



ASTER 20th Anniversary

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The Advanced Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) is a research facility instrument on NASA's Terra spacecraft. We will soon celebrate the 20th anniversary of ASTER since its launch in December 1999. ASTER has been providing high spatial resolution multispectral data in the VNIR, SWIR and TIR regions, and along-track stereo data. Starting April 2016, ASTER data have been distributed to the public at no cost. Another important and the most popular data set is the ASTER Global DEM, which covers almost the entire land surface at 30 m grid size. ASTER data have been widely used in a variety of application areas such as land surface mapping and change detection, volcano and other natural hazard monitoring, and urban heat island monitoring. This special issue will cover topics including scientific achievements using ASTER data, calibration activities to ensure long-term consistency of ASTER data, applications to a wide range of disciplines, and commercial and operational uses. We also encourage the submission of papers on individual scientific results obtained by using ASTER data.





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