of consultancies I have done after graduating from ITC have had impact hence my being called upon by the other clients (local ones) who may have heard about my consultancy work. The level of skill mix from students in different programs allowed me to learn more efficiently. The variance of lecturers, their readiness to help and the overall ready available lecture and reference materials made my learning easy. During the International Cultural Evening where I danced for my Country (Zambia). For those of you who bought the video tapes, I am sure you will remember me. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve get another masters degree in Geoinformation Science but tailored towards Poverty vulnerability and Analysis as well developing particular emphasis on what sort of Socio Protection would work on what type of vulnerability area which will be looked at. To my fellow alumni I would like to say please exercise a lot of flexibility in your professional lives and achieve to do a lot of consultancies which will make your technical foundations firm. In this way you market your selves more both local and internationally. ■

2002

Name: Pem Narayan Kandel
Email: kandel055202itc.nl
Birth: Nepal on 29 November 1964
Course: NRM - Professional Master - 2002

I was assistant forest officer (class 111 officer) when I joined the ITC in 2001. After completion the Master degree from ITC, I worked in the ministry of forests and soil conservation as the assistant monitoring and planning officer for one year. After then I passed the open competition to promote in class 11 officer. Now I am working in the ministry of forests and soil conservation of Nepal as the capacity of planning officer. Moreover, I am facilitating to the Msc students about RS and GIS as the visiting professor in the universities of Nepal. Although I am doing my PhD from the home country, many universities from the abroad are accepting my candidacy. The whole stories and outcomes are due to the obtaining of the Master degree from the ITC. Briefly, I become the professional, academician and competent. Besides, this degree my level of confidence has been increased and open the door for further looking. In addition, I recognize the important of RS and GIS myself and trying to internalize in the forestry institution of Nepal as the planning, management and monitoring tools. ITC as an academic institution is updated with changing context and technology. Therefore, ITC provides very enable environment to improve, skill, knowledge and attitudes to all individual. Now I can cook very good food, which I only learned due to the ITC. I got feed back from other that I have good skill to solve the problem, which also I gained from the ITC and as I already mentioned I become an academician, which is the input of the ITC. In conclusion, it was wonderful life in ITC, which was turning point in my life. My best memory of the Netherlands is I have many memories of the Netherlands. I can not express in one sentence. There are more than imagine. However, that day is unforgettable when my lovely wife Gita arrived in the Netherlands to meet me. Besides, she lived 45 days in the Netherlands. We travelled to Paris, Belgium, Germany and many places of the Netherlands. Those days are memorable to us. Furthermore, I can not forget Graduation day when I got the master degree. I always remember to my lecturers, friends and to the beautiful Netherlands. ITC has given the foundation and encouragement to carry on the life. However, I have long way to go in my career. I need to enhance and enlarge the ideas. I therefore, is applying the knowledge, which I acquired from the ITC and looking forward to expand it. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I would like to say that the ITC is a very successful and effective academic institution. Dear fellow, it can be your turning point to reach your destination. Please use the opportunity to improve yourself in all dimensions. Because I am realizing many positive changes due to the ITC. ■





Soil exhibit at ISRIC, Wageningen

2002**Name:** Stanislaus Mulenga Chisakuta**Email:** chisakutasm@yahoo.co.uk**Birth:** Zambia on 07 May 1962**Course:** WREM - MSc - 2002

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are head of Water Engineering Department. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was I am able to teach at the University as a lecturer, Able to work on any computer, able to use GIS and Remote Sensing, belonging to the ITC family. What I liked most about studying at ITC is problem solving techniques which was moreless "hands on". The exposure to the High tech world. My best memory of the Netherlands is the wet weather, the wet country, the cheese, the tulips. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a PhD in water related field. To my fellow alumni I would like to say it was the best experience getting lost and finding ones way why working with "ILWIS" and its related "Domains". All the best, take good care of you. ■

2002**Name:** Albert Mugenyi W.**Birth:** Uganda on 12 January 1968**Course:** UPLA course- 2002

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are:

- physical planner
- GIS trainer
- GIS analyst- ifad programme, ministry of agriculture

I became it-compliant and for this I praise ITC. What i liked most about studying at ITC is: studying in a cross-cultural set-up. The course menu has plenty of tours and external interruptions. This makes everything tick. My best memory of the Netherlands is: it is a country with strict rules. E.g. having thorough medical examination before renewing one's resident permit. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve: more geo-information skills to cope with the changing demands. To my fellow alumni i would like to say keep searching for opportunities where GIS applications are most appreciated. It is here that you will enjoy your contribution to nation building. ■

2003**Name:** Rodrigo S. Sicat**Email:** sicut@alumni.itc.nl**Birth:** Philippines on 07 June 1966**Course:** GIM - MSc - 2003

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are my current position is as a Sr. Economic Development Specialist of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), tasked to oversee the Office's GIS Unit and GIS Specialist in the Integrated Watershed Development and Land Reform Support Project Study. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was that I have ingrained a more focused knowledge-based GIS applications in rural development and resources management planning. Furthermore, I have earned a Master's Degree that is internationally-recognized while earning the very best friends for the rest of my life. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the best part of studying at ITC, while some would say it was very hectic, was the very highly intellectual academic environment. For me, brushing elbows with my classmates - who are also the best coming from their respective countries - is more than enough to last a lifetime. The professors and the support staff really went out of their way to help and assist the students - who had some difficulty adjusting in a comparably new environment. I know, that without them, ITC life would not have been that good :-)

My best memory of the Netherlands is I have learned to like the weather, which is very conducive to studying. Moreover, I have ingrained in me the cultures of Europe and specifically the Dutch People. I learned, liked living and, fully appreciated the Dutch culture, language and traditions and even...the Dutch food :-)

As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve I would like to see myself in the next five (5) years, still pursuing further academic advancements (e.g., PhD). As ICT is evolving in leaps and bounds, keeping abreast with these new developments is also a goal that I must pursue. But a more satisfying goal is to apply what I have learned and mastered to aid my fellowmen ensure a more improved quality of life. To my fellow alumni I would like to say we have come from the same academic portal (i.e., ITC), while each one of us have different and somewhat diverse experience at ITC, we know that what we have learned has made us better persons. As we continue on our journey which we call LIFE, these experiences enforce our individual convictions that what we have learned must be shared and in sharing them, we find fulfilment. To my fellow Alumni, I wish you good health, safe journey in LIFE and HAPPINESS and wishing once again that when we shall cross each other's path in this journey, I am proud to call you a FRIEND :-). ■

2003**Name:** C. Jeganathan**Email:** jegan_iirs@yahoo.com**Birth:** India on 15 March 1971**Course:** GFM - MSc - 2003

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is scientist. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was The learning of Research was a very important thing which really changed me (how to read research papers, understand

Water sampling during fieldwork



them, rightly propose a new research and execute it within defined time frame, defend to external experts). This knowledge, i have learned at ITC, was imparted to my Indian M.Sc GFM2 Students at Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun, India. I was the recipient of Klaas-Jan Beek Award for the year 2003. This motivated my colleagues, my Indian students at ITC as well as at IIRS to work hard to achieve such merits in their academic also. Now at IIRS, we give more importance to Research part as well as a SYSTEMATIC IMPRLEMENTATOIN of the course, which i feel is a great contribution of ITC to IIRS. What I liked most about studying at ITC is foremost thing which comes to my mind is THE DIVERSITY. Yes ITC is like a MINI GLOBE....students from all over the world learning together without any disparity. I always enjoyed being together with the people from UNKNOWN PLACES, playing with them, studying with them. Not only the Students, STAFFS at ITC are also from various corners of the World, which is a very important positive point from students perspective. If i see a Staff from my country i feel proud. Such ITC's minutes care needs real appreciation. My best memory of the Netherlands is so many things come to my mind. Very first thing is that one of my colleagues quoted that "NETHERLAND IS CLINICALLY CLEAN". Yes Cleanliness is the TOPMOST thing in my memory. Secondly the TULIPS. Great Tulip Gardens (Kukenhofen). Third ARCHITECTURE of BUILDING. That shows that Netherlands people appreciate the REAL TRUE TALENT and NEW THOUGHTS. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve I would like to get an International PhD of very good quality. To my fellow alumni I would like to say why don't we CLONE ITC in EVERY COUNTRY???..... ■

2003

Name: Anuj Kumar Singh
Email: ak200275@yahoo.co.in
Birth: India on 21 January 1970
Course: GFM - MSc - 2003

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are 1) Asst. manager (R&D) at Spatial Decisions, New Delhi, India 2) Lecturer (at present), Symbiosis Institute of Geoinformatics, Pune, India. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was that it made me self-confident and self-dependent. Suddenly my value was increased in the Geoinformatics industry. What I

liked most about studying at ITC is the teaching methodology which makes student to become independent. No spoon feeding(which is very important). No unwanted interference from faculty side. Quality time given by faculties. Opportunities to develop ideas. My best memory of the Netherlands is working with Dr. Theo Bouloucos. Playing badminton, meeting with Dr L Boerboom, meeting with so many nice and friendly old people. Roaming around Amsterdam, Rotterdam. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve what I observed is, ITC graduates keep on becoming ambitious more and more. To my fellow alumni I would like to say enjoy each moment there by learning, playing and making friends. ■

2003

Name: Dev Raj Paudyal
Email: paudyal05259@itc.nl
Birth: Nepal on 10 February 1970
Course: GIM - MSc - 2003

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are I am Survey Officer in Cadastral Survey Branch of Survey Department Nepal. The acquired knowledge from ITC I am implementing here in Cadastral Sector. I am involving for the improving service delivery of Survey Department and system design for cadastral Information in Nepal. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the acquired knowledge and the improvement in my quality of life. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the depth knowledge about the concept of Land Administration and SDI. My best memory of the Netherlands is the graduation day; I got distinction for my study. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve PhD degree in Land Administration or SDI domain. To my fellow alumni I would like to say ITC is the ocean of knowledge. You can get the knowledge whatever you like. For example if your ambition is to fill glass you can fill, to fill mug you can fill, to get much water also you can get. But if you need not only water but you are searching the fishes, muga, jewellers etc also you can get. It is the right place actually to explore your capabilities. ■

2003

Name: Aigbedion Imuwahen Priscilla (nee Igbinosun)
Email: igbinosun@alumni.itc.nl
 uwa_priscilla@yahoo.com
Birth: Nigeria on 19 July 1975
Course: GFM - Professional Master - 2003

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are been involved in GIS project in Nigeria. Participated in the Abuja GIS (AGIS) project with objective on the computerization of Land Registry of the Federal Capital Territory(FCT),Abuja, working as a GIS officer. I am at the conclusive stage of a geodatabase design and implementation for my organization. I still work as a GIS officer. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was: Is been quiet exciting getting involve in marriage and motherhood while combining these with my job. I think I got a supernatural strength to do this. I believe the rigorous training I got from ITC has also helped me. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the

most conducive study and relaxing environment I have seen in recent times. The opportunities of seeing and enjoying almost all cultures of the world. My best memory of the Netherlands is the flowers, the food (especially the Dutch cheese and all the sea food), and the everlasting smiles on the lips of the Dutch people. Above all the hospitality of the people of the Netherlands. My visits to Scheveningen beach is something I am not in a hurry to forget. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a PHD in the area of GIS. I hope to fully develop my self in geoinformation science and impact such knowledge. I hope to go into full time consultancy when I stop working for the Nigerian Government. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I miss you terribly. I wish I could get only thirty minutes to be in your midst again. ■

2003

Name: **Enkela Begu**

Email: enkela@alumni.itc.nl

Birth: **Albania on 10 October 1972**

Course: **GIM - MSc - 2003**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are: National Academy of Science Geographic Study Centre GIS specialist in GIS/RS Unit. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was taking a PhD student position at Potsdam University, Institute for Geography - Geoinformatic Department. What I liked most about studying at ITC is being part of a unique multicultural environment and having access to the latest news and technology developments of the geoinformation science. My best memory of the Netherlands is simply being there...admiring Dutch people taking so good care of their beautiful country...respecting them for making us feeling welcomed... As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve move on in the world of geoinformation science. To my fellow alumni I would like to say enjoy ITC... ■

2003

Name: **Alexander Loiruk Lobora**

Email: carnivore-atlas@habari.co.tz

Birth: **Tanzania on 23 December 1969**

Course: **NRM - MSc - 2003**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are senior Ecologist at the Rufiji Basin Development Authority(RUBADA)from April 2003 to December 2003 Assistant Project Manager of the Tanzania Carnivore Project at the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) from January 2004 to August 2005 Project Manager of the Tanzania Mammal Atlas Project at the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) from September 2005 to date. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was off course increase of my salary soon after reporting back to my work. Most of all is the network which I created when I was at ITC, this was great! What I liked most about studying at ITC is up-to-date training and interaction among students. My best memory is my Msc. degree, when I look at it I always remember the Netherlands. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve the best in my carrier. To my fellow alumni I would like to say the world is a global village so keep in touch! ■

2003

Name: **Leyla Moran**

Email: morancastillo07923@itc.nl

Birth: **Peru on 31 January 1972**

Course: **UPLA - 2003**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is teacher at University Antenor Orrego. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the open doors to the teaching and advising in other's thesis in Geographic Information Systems, that allowed me to get another courses in the same speciality such Sustainable Building. What I liked most about studying at ITC is I most liked the excellent environment for studies and the free time for coffee in the third floor. My best memory of the Netherlands is the wooden shoes and the Enschede's night life. Netherlands for me means the most developed country in the world. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a fellowship in a Doctorate Degree course at ITC. To my fellow alumni I would like to say the time in ITC is the best time not only academically but also is the time for get a great friends and approach all resources in the reach of hands. ■

2003

Name: **Reza Roshani**

Email: roshani@alumni.itc.nl

Birth: **Iran on 23 June 1952**

Course: **WREM - MSc - 2003**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are since 2003 I have been the head of shared watersheds in watershed management deputy. The main job of this office is, planning for executive projects and supervising those projects. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was. How to face with the problems in multidisciplinary manner. Based on my experiences in ITC I learn to face with the issues by different aspects. What I liked most about studying at ITC is I really like the personality of my great professor Allard Migering who was retired last year. Also the methods of education in ITC were very interesting for me. My best memory of the Netherlands is the people friendship and kindness. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I hope all the ITC alumni be happy and success in their jobs. ■



Halloween party (2003)

**2003**

Name: Gift Rukezo
Email: grukezo@yahoo.com
Birth: Zimbabwe on - November 1969
Course: EREG - MSc - 2003

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are: Geologist. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was changing career from being a minerals geologist to being an environmental geologist/scientist. What I liked most about studying at ITC is a strong resource base. My best memory of the Netherlands is Coffee shops and the Amsterdam Red Light. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to integrate my academic knowledge with my job. To my fellow alumni I would like to say if life was a turntable, I would rewind it to those ITC days. May the wisdom you acquired at ITC show in your performance. ■

2003

Name: LI Yuan
Email: yako79@gmail.com
Birth: China on 06 February 1979
Course: UPLA - MSc - 2003

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are PhD Candidate in Wuhan University, China. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was push me to pursue higher level of education in Geoscience. What I liked most about studying at ITC is famous scholar and Library. My best memory of the Netherlands is very cheap food, clean air, nice living condition, friends from different countries. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I miss the time in ITC and hope to work with you guys in my future career. ■

2003

Name: Xuefei Yang
Email: xuefei@mail.kib.ac.cn
Birth: China on 20 January 1976
Course: NRM - MSc - 2003

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are assistant researcher, Kunming Institute of Botany, The Chinese Academy of Sciences. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was a broader international view. What I liked most about studying at ITC is how to write a research paper. My best memory of the Netherlands is: Enschede's autumn scene - a

magic of colour- beautiful! As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to bridge up science with local livelihoods, i.e. let the local community to benefit from the power of science. To my fellow alumni I would like to say hold our hands together, the world will become much better than it is. ■

2003

Name: Borisade, Paul
Email: borisade@alumni.itc.nl
Birth: Nigeria on 21 April 1963
Course: GFM - Professional Master - 2003

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are lecturer, a course coordinator and exam coordinator of the course and a core member of geomatics projects executors, (including geomatics-related research consultant) in RECTAS. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was a stepped-up approach to geoinformation in very diversified ranges of applications. I have been able to keep up with the trends of changes in geomatics, which enables me update my knowledge always. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the confidence that I acquired and how easy it became for me to deliver the knowledge that I acquired to RECTAS services, as well as what those I was opportune to impart were readily capable of doing as a result. My best memory of the Netherlands is the seriousness of the lecturers, the down-to-earth confidence impartation received by graduated ITC students as well as the commitment of the Netherlands Government to sponsoring of numerous candidates from foreign countries. I have always said to myself, "only God can fully reward Holland for this". I suddenly became one that could flow with Dr.Kufoniya, my director in RECTAS, on SDI matters both as regards Nigeria and some countries in Africa. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve what it requires for me to still be able to return to ITC perhaps for my PhD work, SDV. I am successfully getting built up for what such an academic challenge might demand, so that I could be considered eligible regain such an asset as one I had to be eligible for the Professional Masters programme of 2002-2003 at ITC. To my fellow alumni I would like to say show me an ITC alumni that promises to keep up the seriousness he/she was exposed to at ITC and who also readily discharges his/her responsibilities with such seriousness, and I will show you a staff that will stand before kings and not before mean men! ALL THINGS BEIGN EQUAL. ■

2003

Name: Jorge Londoño
Email: jlondono2000@yahoo.com
Birth: Colombia on 18 March 1966
Course: GIM - Professional Master - 2003

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are leading topics around information produced by Ingeominas, Geological and mining Service of Colombia, such: product validation (quality control) and dissemination through internet. Building institutional proposals in order to contribute with the organizational framework in Information Technology. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was I got married! What I liked most about studying at ITC is sharing the food, culture and feelings with the rest of the world! The peace between each other always

smiling...and sometimes laughing (must be, always laughing and sometimes smiling) the lake inside the building and of course, the course taken with its diploma. My best memory of the Netherlands is beautiful people, good neighbours, train trips, water everywhere... 1. International evening at ITC...! 2. "Sinterklaas" To my fellow alumni I would like to say I will never forget one of my best times in my life...1 year in Netherlands studying at ITC, and hope to keep the contact with my mates as we have done till now. ■

2003

Name: Basilid John Mlay
Email: mlay@alumni.itc.nl
Birth: Tanzania on - December 1968
Course: WREM - Professional Master - 2003

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is district Water Engineer to date. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was introduction of management database for my organisation for all sectors. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the teaching methodology esp. application of computers on teaching, presentation of lecture notes and communication throughout ITC community. My best memory of the Netherlands is the winter and the life style of the Dutch people (I admire this style indeed). As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to improve the current monitoring database to a more advanced level so as to communicate the data to the rest of the world community. To my fellow alumni I would like to say please don't keep silent, let us communicate and tell each other about our progress with regard to ITC. ■

2003

Name: Hamisi M. Boby
Email: boby@alumni.itc.nl, h.boby@tanesco.co.tz
Birth: Tanzania on 31 December 1962
Course: GFM - Professional Master - 2003

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are: Senior Land Surveyor. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was application of GIS in conducting company assignments (electric power utility) and as well my private jobs. What I liked most about studying at ITC is GIS; theory, practice and related field trips. My best memory of the Netherlands is peace, maximum security (life and properties), normal living standard and a



Time to relax during fieldwork

charming society. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve formulating and Managing GIS Projects in my organization as the technology now is changing from manual to digital; and also if possible to study MSc related to GIS. To my fellow alumni I would like to say in developing countries application of GIS which demands the change of technology from manual to digital needs commitment and patience. ■

2003

Name: Maria Fe V. Toledo
Email: toledo@alumni.itc.com, fengvt@yahoo.com
Birth: Philippines on 25 December 1974
Course: UPLA - Professional Master - 2003

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is Regional 10 Technical Head. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was to understand more the culture and environment of the different countries. To learn more about modern technology when it comes to planning. What I liked most about studying at ITC is to meet a lot of friends and colleagues from different countries that shares their views when it comes to urban and rural development. My best memory of the Netherlands is riding a bike with friends around the Enschede. To my fellow alumni I would like to say Hi! fellow alumni, Where ever your are and whatever you do, keep up the good works and wish you all the best. ■

2003

Name: Todbileg Munkhjargal
Birth: Mongolia on 01/03/1971
Course: MSc course of EREG/MREE 2003

The job position I held since graduating from ITC is the Senior Geologist for the QGX Ltd, which is Canadian based Exploration Company and the Director of the Zoloton LLC, which is a Mongolian company. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was in my educational part as knowledge and understanding in GIS and Remote Sensing. Why I say like that, because before ITC I had no precise understanding about what is actually RS and GIS. What I liked most about studying at ITC is very quite environment, friendly service and availability of all study materials including, books, computers and software etc. and no crowding. My best memory of the Netherlands is large constructions on sea such as dykes, bridges and roads. It shows clearly human strength and capacity with nature. To my fellow alumni I would like to say that we had studied together in nice environment. It was very pleasant opportunity for us. Keep and update your memories and knowledge with ITC. ■

2003

Name: Nguyen Thi Ngoc Uyen
Birth: Can Tho city, Viet Nam on 13th of July, 1979
Course: UPLA3 (2002) course and I graduated in 2003

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is planner at the Architecture and Planning Institutes of Can Tho city, Viet Nam. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was that I was recognized that the knowledge is always enor-



Keukenhof

mous, so we need to learn continuously and forever. I feel more confident after graduated from ITC. I learned a lot experiences about professional and life from staff and friends during the time I was studying there. What I liked most about studying at ITC is GIS technology.. because I 'm very interested. It also useful for our professional. My best memory of the Netherlands is "Keukenhof" TULIP garden. It's really a wonderful place which I haven't seen and I miss Enschede a lot. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to come back ITC again to learn more. To my fellow alumni I would like to say thankful to all staffs and people who was support for me to have a chance study in a WONDERFUL INSTITUTE (ITC) and WONDERFUL CITY (ENSCHEDE).. :). ■

2003

Name: Israel Tamarit Herrán
Email: Tamarit06740@alumni.itc.nl
Birth: Cuba
Course: GFM.3 (2003)

My life and point of view, changed after I finished my year of study at the ITC. ITC was not only a real fantastic scientific institution but and incredible mix of people from many different country around our world.

I never had before in my life the possibilities to meet with others students from Nepal, Turk and Caicos, Ivory Cost, Buthan, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Malaysia, Indonesia, etc and at the same time had teachers from many different countries like the Netherlands, France, Spain, China, Kenya, Colombia, USA, Portugal, Egypt, Germany, Austria, Greece, etc.

ITC not only gave me the possibilities to gain the last knowledge about theories and technologies in the Geoinformatic technologies and also to know others peoples and countries near of the Netherlands.

Now I have the great opportunity to apply all that I studied at the ITC during my GIS professional master course in the Geoinformatic Programme.

Thank very much ITC, Netherlands Fellowship Programme and City of Enschede for that UNIQUE opportunity. We were the last Cuban group at the ITC and never, never in our life won't forget the Netherlands and their people. ■

2004

Name: Maria da Conceição Pereira
Email: pereira@alumni.itc.nl
Birth: Portugal on 25 September 1969
Course: EREG - MSc - 2004

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are researcher in the Portuguese Geographic Institute. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was the whole ITC experience in fact; both professionally and personally changed my life profoundly: after I came I started diving it in before and after Holland/ITC.

What I liked most about studying at ITC is to know people from so many different cultures and parts of the world is a blessing and a treasure that I try to keep by maintaining contact with almost all my ITC friends through e-mail or meeting when possible (one married to a French and already came to visit me, now I'm going to Mozambique to visit another friend, and I hope this continues in the future...) My best memory of the Netherlands is the big parties in ITC, the international dinners with friends, riding a bike... Hey, you're making all my memories rise and it's very strong...! To my fellow alumni I would like to say thanks for being part of my life and keep this special feeling and background of being part of a world-wide international technical and friendship community such as the ITC one. ■

2004

Name: Marcelo Villarroel
Email: villarroel@itc.nl
Birth: Bolivia on 01 December 1967
Course: WREM - MSc - 2004

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are:

- Consultant on GIS map production for a Hydrological study in the regional catchment of Mizque River. (Local University and Government)
- Consultant on Water Resources for regional planning in Cochabamba (Government).

The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was be able to work in a better systematic and scientific way, when I'm doing my job or facing any research-related situation. That is because of the hard-way learning I got when I was trying to survive writing my MSc thesis. I'm grateful with my supervisors because I learned the most with their intense demanding. What I liked most about studying at ITC is intranet service, high speed internet connection to get updated information, to stay in touch with my loved ones at any time, and to listen and download the music I prefer while I was working on my research....) My best memory of the Netherlands is walk under snow and over the ice in the winter, feeling cold but enjoying that kind of weather I always wanted to know. And also, to see (and never finish to taste) Tons of milk and milk-derived products at the supermarket. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve more knowledge and experience in water resources and hydrology, using GIS & RS related tools. To my fellow alumni I would like to say that I hope they are working on their ITC specializations. Let's think we can meet again at ITC building for any course we are planning to apply in the future. I'm always thinking on it... ■

2004

Name: Salah Hassan Abukashawa

Email: abukashaww09660@alumni.itc.nl

Birth: Sudan on 01 January 1974

Course: UPLA - 2004

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Khartoum state GIS centre coordinator. I have been more confident after graduating from ITC although I had just a short course. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the warm feeling which the master students give to me as a short course student, if they didn't do so I might be back home before I finish my study. My best memory of the Netherlands is Saturday market, Amsterdam Central station, the intercity.... To my fellow alumni I would like to say don't stop linking with ITC...it's the place where knowledge is born. ■

2004

Name: Abel F. Wagas

Email: wagas@itc.nl

Birth: Philippines on 22 April 1966

Course: NRM - MSc - 2004

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are the same as before. Designation: 1. Regional Corn (Maize) Program Coordinator 2. Regional GIS focal person. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was more determination toward managing natural resources. What I liked most about studying at ITC is data management using GIS & RS. My best memory of the Netherlands is having friends from various countries like Africa & Asia & Dutch people with varied personalities & attitudes. When given passing mark for my thesis (during oral defence). A best friend that in spite having meet in Netherlands (ITC), our companionship is all out, with confidence & without reservation (I'm referring to John). As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve pursue doctoral studies in NRM with emphasis on GIS & RS or attend refresher courses for the enhancement of data management using GIS & RS. To my fellow alumni I would like to say ITC had imparted us the best tool to properly manage geographically referenced data. By way of GIS & RS, different interactions-social, economical or ecological can be visualized and presented to decision makers in support to making plans & programs that promote sustainable development. Ahead are range of shortcomings during implementation such as financial limitations, but these should not hinder us from becoming a catalyst towards a better world for living. ■

2004

Name: Subodh Dhakal

Email: dhakal@alumni.itc.nl

Birth: Nepal on 02 July 1971

Course: EREG - MSc - 2004

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are lecturer, Department of Geology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, Institute of Engineering, and Tribhuvan University, Nepal. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was a Japanese government scholarship

for my PhD in Saitama University, Japan and new exposure in the field of GIS and RS. What I liked most about studying at ITC is teachers and other staffs of ITC are so much friendly, and working in pressure. My best memory of the Netherlands is the peaceful country, friendly people and so many beautiful places. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve best opportunities that are possible for me at ITC. To my fellow alumni I would like to say let's make our alumni much stronger, expand it and be in touch. ■



Windmills at the Zaanse Schans

2004

Name: Md Mizanur Rahman

Email: rahman10744@itc.nl

Birth: Bangladesh on 02 January 1963

Course: WREM - 2004

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Sub-Division Engineer Next by Promotion : Executive Engineer Next by Changing Job: Modeller & Water Mgt. Specialist. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was being a Civil Engineer I could switch to Geo-hydro informatics. What I liked most about studying at ITC is ILWIS, Library, Computer Network specially Black Board, Enschede, Dr. B.H.P. (Ben) Maathuis, Associate Professor, Water Resources, etc. My best memory of the Netherlands is the study tour whole over the Netherlands. To my fellow alumni I would like to say enjoy ITC environment to learn Geoinformatics, enjoy Library and its e-governance. Explore published papers, article, journal etc through its dedicated internet services. Discuss frequently with your teachers to learn GIS and RS application in Water Resources Engineering. Especially please explore Dr. B.H.P. (Ben) Maathuis, Associate Professor to get worthy knowledge. ■

2004

Name: Idoko Marcus Aja

Email: idoko05471@alumni.itc.nl

Birth: Nigeria on 21 March 1965

Course: NRM - Professional Master - 2004

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is lecturer I. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was my ability to interact and work with professional and lectu-

ers from other Universities in the area of GIS/Remote Sensing. What I liked most about studying at ITC is I got exposed to using a tool many professionals are yearning to have. My best memory of the Netherlands is the first day I started Arcview. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a PhD in Geoinformation and the ability to apply in serious decision.

To my fellow alumni I would like to say spread the gospel of GIS and Remote Sensing, because it makes life easy in all disciplines especially where decision is to be taken in the face of alternatives. ■

2004

Name: Ndapewa Namupa Hatutale

Email: hatutale07746@alumni.itc.nl

Birth: Namibia on 03 August 1974

Course: GFM - Diploma - 2004

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are survey Technician at the Directorate of Survey and Mapping in the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement and currently employed as a Cartographer at the Geological Survey of Namibia in the Ministry of Mines and Energy. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was knowing that you can overcome any problem in life without the help of your friends and or families. What I liked most about studying at ITC is being introduced to new Software and computers. My best memory of the Netherlands is when I was stranded at Schiphol airport. I remember very well when I asked someone where I could get a train to Enschede and he just walked away. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve an Msc degree, preferably in Geo-Information Science or even a Doctorate. To my fellow alumni I would like to say thanks a lot for everything we shared. Many thanks go to my fellow Namibians I found at ITC for their kind support and showing me all the corners of ITC and Enschede in particular. I would also like to thank my fellow GFM4 2004 students who gave me a support and guided me throughout the course and during the time I lost my father. May God the almighty be and bless you all. And finally I would like to see you again at ITC and or in NAMIBIA in the near future. ■

2004

Name: Sharmistha Saha

Email: saha_sharmi2003@yahoo.com

Birth: Bangladesh on 10 October 1973

Course: GFM - Professional Master - 2004

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is assistant superintendent of Survey, Survey of Bangladesh, Dhaka. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was entering the world of advanced technologies like GIS, RS etc. I am making digital maps and GIS database for my office now. What I liked most about studying at ITC is working in Global environment. Meeting friends from all over the world. And study materials and subjects. My best memory of the Netherlands is that I got new friends in ITC. I can never forget the city Enschede and its environment. Mostly my friends. They are part of my heart now and the visit to "keukenhof". As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still work more effectively in GIS field. Final goal is to contribute much more things in this area. To my fellow alumni I would like to say: Hi how are you? I feel as a part of my family. This is ITC family. ■



Fitnessroom

2004

Name: Ramiro Reyes Glez

Email: reyes07978@alumni.itc.nl

Birth: Cuba on 04 May 1971

Course: EREG - Professional Master - 2004

The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC is co-head of the Geography Division at Tropical Geography Institute and Head of the Geodynamics and Natural Team. I'm member of the National Commission for Disaster Management. What I liked most about studying at ITC is GIS AND RS APPLYING TO NATURAL HAZARDS REDUCTION. My best memory of the Netherlands is the love, the marvellous and incredible capacity to the Netherlands people for to create this antropical country. Now I have the once question : how the Netherlands existing? The answer could be because the Netherlands people working hard. As an ITC graduate my ambition increases. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I am missing all. ■

2004

Name: Lucas Kipchirchir Tanui

Email: tanui09301@alumni.itc.nl

Birth: Kenya on 24 October 1972

Course: NRM - 2004

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are cartographic Technologist 1. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was that I acquired skills in Remote Sensing. Able to act as link between NRM scientists who are not well versed in GIS operations Geo information management. Able to interact with people from different races, religion and culture and appreciate each other. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the seriousness proper time management shown by the lecturers and other staff of ITC including the hotel staff. My best memory of the Netherlands is the transport system is excellent (rail). Visitors need not to ask for directions since signs are all over. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a Master of Science in Geo Information Management. Be able to acquire enough knowledge and skills to serve my country and have a positive impact on our Agriculture sector which most of our rural poor depend on. To my fellow alumni I would like to say aim higher and acquire as much knowledge as you can to be able to change the lives of our fellow beings for the better. Let's be in touch. ■

2004

Name: Catherine Zulu
Email: zulu@alumni.itc.nl
Birth: Zambia on 15 October 1966
Course: NRM - MSc - 2004

I have held the position of Research Officer. I have also been able to handle most of topics that have to do with issues on the environment. I am not a specialist in all but having a background and having undertaken research training I find it easier to research and come up with a comprehensive background paper for a lay person. The most important change in my life after graduating is that I feel much more able to compete at International level with confidence. To this effect I have been called for interviews, a sign that I am a credible candidate right! I like the comments about my confidence after the interview, it has been development further. I enjoyed the group discussion mode of study. It was a good way of 'brainstorming' and sometimes you may just find out that you had completely gone out of topic. These discussions helped one get back on track particularly when new software like 'What If' (to mention but one) has just been introduced. My best memory of the Netherlands was the summer when the sun would be up till late in the night. I enjoyed walking to ITC only during the 'day' that is at 08.00 and 20.00 hours, the idea was just fascinating to me. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve to be able work on a project team. To enhance my skills I have proceeded to study for a Cambridge International Diploma in Project Management. To my fellow alumni I would like to say I enjoyed the interaction we had at ITC. Those who attended the Sunday fellowship I still remember the moments when we had to say bye. I am in touch with some of them I would enjoy hearing what others, who knew me, are doing. ■

2004

Name: Kamal Kant Mishra
Email: mishra09720@alumni.itc.nl
Birth: India on 11 May 1967
Course: GFM - MSc - 2004

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is State Nodal Officer (GIS and OMMAS). I have achieved the key role in my department being an expert in GIS. What I liked most about studying at ITC is Quality of teaching. Circle of friends from different countries relation with teaching faculty. My best memory of the Netherlands is friendly relation with ITC faculty and participation in "Batavierenrace". As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve PhD in mobile GIS. To my fellow alumni I would like to say life is very short so stick to your goal and do efforts to achieve it. ■

2004

Name: Yohanes BUDI Sulistioadi
Email: bsulistioadi@cbn.net.id
Birth: Indonesia on 26 December 1976
Course: NRM - MSc - 2004

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are GIS & Watershed Management Project Coordinator Responsible for all remote sensing and GIS processes for East Kalimantan Project and establishing a hydrological model for Segah Watershed. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was new view and skills in Remote Sensing and GIS New view and perspective about people from various countries new experiences as backpacker getting around Europe with limited budgets. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the international atmosphere, not only students but staffs also from anywhere. Cool and steady environment, even sometimes it is too cold!!! High grade and unlimited access to study facilities. My best memory of the Netherlands is the giant flower garden "Keukenhof", The cool and undisturbed Town of Enschede, The fresh haring fish:-) As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve higher grade of education, PhD or otherdoctoral graduate more and more experiences from practical work in RS and GIS Much wider network of experts. To my fellow alumni I would like to say ITC has changed our life, thanks to all ITC staffs. Thanks to all students who share their life during our study in Enschede keep struggling and developing our beloved country. ■

2004

Name: Lazarus Pierentino Lugoi Pitia
Email: lugoi68@hotmail.com
Birth: Sudan on 01 January 1968
Course: NRM - MSc - 2004

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are acting Head of Department Agricultural Sciences University of Juba - Deputy Director Human Resources Development and Continual education: University of Juba.

The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was my progress in the work place. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the team spirit and hard working as well as time management all of which had contributed significantly on my promotion. My best memory of the Netherlands is law of human respectability - Lining up during purchase in supermarkets and even in the Institute Cafe; both the VIPs and the simples (Students) alike. - Harmonious End of the Module parties where equally all enjoy irrespective of academic and social status. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve more in geoinformation for Natural resources management especially in our beloved South Sudan that have just awoken from War destruction. To my fellow alumni I would like to say that all the academic suffering we complained about at ITC is an excellent weapon in our progress. - The more you are academically stressed, the stronger and better you become; hence efficient contribution to your societies and countries development. - For those of our batch (2002 - 2004), don't forget our common comforting phrase: "The war is already done and you come to collect the reward destined to you at ITC". ■

Visit to Zeiss, Oberkochen (1975)



2005

Name: **Petevilie Khatsü**
 Email: pete_khatsu@yahoo.co.uk
 Birth: **India on 02 January 1974**
 Course: **EREG - MSc - 2005**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is assistant Town Planner. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was outlook broadened. What I liked most about studying at ITC is meeting people from different nations from different profession. My best memory of the Netherlands is the landscape. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve impart the concept of sustainable development at the grassroot level. To my fellow alumni I would like to say strive for the best, for the development of mankind. ■

2005

Name: **Xuejie Li**
 Email: li10156@alumni.itc.nl
 Birth: **China on 05 April 1964**
 Course: **EREG - Professional Master - 2005**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are same with before went to ITC. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was hardly change, because I have just worked for a few days after I graduated from ITC. What I liked most about studying at ITC is the international environment. My best memory of the Netherlands is the environment: clean. ■

2005

Name: **Welday Berhe Desalegn**
 Email: desalegn03759@itc.nl
 Birth: **Ethiopia on 31 July 1964**
 Course: **UPLA - MSc - 2005**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are: As a General Manager of construction and design authority in Tigray Regional State of Ethiopia. This time I am not working directly related to the course I have followed, but I am asking to my employer (The regional Government) to shift my job to the urban development area. I personally am also trying to exercise my education in ITC in the area of the Urban Development

What I liked most about studying at ITC is learning with hard working. My best memory of the Netherlands is hard working and the stresses by supervisors during the MSc research work. Not yet achieving my ambition as I am not working in the area related to my education in ITC. To my fellow alumni I would like to say: Life in ITC might seem very hard especially the style of their education (Do it by your self), but after ITC you can see its benefit by comparing with other colleagues studying somewhere. In other aspect it was very difficult to visit some areas in The Netherlands due to the shortage of time as a result of too many assignments. ■



The open market in Enschede

2005

Name: **Abdul Majeed Meera Lebbe**
 Email: meera08028@itc.nl
 Birth: **Sri Lanka on 15 November 1956**
 Course: **NRM - Professional Master - 2005**

Since graduating from ITC I am attached to the GIS unit in Forest Department as sectional head. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was nothing yet. What I liked most about studying at ITC is Erdass software and applications. My best memory of the Netherlands is the day departure from Netherlands to Sri Lanka.

To my fellow alumni I would like to say make remembrance to everybody. ■

2005

Name: **Getachew Ebuy Tedla**
 Email: getachew_e@yahoo.com
 Birth: **Ethiopia on 27 January 1976**
 Course: **EREG - MSc - 2005**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are Lecturer at Mekelle University. General Manager of ALDG GIS professionals. The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was big interest and enthusiasm to continue education in the direction of GIS/RS and thinking about establishing business centre in parallel. What I liked most about studying at ITC is Independent & hard working. Teaching my self! Hard working staff. My best memory of the Netherlands is people of the Netherlands and the open market!

As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve a PhD in GIS & Remote sensing. To establish institute of spatial sciences in Ethiopia. To establish society of geographic information science in Ethiopia. To my fellow alumni I would like to say: I miss you all. God bless you! ■

2005

Name: **Kifle Damtew**
 Email: damtew06543@itc.nl
 Birth: **Ethiopia on 11 July 1965**
 Course: **EREG - MSc - 2005**

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC is Senior Geophysicist
 The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was developing confidence on my work. What I liked most about

studying at ITC is courses taken regarding GIS and Remote Sensing. My best memory of the Netherlands is Shopping on Saturdays and eating fish at the open market. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve more knowledge about GIS and remote sensing. To my fellow alumni I would like to say Keep in touch and exchange ideas. ■

2005

Name: Fikreyohanes Yadessa

Email: yadessa07885@itc.nl

Birth: Ethiopia on 14 January 1968

Course: UPLA - MSc - 2005

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are department head for research and quality control in Addis Ababa city roads authority and urban infrastructure manager working for GTZ in capacity building for 9 small towns as free lancing consultant.

The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was I got a capacity to work in different urban infrastructure management works. What I liked most about studying at ITC is hard working for a long time.

My best memory of the Netherlands is the hard time during module 8 and 7 when I introduced to the new software call Arcinfo work station. I never forget the hardship to run it. As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve working and develop GIS system in civil engineering and urban infrastructure management area to solve the data problems in development process of third world. To my fellow alumni I would like to say try to apply what you learned in ITC ■

2005

Name: Perth Shah

Email: shah07157@alumni.itc.nl

Birth: India on 22 May 1972

Course: WREM - MSc - 2005

The job position(s) I held since graduating from ITC are: Lecturer School of Architecture CEPT University Ahmedabad-380 009 INDIA Private practice with wife, Ar.Brinda Shah. The office does work in Architecture; Design; Water conservation; Research.

The most important change in my life after graduating from ITC was I got to know GIS and RS. I enjoyed the efforts that i put to link these with architecture. Besides, now I am hopeful of fulfilling my wish to understand the water system in my hometown of Rajkot. I am also involved in designing a curriculum for imparting basic knowledge of GIS to UG Architecture students.

What I liked most about studying at ITC is the wide exposure and great infrastructure that ITC had to offer. I enjoyed the various courses i learnt while pursuing the WREM program. One aspect of ITC that I really appreciate was the clockwork organisation of the course. I enjoyed the modular system. I made lasting friendship with students from many countries and diverse culture. This wouldn't have been possible in many other institutes of higher learning. And last but not the least, I remember the "end of day"

announcement of ITC closing down by Arjan and other porters....."attention, attention...ladies and gentlemen...its almost closing time...please finish your work and do me a favour...switch offfffff alllllll the lights...thank you!!!! hahahahha!

My best memory of the Netherlands is that I got to know the Dutch culture at close quarters. And that was an eye-opener. I talk about the Dutch efficiency; civic obedience; etc. etc. to my colleagues even today! I had great time visiting the Dutch museums, in Amsterdam and all over Netherlands. I got an opportunity to meet a very very affectionate friend in Jeroen van Weston. He and his family took great care of me, and were very welcoming in making me part of their house. And of course, how can I forget the cycling; Albert Heijn; C100; Aldi; Station Plein at Enschede; Van Heek Park; Moly Malone; Schermerhorn Lounge; Old timers day at Tilligte; the impressive Politie and Brandweer in their immaculate uniforms and sirens!

As an ITC graduate my ambition is to still achieve water self-sufficiency in my country. I would like to involve myself in efforts to save; conserve and utilise water appropriately. To my fellow alumni I would like to say that I hope all of you are enjoying yourselves. And are happy to have been part of ITC for some part of your lives. Take care. Met vriendelijke groet. Parth. ■

