

Editorial

When Istanbul, Turkey was chosen as the venue of the XXth ISPRS Congress, I took on the job of being its president with great pleasure, a great sense of responsibility and some apprehension. Now after almost ten months, when the first announcement of the congress is being distributed, I have great confidence that the coming congress will be a memorable event.

Once again, I would like to thank the General Assembly for their confidence in voting Istanbul to hold this meeting and for choosing me as its president. I am also proud of being the first Turkish member of the Council. I am sure that the new Council will work as harmoniously as the previous ones.

The XXth ISPRS Congress will bring together scientists, managers, exhibitors and practitioners to a historical location to review the latest developments in photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial sciences between the years 2000 – 2004. I am confident that both the congress and its venue will lead to a fruitful exchange of knowledge and experience in these fields.

Some of you may remember my speech in the unforgettable 'Dinner Show' in Amsterdam. There I had invited you to search for 'the four leaf clover' when inviting you to Istanbul. To enable you to find the promised clovers, I am now busy with preparing the seeds and turning over the land in preparation of planting. I hope that we will be able to plant the seeds during the intercommission meetings in the coming year and to harvest them in the year 2004.

In our previous issues, we had informed you of the work programme we are implementing in preparation for our congress. Hereunder please find our proposed programme :

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| - December 2000 | Web Site of the Congress |
| - February 2001 | First Announcement |
| - May 2002 | Mid-Term Newsletter |
| - September 2002 | Exhibition Call |
| - February 2003 | Second Announcement and Call for Papers |
| - 20 September 2003 | Deadline for Submission of Abstracts |
| - 20 December 2003 | Notification of the Authors |
| - 31 January 2004 | Deadline for Submission of Full Papers for Application to Young Authors Award |
| - 30 March 2004 | Last Date for Submission of Full Papers |
| - 15 May 2004 | Programme |

In accordance with this programme, we are trying everything to forward the First Announcement and the poster of the congress to all of you. Our aim is to furnish you with all the latest developments of our Society and to enable you to fill in the registration forms to be sent to us and thus prepare a congress which will comply to the standards of ISPRS. We think that we can reach you much faster by e-mail when we have the registration forms at hand.

Another correspondence site for getting information about the congress is: www.isprs2004-istanbul.com

As a member of the Council, it is my greatest duty to create an unforgettable congress which is technically accurate, socially rich and also to give the delegates the chance of discussing the latest developments in the fields of photogrammetry, remote sensing and informative sciences. I am trying to perform this duty to the best of my ability.

As I am also the president of the CIPA Symposium to be held in Antalya, Turkey in 2003, I have to carry the responsibilities of both of these congresses together. My greatest assets are the young people assisting me and the very experienced MAGISTER Company with whom I have been working for the past two years. I will be able to give you more information about this subject after the POTS-DAM CIPA Symposium in September of this year.

As you know, the Olympic games will be held in 2004 in Greece, our neighbour. The delegates of ISPRS Congress in Istanbul will have the chance of attending both events by lengthening their stays in a region which is the cradle of western civilisations. We are also prepared to assist you in this matter.

I hope to have the chance of calling you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Dr. M. Orhan Altan
ISPRS 2004 Istanbul, Congress Director

