

ISPRS

2004

WELCOME TO THE XXth ISPRS CONGRESS

Introduction by the Congress Director, Orhan Altan

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The traditional, quadrennial ISPRS Congress was held in 2004 in the historical and beautiful city of Istanbul connecting two continents, Europe and Asia. The Congress was officially opened on 14th July in the superb auditorium of the Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Centre (ICEC) with an impressive video showing a wide range of innovative applications of photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences followed by a truly stunning dance show embodying several millenia of Turkish history, thus linking technology with culture. Welcoming addresses were delivered by the Congress Director, Orhan Altan, President of ISPRS, John Trinder, President of the Turkish Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Major General Ali Fuat Saraç and the Guest of Honor, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Turkey, Vecdi Gönül.

After the ceremony, the delegates were invited to a brilliant evening on the Convention Centre terrace for a fine welcome reception. Here in the pleasant atmosphere, the delegates had the chance of meeting old acquaintances, making new ones and exchanging news and views.

Two days before the official opening of the Congress, six tutorials and one workshop were held in the Technical University, Division of Architecture some 500 meters away. There were 195 attendees to the five Tutorials and 20 attendees to the one Workshop

The General Assemblies which form the focus of the Congress for the National Delegates and Advisers from each Ordinary Member of ISPRS were held on the 14th, 16th, 19th and 21st of July to determine the policy of the Society and to provide the Council with the authority for all significant decisions. The four meetings of the General Assembly form a vital part of operation of ISPRS, not only electing the office holders for the next four year session but also ensuring that the elected Council carry out the democratically determined wishes and policies of the Ordinary members. During the first General Assembly on the 14th July, a very important decision was taken to register ISPRS as a legal entity in order both to assert its rights to carry on its proper business and to protect itself and its officers against potential litigation. After lengthy discussions, the General Assembly approved the registration in U.S.A. by a substantial majority. Among other benefits, this decision ensures that the newly established "ISPRS Foundation" can maintain the momentum already gathered under the leadership of past – President Larry Fritz.

The candidates to host the eight newly constituted and reorganized ISPRS Technical Commissions were the next highlight of the General Assembly. Another



important point was the election of the country to host the Congress in 2008. This year the candidates were Australia and China. They made their presentations with backups from the views of their countries and the congress centers. Finally China was elected by a majority of votes to hold the Congress in Beijing in 2008.

After the reports of the President, Secretary General and the Treasurer on their activities and achievements over the past four years, the nominations for the members of the Council was reviewed and after some discussions, the following candidates were elected to the positions as follows :

President	Ian Dowman (UK)
Secretary General	Orhan Altan (TR)
Second Vice President	Emmanuel Baltsavias (CH)
Treasurer	Stanley Morain (USA)

Retiring President John Trinder (AU) accepted his automatic entitlement to the post of First Vice President.

Chen Jun (China) was ratified as Congress Director and Petros Patias (Greece) was elected Chairman of the Financial Commission and the two remaining posts were filled by Costas Armenakis (Canada) and Lena Halounova (Czech Republic).

Necessary amendments to ISPRS Statues and Bylaws were also duly ratified.

While Council believed that the photogrammetric community was well served by the Commissions, the communities of remote sensing and spatial information sciences were fragmented amongst several Commissions. A goal of the redefinition of the Technical Commissions, which took place in 2003, was therefore to clearly identify these areas in ISPRS and make them more attractive to individuals in these fields, so that the work of ISPRS in these areas could be advanced. Therefore the number of Technical Commissions was increased to eight, two in each of the areas of photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial

information sciences, one studying theoretical aspects and the other practical aspects. As well, there are two supporting Commissions, one on data acquisition systems and the other on communication and outreach. It is quite clear that the Istanbul Congress was a success both scientifically and socially and was enjoyed by those who attended it, as well as proving very interesting technically, and providing a great deal of useful information to participants.

This volume has been prepared to give you detailed information on the XXth ISPRS Istanbul Congress.



Istanbul Convention & Exhibition Center