



# COSPAR AND CAPACITY BUILDING

## THE COMMITTEE ON SPACE RESEARCH (COSPAR)

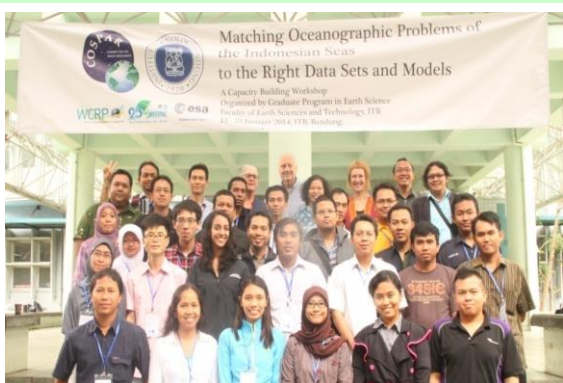
The Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) is a scientific interdisciplinary body of the International Council for Science (ICSU). It was established in 1958 with the primary purpose of providing “*the world scientific community with the means whereby it may exploit the possibilities of satellites and space probes of all kinds for scientific purposes and exchange the resulting data on a cooperative basis.*” COSPAR is well-known in the space research community for its role in promoting international cooperation and disseminating research results through:



- **Scientific Assemblies** held every two years. Recent Assemblies took place respectively in Germany (2010), India (2012), and Russia (2014), with attendance between 2 and 3,000 scientists (including about several hundred students). The 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly planned in Istanbul, Turkey, on 31 July-7 August 2016 was cancelled. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Assembly is being held in Pasadena, CA, USA on 14-22 July 2018.
- A **Capacity Building Program** which features training workshops held in the developing world, during which students and young professionals are exposed to the most recent scientific data and analysis techniques in space-related disciplines, and a companion fellowship program.
- **Publications**, including *Advances in Space Research*, an open scientific journal, 24 issues per year, and *Space Research Today*, a thrice-yearly information bulletin.
- **The COSPAR Symposium**, which promotes space research in countries with small to medium-size space infrastructure. The 1<sup>st</sup> Symposium took place in 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium was held in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil in 2015 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Symposium in 2017 in Jeju, South Korea. The 4<sup>th</sup> Symposium will be held in Herzliya, near Tel Aviv, Israel, on 4-8 November 2019.

## COSPAR CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

COSPAR has organized since 2001 capacity building workshops with various partners, including WMO VLab, in order to convey practical knowledge and to build lasting bridges between scientists. Recent capacity building workshops relating to Earth observation were held in; Fortaleza, Brazil, on the Earth's water cycle (2010); Delhi,



Group photo of Bandung Workshop participants, January 2014

India, on atmospheric aerosols and climate and in Cape Town, South Africa, on land remote sensing (2011); in Beijing, China, on the Earth's water cycle (2012); in Bangkok, Thailand, on Atmospheric correction of remote sensing data (2013); in Bandung, Indonesia, on Oceanic problems in the Indonesian Sea and in Tver, Russia on Satellite remote sensing, water cycle and climate change (2014); and, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on Remote sensing of transboundary water resources (2015). A workshop co-sponsored by WMO addressed space weather (Kamchatka, Russia, August 2016).

More workshops were held in 2017 (Argentina, Ghana, South Korea, China/Taiwan) and 2018 (Ecuador, Ethiopia, Brazil).

## THE COSPAR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

This program is open to young scientists who have participated in one of the COSPAR capacity building workshops. It provides for visits of 2-4 weeks duration for the purpose of carrying out joint research in laboratories that collaborate with COSPAR. The group of laboratories participating in the program includes centers in Austria, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Netherlands Spain, Switzerland, UK and USA.



Student reporting on her project and group photo with diplomas at Delhi (Sharda University) Workshop, January 2011



Introduction of the 42 participants from 9 SE Asia at the Ho Chi Minh City Workshop, October-November 2015