

ISPRS

2004

BEFORE THE CONGRESS

**The Preparation of the XXth ISPRS Congress of the International Society for
Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
Press Conference Before the XXth ISPRS Istanbul Congress**

THE PREPARATION OF THE XXTH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PHOTOGRAMMETRY AND REMOTE SENSING

The Relationship of Turkey and ISPRS

Individuals from Turkey attended the Second Congress of the International Society for Photogrammetry in Berlin in 1926. Later on it attended these meetings irregularly and voted at the General Assembly. The necessity of a more regular participation in the meetings of ISPRS forced Turkey to establish a national society.

Turkish National Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (TNSPRS) was approved with the decisions of the Council of Ministers dated 1974 and Feb. 2, 1984, bearing the number 84/7698 and derived its current policy from the statutes and purposes of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

The General Command of Mapping is the representative institution of TNSPRS and its President is the General Commander of Mapping.



The topic of Turkey's being host for the XXth General Congress of ISPRS was discussed by the Secretariat of TNSPRS at the ordinary Council Meeting at the General Command of Mapping on Jan 16, 1998, and in the second meeting at the Yildiz Technical University on June 18, 1998, the candidacy of Turkey to host the XXth Congress of ISPRS was approved unanimously. In addition to Turkey, Spain, Australia, National Republic of China also declared their candidacy to be host for this congress but, Australia subsequently withdrew their candidacy.

The reasons for Turkey's candidacy were:

- Studies on photogrammetry had been carried out with modern technology in the private sector and public institutions in recent years.
- Many national and international seminars and symposiums were organized as in public and education institutions related to photogrammetry and remote sensing.
- Scientific and technical meetings were an indication of significant members the

existence of scientific and administrative personnel in the fields of ISPRS

- Foreign participants at international meetings supported the candidacy
- Participation in scientific projects of ISPRS commended in recent years and are continuing. Three of these projects concerning Turkey were completed and presented in the last five years. There are four continuing projects and attempts to participate in two new projects were initiated
- In the Regional Organization Meeting of ISPRS (OEEPE) held in Europe in 1999, Turkey's offer to manage a project study on "Quality Administration in Geographical Data" was accepted unanimously together with other international project offers from Sweden and Belgium. Turkey was appointed to the presidency of a working group related to the subject

Based on the decision of TNSPRS, after the approval of the Ministry of Defense, Turkey's letter of intention to bid for the Congress was sent to the President of ISPRS by the General Command of Mapping. In the reply it was stated that Turkey's candidacy met with the satisfaction of ISPRS Council.

In the ordinary council meeting of TNSPRS held on December 11, 1998, it was unanimously decided to establish an organization committee of 9 persons, 4 from the General Command of Mapping, 2 from Istanbul Technical University and three from the professional tourism agency. Orhan Altan was elected as the President and it was decided that the secretarial activities would be carried out by the General Command of Mapping. It was also decided to hold the Congress in the Istanbul Lütfi Kırdar Congress and Exhibition Palace in July 2004 lasting for 8 – 10 days.



The slogan and logo for Turkey's candidacy were chosen and brochures and posters were prepared. A web page was formed and a multivision show about Turkey prepared. The ISPRS Council Members were invited to Istanbul to inspect the facilities.

Finally a presentation was made during the General Assembly of the XIXth ISPRS Amsterdam Congress and Turkey won the bid by a majority of votes.

History of Cartography in Anatolia

Cartography and cultural history have an influence over each other. Cultural history defines developments in the social and economic aspects of life which are influenced by scientific and technical experiences, in other words, developments in the life style of humans. These scientific and technical experiences include

methods of measurement, calculation, drawing and instruments provided to cartographers to carry out their duties.

During the course of history, cartographic studies were carried out not only by cartographers but also by astronomers, geographers, sailors and architects. Since the Turks had been in almost every part of the world, because of economic, social political and climatic reasons, they tried to learn about the geography and structural features of these places and as a result of these efforts they produced maps based on the technical opportunities available. Turkish cartography was commenced by Beyruni (Biruni) and Kasgarli Mahmut who grew up in the Middle Ages. It was improved by Ibrahim Mürsel, Piri Reis, and Ali Macar Reis in the Ottoman Empire during the XV and XVI centuries.



A Part of the World Map by Piri Reis

Biruni, Ibn-Rüsd, Ibn-Sina and others who had grown up in the Middle Ages, helped Europe to emerge from the darkness of the Middle Ages and to reconsider Greek philosophy which facilitated the transition to the Enlightenment Age. At the same time, it also formed the base of numbers used today and developments in algebra, astronomy and other branches of science.

The Turks, who wandered the seas, reaching out to three continents, formed various maps by putting the information about the places down on paper. For this reason, the history of Turkish cartography is older than the history of world cartography. Turkish cartography which developed with the famous Turkish cartographers, Piri Reis, Seydi Ali Reis and Ali Macar Reis in the XVI and XVII centuries reached its pinnacle with the “World Map” of Piri Reis.

The officers who were sent to France for education in geodesy in 1892 established the base of modern cartography on their return to Turkey. In 1947 it was decided to establish the Surveying and Cadastral Department in the Yildiz Technical University and in 1950 the photogrammetry laboratory was set up. Then in late 60’s the departments of Geodesy and Photogrammetry were founded in the Black Sea Technical University and Istanbul Technical University. Other departments were established in different locations and on different dates.

Location of the Congress

The XXth ISPRS Congress was held at the Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC). ICEC is ideally located in the heart of the city’s business, cultural and commercial districts and within walking distance of 16 hotels housing 3400 guestrooms. “The Center” houses 21 meeting rooms including a 2000-armchair auditorium, equipped with the latest technology for compliance with total convention and production requirements. More information can be found on the ICEC homepage (<http://www.icec.org>)



Council Members and partners in Nicea (Iznik)

The Theme of the Congress

GEO-IMAGERY BRIDGING CONTINENTS was chosen as the theme of the XXth ISPRS Congress to express the fact that the acquisition, processing and use of “GEO-IMAGERY” will play an important role in our future professional activities. New technological developments, particularly in computers have significantly influenced the theory and practice of photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences. In fact, geospatial information technologies are widely applied in such diverse activities as property conveyance, infrastructure design and facilities management, environmental assessment, and land use planning, while geo-imagery processing is used at close range for engineering and documentation purposes. Geospatial analysis not only makes possible answering old scientific questions more efficiently, it also enables us to address a whole new series of questions over a range of spatial, spectral and temporal scales. This not only provides an improved understanding of how the Earth works as a system, it also provides a new paradigm for the management of natural resources and the environment. Therefore understanding geo-imagery provides key core elements in micro or macro scale applications. Another important aspect of geo-imagery is its ability to bring numerous individuals to a “common understanding” in terms of the information on which they base their analysis and decisions. The importance of geo-imagery to the community and the ISPRS efforts toward improving its processing and application were stressed at the XXth Congress. All Congress officials and participants were invited to contribute to this effort. By combining “GEO-IMAGERY” with the words “BRIDGING CONTINENTS” the Congress Organizing Committee wished to demonstrate the characteristics of the chosen Congress location, namely the city of Istanbul. The Congress Organizing Committee wished the XXth Congress participants in Istanbul to benefit from the “*fascinating blend of EAST and WEST, PAST and PRESENT, MODERN and EXOTIC*” in their future planning activities.



Collecting energy on Mount Olympus prior to the Congress

PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE THE XXth ISPRS ISTANBUL CONGRESS



On 28 April 2004, a press conference was held in the Istanbul Congress and Exhibition Center to give information to the press about the coming Congress. The President of the National Advisory Board, Ayhan Alkis, XXth ISPRS Istanbul Congress Director, Orhan Altan and ISPRS ISAC (International Science Advisory Committee) Chair, Armin Gruen of ETHZ presided at the head table. There were 35 reporters from different newspapers and television channels.

Orhan Altan gave information on the coming XXth Congress, its dates, location, scientific and social programmes, key-note speakers, exhibition to be held in conjunction with the Congress, the high quality of the papers received which were to be presented orally or as posters, the awards which would be given to the best papers and, the contests which would be held during the Congress.



Ayhan Alkis explained to the reporters what photogrammetry was, its usefulness to human life, the methods of application of photogrammetry and how photogrammetry was used in the different fields of science from cartography to the environment,

urbanization, agriculture, medicine and collecting information from space.



Armin Gruen related how useful photogrammetry was for preserving the world heritage for the coming generations. He gave examples of the destroyed Bamiyan Budhas. He said that if photogrammetry had not recorded these statues, they would have been lost completely to the world as they were destroyed by the extremist Taleban regime. The archaeological remains of the Bamiyan Valley had been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List by the World Heritage Committee in 2003.

The press Conference was printed in most of the major newspapers the following day and it was shown on the television channels on the same day thus helping to attract more interest to the XXth ISPRS Istanbul Congress.



From left to right : Prof. Dr. Ayhan Alkis, Prof. Dr. Armin Gruen, Prof. Dr. Orhan Altan