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A. J. Chen received his BSEE degree from National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, in 1964 and his M. S. and Ph. D. degrees in Space Science from Rice University, in 1968 and 1970, respectively.

He was a PDF/Research Associate at the University of Alberta, Edmonton (1970-72), an NRC Research Associate at NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center (1972-74) and a Senior Space Physicist (1974-1976) at Aiken Industries, before joining the Faculty of the National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan, as an Associate Professor (1976). He served as Professor from 1977 until he retired in February 2007. He has held the position of Remote Sensing Chair-Professorship at the same university since 2007. Over a period of 32 years, he actively promoted remote sensing programs and the establishment of the necessary infrastructure in Taiwan. He became the founding director of Center for Space and Remote Sensing Research at National Central University in 1984 and served as director from 1984 to 1990 and from 1993 to 1995. This Center is one of its kind and a center for excellence in Taiwan. With strong support from the government over a period of 6 years, he set up the CSRSR Resource Satellite Receiving Station, a world-renowned national laboratory-type facility, at the same center in 1993 and served as the Principal Investigator until 2005. He received a prestigious "Executive Yuan Outstanding Award in Science and Technology" in 2001 for his contribution to remote sensing. He served as the President of the Chinese Taipei Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (1997-2000, 2003-2006), as well as Chairman of the ROC National Committee for the Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP, 1991-1998).