

INTRODUCTION OF THE SYMPOSIUM AND CLOSING OF THE PLENARY SESSION

At the end of the plenary session, Prof. Vito Pascazio presented an overview of the IGARSS 2024 conference, providing all participants with relevant information. The conference was attended by approximately 3,146 participants from 69 countries. A total of 3,847 papers were submitted for review, of which 2,978 were accepted for presentation. A total of 252 oral sessions and 160 poster sessions were conducted. Moreover, six technical committee meetings, one student paper competition, and one industry workshop were conducted. A total of 23 Technology, Industry, and Education (TIE) Forum events were held, addressing the domains of remote sensing and geoscience. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to participate in a variety of social activities. The symposium cochairs and the entire organizing team (Figure 17) have worked very hard over the past few years to make IGARSS 2024 a highly rewarding and enjoyable symposium and are to be congratulated for the great success achieved. See Table 1 for detailed data about the presentations and attendance at IGARSS 2024.

FUTURE IGARSS SYMPOSIA

The GRSS AdCom met on 4–6 July 2024, just prior to IGARSS (Figure 18). In this meeting, all the Society's operational and technical issues were discussed, and major decisions were made. The follow road map for the future IGARSS conferences was confirmed:

- ▶ IGARSS 2025, Brisbane, Australia, 3–8 August 2025
- ▶ IGARSS 2026, Washington DC, USA, 9–14 August 2026
- ▶ IGARSS 2027, Reykjavik, Iceland.

The final selection process for the site of IGARSS 2028 took place in an executive session of the GRSS AdCom, and more news will be announced soon. You are cordially invited to participate in future IGARSS symposia, and we look forward to meeting you all at IGARSS 2025 in Brisbane, Australia, 3–8 August 2025 (for more information, please refer to <https://www.2025.ieeeigarss.org/>).

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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GRSS Awards Presented at the IGARSS 2024 Banquet

The 2024 IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society's (GRSS's) publications, symposium, special awards, and best reviewers were presented at the IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS) award banquet held at the Zappeion Megaron, Athens, Greece, on 10 July 2024 (see Figure 1). The Zappeion Megaron historic venue was built in the late 19th century amid the lush greenery of the National Gardens. It stands as a testament to Greece's rich cultural heritage and architectural splendor, with its neoclassical facade adorned with intricate details and majestic columns. Originally constructed as

part of the revival of Athens for the first modern Olympic Games, in 1896, the Zappeion Megaron has since served as a venue for significant events.

The award banquet is held to recognize the excellence of GRSS members who distinguished themselves in various aspects of their scientific career. The award ceremony was led by Prof. Lorenzo Bruzzone (University of Trento).

GRSS President Dr. Mariko Burgin, GRSS Special Awards Chair Dr. Jaya Sreevalsan-Nair, GRSS Publications Awards Chair Prof. Antonio Plaza (represented by Dr. Hanwen Yu), and GRSS Symposium Awards Chair Dr. Francesca Bovolo presented the following awards:

- ▶ IEEE GRSS Chapter Excellence Award
- ▶ IEEE GRSS Student Branch Chapter Excellence Award

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(a)



(b)



(c)

FIGURE 1. The IGARSS award banquet at the Zappeion Megaron. (a) The facade front view of the venue, which is a national heritage of Greek civilization. (b) The peristyle main atrium for the awards banquet. (c) The dinner party at the award banquet.

- ▶ IEEE GRSS Early Career Award
- ▶ IEEE GRSS Regional Leader Award
- ▶ IEEE GRSS David Landgrebe Award
- ▶ IEEE GRSS Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing (J-STARS) Prize Paper Award

- ▶ IEEE GRSS Letters Prize Paper Award
- ▶ IEEE GRSS Transactions Prize Paper Award
- ▶ IEEE GRSS Highest Impact Paper Award
- ▶ Best reviewers for IEEE GRSS journals
- ▶ IEEE GRSS Symposium Prize Paper Award
- ▶ IEEE GRSS Symposium Interactive Session Prize Paper Award
- ▶ IEEE GRSS Excellence in Technical Communication Student Prize Award
- ▶ IEEE GRSS Student Prize Paper Awards, including the IEEE Mikio Takagi Student Prize.



FIGURE 2. Akhil Masurkar, treasurer of the IEEE GRSS Bombay Chapter (center), receives the IEEE GRSS Chapter Excellence Award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left) and Special Award Committee Chair Jaya Sreevalsan-Nair (right).

SPECIAL AWARDS

IEEE GRSS CHAPTER EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Chapter Excellence Award recognizes excellence in a GRSS Chapter or Joint Local Chapter demonstrated by exemplary local GRSS activities during the previous year. The award can be considered annually and is presented only when a deserving Chapter is identified. The award consists in a certificate and a check of US\$1,000 to be used only for Chapter activities.

This year, the Chapter Excellence Award was presented to the IEEE GRSS Bombay Chapter, India (Figure 2).

STUDENT BRANCH CHAPTER EXCELLENCE AWARD

The GRSS established the Student Branch Chapter Excellence Award to recognize excellence in a GRSS Student Branch Chapter or Joint IEEE Student Branch Chapter demonstrated by exemplary local GRSS activities during the previous year. The award can be considered annually and is presented only when a deserving Student Branch Chapter is identified. The award consists of a certificate and a check for US\$1,000 to be used only for Chapter activities.

This year, the Student Branch Chapter Excellence Award was presented to the IEEE GRSS Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore Student Chapter (Figure 3).

IEEE GRSS EARLY CAREER AWARD

The IEEE GRSS Early Career Award aims to promote, recognize, and support young scientists and engineers within the GRSS who have demonstrated outstanding ability and the promise for significant future contributions. Factors considered for nomination include quality, the significance and impact of contributions, papers published in archival journals, papers presented at conferences and symposia, patents, a demonstration of leadership, and advancement of the profession. The candidate must have been a GRSS member for at least five years and be younger than 35 at the time of nomination. They must be making outstanding contributions in one or more GRSS fields of interest. The award consists of a certificate and an honorarium of US\$1,500. This year, the award was presented to Mingliang Tao (Northwestern Polytechnical University, Xi'an, China) "for outstanding contributions to Spaceborne SAR technology, remote sensing spectrum management, and radio frequency interference mitigation, and for technical contributions to the IEEE GRSS community" (Figure 4).

Dr. Tao is an accomplished researcher and leader, currently serving as the cochair of IEEE GRSS Frequency Allocations in Remote Sensing Technical Committee. He was a recipient of the Excellent Doctoral Dissertation Award in China in 2019, and he was granted the Young Scientist Award (one of seven International Union of Radio Science awards presented annually for research in the area of radio science) in 2017 and 2020.

IEEE GRSS REGIONAL LEADER AWARD

The IEEE GRSS Regional Leader Award was established to promote, recognize, and support members within the GRSS who have made significant technical, scientific, and/or organizational achievements in the areas of interest to the GRSS community. The award is considered annually and presented if an outstanding candidate is identified. Preference may be given to candidates who are pivotal and have made significant contributions in a region where the GRSS membership and local activities have substantially increased in recent years. Preference may also be given to candidates who are GRSS members with the grade of Senior Member or Fellow. The award consists of a certificate and an honorarium of US\$1,500.

In 2024, the award was presented to Prof. Avik Bhattacharya (IIT Bombay, India) "for outstanding contribu-

tions in promoting GRSS regionally through founding the GRSS Bombay chapter, leadership roles in regional conferences (InGARSS and MIGARS), promoting GRSS videos in vernacular language (Hindi), and promoting gender diversity in regional GRSS activities" (Figure 5).

Dr. Bhattacharya is the founding chair of the IEEE Bombay Section GRSS Chapter (2017). He has held prominent leadership positions as the editor-in-chief of *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters* (2019–2023) and is currently serving as the vice president of professional activities in the GRSS Administrative Committee.

IEEE GRSS DAVID LANDGREBE AWARD

The IEEE GRSS David Landgrebe Award is a GRSS career award, which is awarded for outstanding contributions in the field of remote sensing image analysis. The



FIGURE 3. Sakshi Jain (right) receives the IEEE GRSS Student Branch Chapter Excellence Award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left).



FIGURE 4. Mingliang Tao (right) receives the IEEE GRSS Early Career Award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left).



FIGURE 5. Prof. Avik Bhattacharya (center) receives the IEEE GRSS Regional Leader Award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left) and Special Award Committee Chair Jaya Sreevalsan-Nair (right).



FIGURE 6. Prof. Gustau Camps-Valls (right) receives the IEEE GRSS David Landgrebe Award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left).



FIGURE 7. The coauthors of the 2024 IEEE GRSS J-STARS Prize Paper Award. Top row, from left: Binghai Gao, Yi He, Xueye Chen, and Xiaoyun Zheng. Bottom row, from left: Lifeng Zhang, Qing Zhang, and Jiangang Lu.

contributions must be related to at least one of the following fields: classification, image analysis, feature extraction, change detection, data fusion, and data mining. A certificate is presented to the awardee.

In 2024, the award was presented to Prof. Gustau Camps-Valls (Universitat de València, Spain) “for outstanding contributions to the machine-learning-based analysis of remote sensing image data, including hyperspectral data, for promotion of these methods for their adoption and integration into applications, and for advancing university-level education” (Figure 6).

Prof. Camps-Valls has published over 300+ peer-reviewed international journal papers, 350+ international conference papers, 25 book chapters, and six international books on remote sensing, image processing, and machine learning. He was elevated to IEEE Fellow in the GRSS and IEEE Signal Processing Society (2018), in the European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems (ELLIS) (2019), in the European Academy of Sciences, in the Academia Europaea, and in the Asia-Pacific Artificial Intelligence Association (2022). He currently coordinates the ELLIS Machine Learning for Earth and Climate Sciences research program.

PUBLICATION AWARDS

IEEE GRSS J-STARS PRIZE PAPER AWARD

The GRSS established the IEEE GRSS J-STARS Prize Paper Award to recognize authors who have published an exceptional paper in terms of content and impact on geoscience and remote sensing in *J-STARS* during the previous calendar year. Factors such as originality, clarity, and timeliness of publication are considered during the selection of the winning paper, and IEEE membership is preferable. The award consists of a certificate and an honorarium of US\$1,500, equally shared among the authors.

The 2024 IEEE GRSS J-STARS Prize Paper Award was presented for the paper “Landslide Risk Evaluation in Shenzhen Based on Stacking Ensemble Learning and InSAR” published in *J-STARS* (vol. 16, pp. 1–18, 2023) and coauthored by Binghai Gao, Yi He (Lanzhou Jiaotong University, Lanzhou, China), Xueye Chen, Xiaoyun Zheng (Ministry of Natural Resources, Shenzhen, China), Lifeng Zhang, Qing Zhang, and Jiangang Lu (Lanzhou Jiaotong University) (Figure 7).

IEEE GRSS LETTERS PRIZE PAPER AWARD

The GRSS established the IEEE GRSS Letters Prize Paper Award to

recognize authors who have published an exceptional paper in terms of content and impact on geoscience and remote sensing in *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters* during the previous calendar year. If a suitable paper cannot be selected from those published during the previous year, any papers published in prior years and subsequently recognized as meritorious may be considered. When determining the winning paper, originality, impact, scientific value, and clarity are the factors considered. The award consists of a certificate and US\$1,500, equally divided among the authors.

The 2024 IEEE GRSS Letters Prize Paper Award was presented for the paper “Model-Based Retrieval of Forest Parameters From Sentinel-1 Coherence and Backscatter Time Series” published in *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters* (vol. 20, pp. 1–5, 2023) and coauthored by Marco Lavallo (NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA, USA), Chiara Telli, Nazzareno Pierdicca (Sapienza University, Rome, Italy), Unmesh Khati (IIT Indore, Indore, India), Oliver Cartus (Gamma Remote Sensing, Gümligen, Switzerland), and Josef Kellendorfer (Earth Big Data, Woods Hole, MA, USA) (Figure 8).

IEEE GRSS TRANSACTIONS PRIZE PAPER AWARD

The GRSS established the IEEE GRSS Transactions Prize Paper Award to recognize authors who have published an exceptional paper in *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing* during the preceding calendar year. Originality and clarity are factors considered during the selection of the winning paper. The award consists of a certificate and an honorarium of US\$3,000, which is equally divided among the authors.

The 2024 IEEE GRSS Transactions Prize Paper Award was presented for the paper “RingMo: A Remote Sensing Foundation Model With Masked Image Modeling” published in *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing* (vol. 61, pp. 1–22, 2023) and coauthored by Xian Sun, Wang Peijin, Lu Wanxuan, Zicong Zhu, Xiaonan Lu, Qibin He, Junxi Li, Xue Rong, Zhujun Yang, Hao Chang (Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China), Qinglin He, Guang Yang (Huawei, China), Ruiping Wang (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Jiwen Lu (Tsinghua University, Beijing, China), and Kun Fu (Chinese Academy of Sciences) (Figure 9).

IEEE GRSS HIGHEST IMPACT PAPER AWARD

The GRSS established the IEEE GRSS Highest Impact Paper Award to recognize the authors who published the



FIGURE 8. The coauthors of the 2024 IEEE GRSS Letters Prize Paper Award receive the award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left) and Hanwen Yu (second from right, on behalf of Publication Awards Committee Chair Antonio Plaza). The winners, from left: Marco Lavallo, Chiara Telli, and Unmesh Khati.

scientific paper in an IEEE GRSS journal in the past five years that has received the highest number of citations and made the greatest impact as measured collectively by the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science, Scopus, and Google Scholar citation indices. A previously selected paper will not be eligible for this award in future years. The award consists of a certificate and an honorarium of US\$3,000, equally divided among the authors.

The 2024 IEEE GRSS Highest Impact Paper Award was presented for the paper “Deep Learning for Hyperspectral Image Classification: An Overview” published in *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing* (vol. 57, no. 9, pp. 6,690–6,709, September 2019) and coauthored by Shutao Li, Weiwei Song, Leyuan Fang (Key Laboratory of Visual Perception and

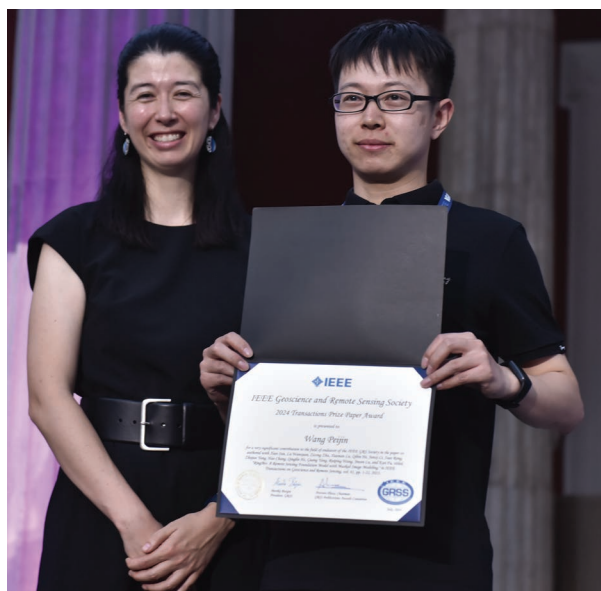


FIGURE 9. Kaiqiang Chen (right, on behalf of the coauthors) receives the 2024 IEEE GRSS Transactions Prize Paper Award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left).



FIGURE 10. The coauthors of the 2024 IEEE GRSS Highest Impact Paper Award receive the award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left). The winners, from left: Shutao Li, Lyuan Fang, Pedram Ghamisi, and Yushi Chen.

Artificial Intelligence of Hunan Province, Changsha, China), Yushi Chen (Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin, China), Pedram Ghamisi (Helmholtz Institute Freiberg for Resource Technology, Freiberg, Germany) and Jon Atli Benediktsson (University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland) (Figure 10).

BEST REVIEWERS

The GRSS recognizes the importance of reviewers for a healthy scientific environment. IEEE GRSS journals award the best five reviewers each year. The best reviewers are selected based on quality, timeliness, and, to some extent, effort in terms of revised works. The award consists of a certificate.

The *J-STARS* best reviewers for 2024 are Mengshi Yang (Yunnan University), Ghomlamreza Akbarizadeh (Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz), Jing Yao (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Gang Xu (Southeast University), and Saeid Amini (University of Isfahan) (Figure 11).

The *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters* best reviewers for 2024 are Xiang Yuming (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Sun Guang-Cai (Xidian University), Mostafa Mousavi S. (Stanford University), Chein-I Chang (University of Maryland, Baltimore County), and Hou Biao (Xidian University) (Figure 12).

The *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing* best reviewers for 2024 are Sudipan Saha (IIT Delhi), Fulin Luo (Chongqing University), Wei He (Wuhan University), Jing Yao (Chinese Academy of Sciences), and Lina Zhuang (University of Chinese Academy of Sciences) (Figure 13).



FIGURE 11. The *J-STARS* best reviewers for 2024 receive the award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left) and Hanwen Yu (second from right). The winners, from left: He Huang (on behalf of Jing Yao), Bangjie Zhang (on behalf of Gang Xu), and Saeid Amini.



FIGURE 12. Hou Biao (right) receives the 2024 *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters* best reviewer award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left).

SYMPOSIUM PRIZE PAPER AWARDS

IEEE GRSS SYMPOSIUM PRIZE PAPER AWARD

The GRSS established the IEEE GRSS Symposium Prize Paper Award to recognize authors who have presented an exceptional paper in terms of content and impact on the GRSS at IGARSS. In selecting the paper, factors considered include originality, clarity, and timeliness of publication. The published versions of the papers in the digest will also be evaluated. The prize consists of a certificate and an honorarium of US\$1,250, equally divided among the authors.

This year, the IEEE Symposium Prize Paper Award was presented for the paper “Lava Flow Detection Using Dual Polarimetric Sentinel-1 SAR Data,” coauthored by Emanuele Ferrentino, Christian Bignami (Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Italy), Ferdinando Nunziata, Maurizio Migliaccio (Università Degli Studi di Napoli Parthenope, Italy), and Salvatore Stramondo (Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Italy) (Figure 14).

IEEE GRSS SYMPOSIUM INTERACTIVE SESSION PRIZE PAPER AWARD

The GRSS established the IEEE GRSS Symposium Interactive Session Prize Paper Award to recognize the author(s) who posted at IGARSS an exceptional paper in terms of content and impact on geoscience and remote sensing. When selecting the winning paper, factors considered are originality, clarity, and timeliness of publication. The published versions of the papers in the digest will also be evaluated. The prize consists of a certificate and an honorarium of US\$1,250, equally divided among the authors.

This year, the IEEE Symposium Interactive Session Prize Paper Award was presented for the paper “Semi-Supervised Learning for Hyperspectral Images by Non-Parametrically Predicting View Assignments,” coauthored by Shivam Pande (IIT Bombay), Nassim Ait Ali Braham, Yi Wang, Conrad M. Albrecht (German Aerospace Center, Germany), Biplab Banerjee (IIT Bombay), and Xiao Xiang Zhu (Technical University of Munich, Germany) (Figure 15).

IEEE GRSS EXCELLENCE IN TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION STUDENT PRIZE AWARD

The IEEE GRSS Excellence in Technical Communication Student Prize Award is in the format of a Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. The 3MT was founded by the University of Queensland as an academic competition that cultivates students’ presentation and



FIGURE 13. The IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing best reviewers for 2024 receive the award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left) and Hanwen Yu (right). The winners, from left: Lina Zhuang, Jiepan Li (on behalf of Wei He), and He Huang (on behalf of Jing Yao).

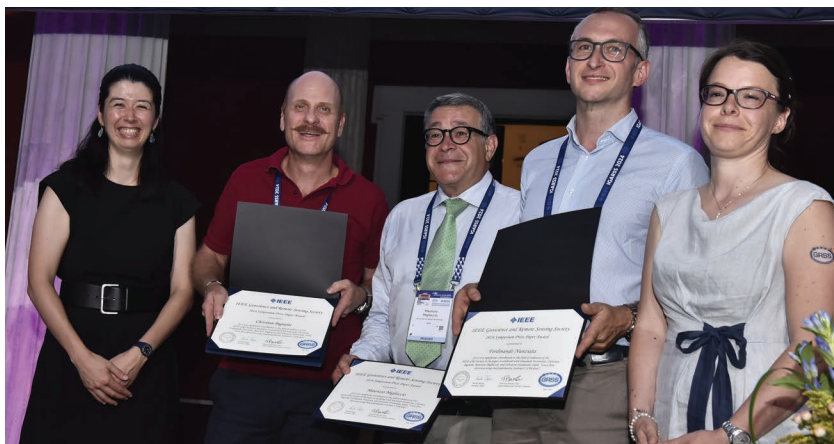


FIGURE 14. The coauthors of the 2024 IEEE GRSS Symposium Prize Paper Award receive their certificates from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left) and Symposium Awards Committee Chair Francesca Bovolo (right). The winners, from left: Christian Bignami, Maurizio Migliaccio, and Ferdinando Nunziata.



FIGURE 15. The coauthors of the 2024 IEEE GRSS Symposium Interactive Session Prize Paper Award receive their certificate from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left). The winners, from left: Shivam Pande, Yi Wang, and Conrad M. Albrecht.



FIGURE 16. The 2024 IEEE GRSS Excellence in Technical Communication Student Prize Award winners. From left: GRSS President Mariko Burgin, Priyanka Rao (special mention for the work preferred by the audience), Yuta Otsuka (third prize), Florencio Campomanes V (first prize), Danwei Lu (second prize), and GRSS Symposium Awards Committee Chair Francesca Bovolo.

research communication skills and challenges them to describe their research within only 3 min to a general audience, with one static slide.

Ten high-quality presentations are preselected by GRSS Young Professionals. These students present their works in 3 min in a dedicated session, and a jury, formed by three experts, evaluates and ranks them for the awards. The 10 finalists for the Excellence in Technical Communication Student Prize Award contest are invited to attend the awards banquet free of charge.

A total of four awards are presented, including three IEEE GRSS Excellence in Technical Communication Student Prize Awards (first, second, and third prize, with a certificate presented for each and an honorarium of US\$500, US\$300, and US\$200, respectively) and a special

mention for the work preferred by the audience (which includes a certificate) (Fig. 16).

SPECIAL MENTION FOR THE WORK PREFERRED BY THE AUDIENCE

Priyanka Rao (Figure 17) received the special mention for the work preferred by the audience for “Harnessing Remote Sensing for Sustainable Urban Green Planning.”

Rao received the M.S. degree in remote sensing and geographic information systems from the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing in 2020. She is pursuing the Ph.D. degree in big data and healthy cities at the

University of Bologna, Italy. Her Ph.D. research focuses on urban climate and sustainable urban landscape planning using remote sensing technology. She was a visiting researcher at the Technical University of Munich.

THIRD PRIZE PAPER RECIPIENT

Yuta Otsuka (Figure 18) received the third prize for the work “Estimating Accurate Elevation Through Hypercomplex Fourier Processing.”

Otsuka received the B.S. and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering and information systems in 2018 and 2020, respectively, from the University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan, where he is currently working toward the Ph.D. degree. His research interests include interferometric synthetic aperture radar and polarimetric synthetic aperture radar.

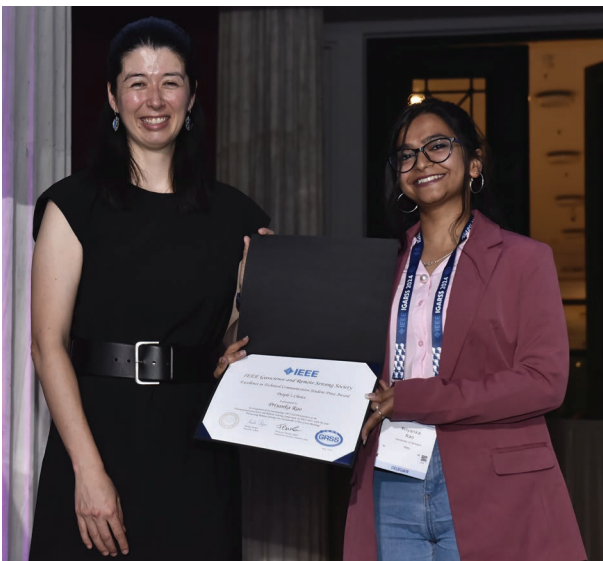


FIGURE 17. Priyanka Rao (right) receives the special mention for the work preferred by the audience for the 2024 IEEE GRSS Excellence in Technical Communication Student Prize Award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left).



FIGURE 18. Yuta Otsuka (right) receives the third prize for the 2024 IEEE GRSS Excellence in Technical Communication Student Prize Award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left).

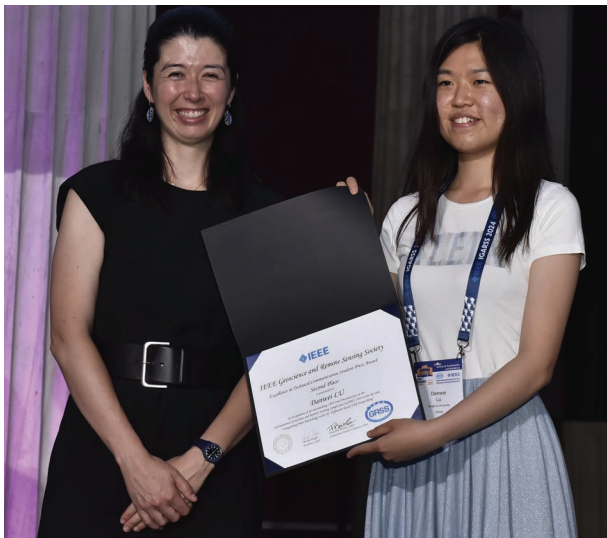


FIGURE 19. Danwei Lu (right) receives the second prize for the 2024 IEEE GRSS Excellence in Technical Communication Student Prize Award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left).

SECOND PRIZE PAPER RECIPIENT

Danwei Lu (Figure 19) received the second prize for the work “Integrating Prior Knowledge With AI: Diffusion-Based SAR Despeckling.”

Lu received her B.E. degree in electronic engineering from Tsinghua University, where she is currently working toward her Ph.D. degree in the Radar Remote Sensing Lab, under the guidance of Prof. Jian Yang. Her research interests are related to the generation and despeckling of synthetic aperture radar images via deep generative models.

FIRST PRIZE PAPER RECIPIENT

Florencio Campomanes V (Figure 20) received the first prize for “Empowering the Unseen: Data-Centric AI for Global Slum Mapping.” Campomanes is a Ph.D. candidate with the Space4All project, Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation, University of Twente, The Netherlands, where he also completed his M.Sc. degree in geoinformation and Earth observation (cum laude). His research interests are in data-centric artificial intelligence (AI) for transferable slum mapping while leveraging AI, Earth observation, and citizen science.

IEEE GRSS STUDENT PRIZE PAPER AWARDS

The IEEE GRSS Student Prize Paper Award program was established to recognize the best student papers presented at IGARSS. It is believed that early recognition of an outstanding paper will encourage students to strive for greater and con-



FIGURE 20. Florencio Campomanes V (right) receives the first prize for the 2024 IEEE GRSS Excellence in Technical Communication Student Prize Award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left).

tinued contributions to the geoscience and remote sensing profession. The award is considered annually.

Ten high-quality papers are preselected by the GRSS Student Prize Paper reviewers and GRSS Symposium Awards Committee in cooperation with the Technical Program Committee. The students present their papers in a special session, and a jury, formed by the Symposium Awards Committee, evaluates and ranks them for the awards. The 10 finalists of the Student Prize Paper Award contest are invited to attend the awards banquet free of charge.

A total of three awards are presented, including two IEEE GRSS Student Prize Paper Awards (second and third prize, with a certificate presented for each and an honorarium of US\$750 and US\$500, respectively) and the IEEE Mikio Takagi Student Prize (first prize, which includes a certificate and an honorarium of US\$1,000) (Figure 21).



FIGURE 21. The 2024 IEEE GRSS Student Prize Paper Award winners. From left: GRSS President Mariko Burgin, Marta Bottani (Mikio Takagi Student Prize, first prize), Jihanne El Haouari (third prize), Yu Hashimoto (second prize), and GRSS Symposium Awards Committee Chair Francesca Bovolo.



FIGURE 22. Jihanne El Haouari (right) receives the third prize for the 2024 IEEE GRSS Student Prize Paper Award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left).



FIGURE 23. Yu Hashimoto (right) receives the second prize for the 2024 IEEE GRSS Student Prize Paper Award from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left).



FIGURE 24. Marta Bottani (right) receives the 2024 IEEE Mikio Takagi Student Prize from GRSS President Mariko Burgin (left).

THIRD PRIZE PAPER RECIPIENT

Jihanne El Haouari (Figure 22) received third prize for “Estimation of Instrument Spectral Response Functions Using Sparse Representations in a Dictionary.”

El Haouari has an M.S. degree in space and aeronautical telecommunications and operations research and is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in signal processing applied to remote sensing at TésA laboratory, IRIT, and the University of Toulouse, in France, on inverse problems in satellite imaging for greenhouse gas monitoring, collaborating with the company Thales Alenia Space and the Center National d’Études Spatiales.

SECOND PRIZE PAPER RECIPIENT

Yu Hashimoto, University of Tokyo (Figure 23), received second prize for the work “RFI Detection Using Degree of Polarization for Polarimetric Synthetic Aperture Radar.”

Hashimoto received the B.S. degree from the University of Tokyo in 2024. He is currently pursuing the M.S. degree in electrical engineering. His research interests include synthetic aperture radar and radio-frequency interference.

IEEE MIKIO TAKAGI STUDENT PRIZE

Marta Bottani (Figure 24) received the IEEE Mikio Takagi Student Prize for the work “A Statistical Method for Near Real-Time Deforestation Monitoring Using Time Series of Sentinel-1 Images.”

Bottani is pursuing a Ph.D. degree (TésA laboratory, Toulouse) focusing on timely forest loss monitoring using multifrequency radar and optical data and on forest monitoring techniques to address pressing ecological challenges. She obtained her B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from the Università Degli Studi di Trento and the Politecnico di Milano in 2019 and 2021, respectively, and spent a year as a young graduate trainee at the European Space Agency, in The Netherlands.

SOME WORDS OF THANKS

The IEEE GRSS thanks the evaluators of IGARSS 2024 technical sessions; the editorial boards of *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing*, *IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters*, and *J-STARS*; the IEEE GRSS Publication Awards Committee; the GRSS Symposium Awards Committee; the GRSS Special Awards Committee; the Young Professionals group; and the judges of the IEEE GRSS Excellence in Technical Communication Student Prize Award for the valuable input provided during the awards process.

We encourage all GRSS members to actively participate in nominating distinguished colleagues for GRSS major awards, including the IEEE GRSS Distinguished Achievement Award, IEEE GRSS Outstanding Service Award, IEEE GRSS Education Award, and IEEE GRSS special awards, such as the IEEE GRSS Early Career Award, IEEE GRSS David Landgrebe Award, and IEEE GRSS Regional Leader Award. GRSS members can nominate papers for the publication awards by following the instructions on the GRSS webpage (<http://www.grss-ieee.org/about/awards/>).