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## ***Automatic Target Recognition and Image Analysis***

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## Introduction

The Three Gorges Dam is one of the most spectacular engineering feats in the modern world, and has become a famous site for admiring visitors from afar. We are proud to have chosen Yichang, the nearest city to the Three Gorges Dam, as the venue of the Sixth International Symposium on Multispectral Image Processing and Pattern Recognition. Professor Deren Li, Wuhan University, is one of the leading authorities on remote sensing in the world. We are very happy that he has agreed to serve as honorary chair of the symposium.

We hope that the participants of the symposium will not only be hard working at the conference, but also find time to see the sites around the area. The symposium has a broad reach: Instead of interpreting "multispectral" in its narrow sense of multiple-wavelength, we consider it in a very broad sense to include "multimodal" (e.g., audio and visual) and "multimedia" (e.g., text, graphics). In the 672 papers presented at this symposium, there are discussions on almost all aspects of this broad field. Important and novel tools in signal processing and machine learning will be presented and applied to remote sensing, GIS data processing, automatic target recognition, biometrics, medical imaging, and other problems. One crucial issue in multispectral/multimodal/multimedia processing and analysis is: How do we fuse from multiple sources? There are three possibilities: Low or feature-level fusion, middle level fusion, and high or decision level fusion. This issue will be discussed in some of the papers.

The response to the call for papers was overwhelming. Around 1,300 papers were submitted, of which 672 were selected for presentation. The proceedings of the symposium includes 5 volumes:

1. Multispectral Image Acquisition and Multispectral Image Processing
2. Automatic Target Recognition and Image Analysis
3. Pattern Recognition and Computer Vision
4. Parallel Processing of Images and Optimization Techniques and Medical Imaging and Processing
5. Remote Sensing and GIS Data Processing and Other Applications.

This symposium provides a forum for scientists and engineers from universities, industry and government labs to meet and exchange ideas. We expect that there will be ample discussions both inside and outside the lecture halls, and we can guarantee that this will be a most exciting event. The realization of a symposium depends on the hard work of all people related and interested. We would like to thank all members of the organization committee who are responsible for making this conference a success.

**Thomas S. Huang**  
**Bo Zhang**

