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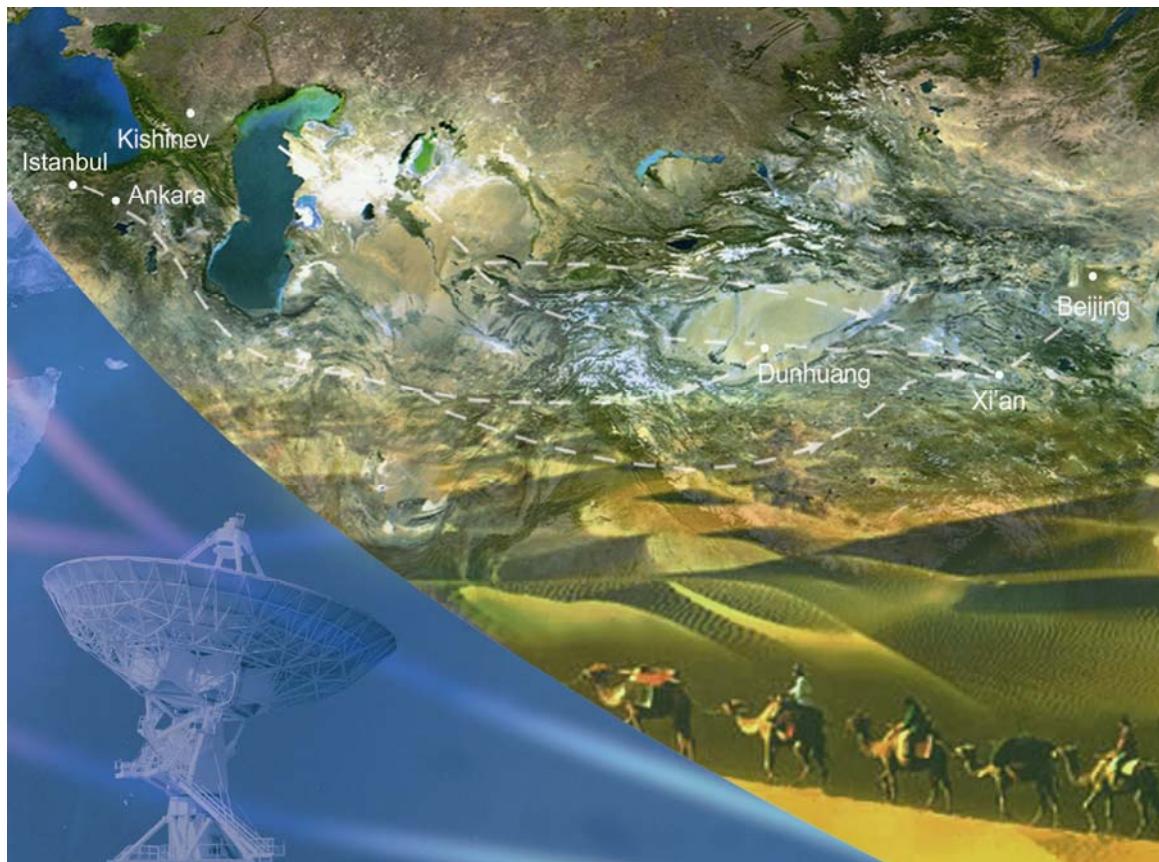
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Edited by:  
**CHEN Jun, JIANG Jie, Wolfgang KAINZ**

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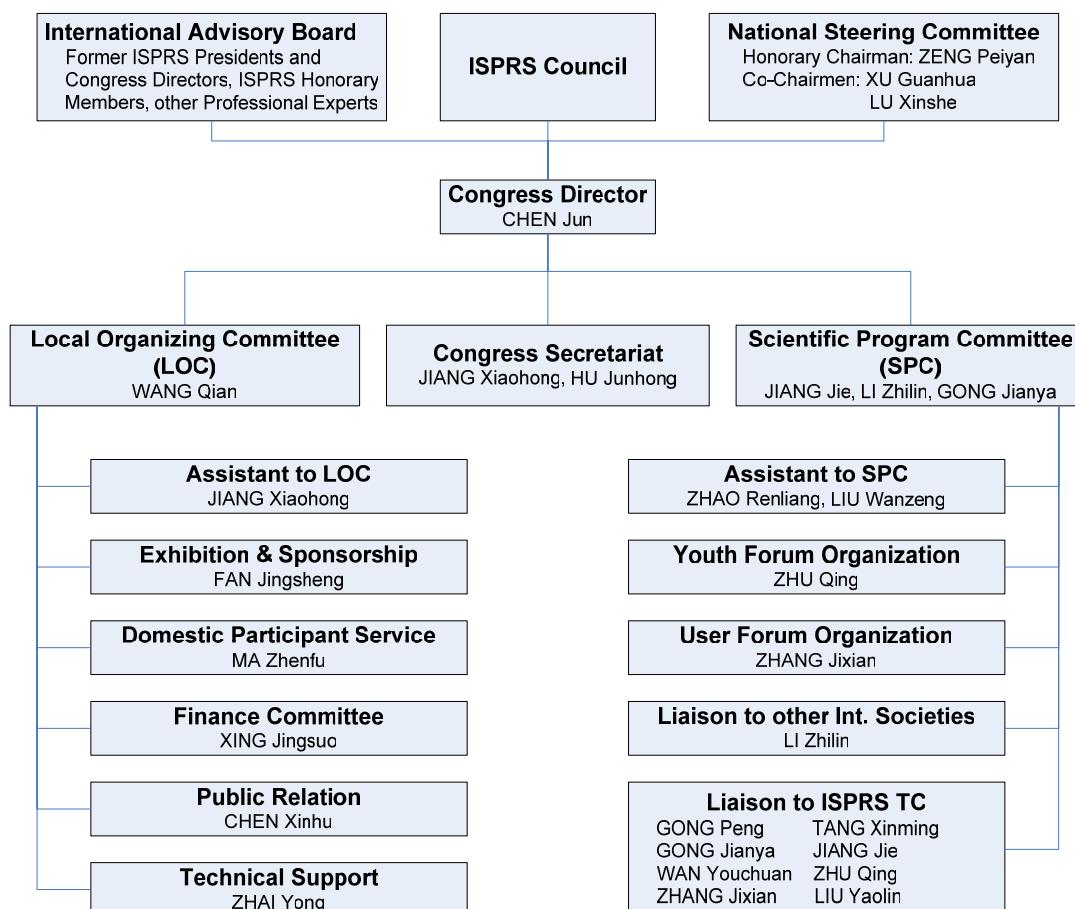
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## **Introduction**

Geographic information systems have been introduced more than 40 years ago. Over the decades more and more work has been devoted to establish not only a solid and operational software base but also a firm theory that should function as the foundation for the current technology and further development. Many scientific organizations have focused in various ways on the theory and practice of spatial data handling.

In 2004 at the Istanbul Congress ISPRS established a new structure for its technical commissions reflecting the increased need to devote more attention and efforts to spatial information science. Technical Commission II on Theory and Concepts of Spatio-temporal Data Handling and Information was established beside TC IV as one of the two Technical Commissions devoted to GIS. Considering the technical developments and state-of-the-art the Commission was organized into seven working groups and one inter commission working group between TC II and TC IV. WG II/1 focuses on spatio-temporal modeling which is a fundamental activity in spatial data handling. The subjects of spatial reasoning, analysis, and data mining are treated in WG II/2. Multiple representations of image and vector data are the subject of WG II/3; spatial planning and decision support systems are covered by WG II/4. Communication and visualization of spatial data as a link to cartography is the responsibility of WG II/5. An important topic in GIS is also system integration and interoperability which belongs to WG II/6. Finally, the aspects of the quality of spatio-temporal data and models are the focus of WG II/7. The inter-commission WG II/IV on dynamic and multi-dimensional systems and applications functions as the link between the more theory-oriented TC II and the application-oriented TC IV.

This volume reflects the developments in the field of TC II over the last four years and contains the papers submitted and accepted for presentation at the Congress in Beijing. I would like to thank all working group officers and authors for their continuing efforts and support of the commission work. I also would like to thank the Congress organizers for their hard work and successful organization of this event.

Wolfgang Kainz  
President of ISPRS Technical Commission II

Vienna, May 2008

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