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Lin Liu
Xia Li
Kai Liu
Xinchang Zhang
Aijun Chen
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Introduction

All papers included in this volume are selected from the 16th International Conference on GeoInformatics and the Joint Conference on GIS and Built Environment organized by Sun Yat-sen University and the University of Cincinnati and held 28–29 June 2008 in Guangzhou, China. The Geoinformatics conference series was initiated by the International Association of Chinese Professionals in Geographic Information Sciences (CPGIS) in 1992. The Joint Conference on GIS and Built Environment is a new conference series initiated by Sun Yat-sen University and the University of Cincinnati.

The central theme of the combined conference is GIS, Built Environment, and Geo-simulation. The main topics included geo-simulation and virtual GIS environments, the built environment and its dynamics, the monitoring and assessment of natural resources and environments, advanced spatial data models and analyses, and classification of remote sensing images.

This combined conference provided a unique forum for exchanging ideas and knowledge on geo-information sciences between GIS professionals worldwide. This year's GeoInformatics conference is the largest ever. Over 800 participants came from 15 countries and regions, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Australia, South Africa, Turkey, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan. The organizers received more than 900 abstracts, and nearly 600 full papers. The conference program consists of 212 oral presentations and over 300 posters.

All papers in this volume are selected through a rigorous peer-review process. We believe that you will find these papers useful.

Finally, we would like to thank all authors and reviewers for their contributions to this volume.

Lin Liu and Xia Li
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