

ISPRS President's Annual Report

The year 2010 has seen the completion of all eight midterm Symposia, which Technical Commissions are required to hold. All Symposia were successful and all Technical Commission Presidents deserve congratulations for their major contributions to the scientific work of ISPRS. Council was very pleased with the conduct of the Symposia, and I am sure that they have led to good preparations for the Congress in Melbourne in August 2012.

On July 4, 1910, the International Society for Photogrammetry (ISP), now the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) was founded in Vienna, Austria on initiative of Prof. Eduard Dolezal. In July 2010, the Society celebrated the Centenary of its founding and the major contributions of the many professionals who have played a role in its development over the past 100 years, at its birthplace, Vienna University of Technology. A series of events marked the historic occasion. Celebrations kicked off on 2 July with the launch of a booklet produced by the Joint Board of Geospatial Societies titled "Geoinformation for Disaster and Risk Management; Examples and Best Practices" at the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in the Vienna International Centre. The Technical University of Vienna was the venue for an Open Business meeting of the ISPRS in the afternoon of 3 July, 2010. On the morning of 4th of July the historic meeting room of the Vienna University of Technology was the venue of the extraordinary General Assembly of the Society. During the GA, to which all ISPRS Presidents have attended, the first 12 Fellows of ISPRS was announced and the new Strategic Plan of the Society was decided. At the garden of the Vienna University of Technology a plaque was commemorated signing the foundation of the Society in 1910 in this venue. In addition, three presentations were given addressing respectively the past history of ISPRS, the new paradigm of Geolmagery for ISPRS, and anticipated future developments in ISPRS fields of interest. A Gala Dinner was held in the Vienna Rathaus (Town Hall) where Professor Franz Josef Radermacher, mathematician and economist of Ulm University in Germany and an expert on globalization, innovation, overpopulation and global sustainable development, gave an inspiring speech on the need for cooperation between all individuals in society, action necessary to combat climate change, and issues of food security. A web page on the ISPRS centenary has been launched, including the centenary programme, photos, reports and documents concerning associated events. For more information please visit (<http://www.isprs.org/documents/centenary.aspx>)

The year 2011 is an important one for the preparations for the Congress. The Second Announcement document will be distributed early this year. Other documentation for the Commercial and Scientific Exhibits has already been circulated. Presenters of papers at the technical sessions must submit their papers by 24 October 2011. This commences the process for the selection of papers for the technical sessions and interactive sessions. The Congress Director Professor Cliff Ogleby and his team are taking great care in the preparation of the Congress and excellent technical and social programs are guaranteed. The year 2011 will also be a big year for ISPRS events, with many Working Groups planning workshops. I hope to meet with many of you in 2011.

Orhan ALTAN
ISPRS President