

Highlights of the XXII Congress of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), Melbourne, Australia

25 August – 1 September, 2012

Can you imagine organizing a conference where 75 percent of the attendees will suffer from jet lag, an economic downturn will result in the withdrawal of over 40 percent of submitted abstracts and 292 manuscripts, the equivalent of three years of articles that typically appear in a journal, require a double-blind review? Most would answer an unequivocal and heart-felt, “No.” In spite of these challenges, however, Congress Director, Cliff Ogleby, Technical Program Chair, Mark Shortis, the Council, Technical Commission Presidents and Working Group officers of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) and the Local Organizing Committee of Melbourne, Australia, managed to organize and host an extremely successful XXII ISPRS Congress to finish their 2008-2012 quadrennial term. Held in the spacious and newly opened Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Center, over 1,950 participants from 74 countries were welcomed to Australia by ISPRS President, Orhan Altan, during the Opening Ceremony. A Welcome Reception followed with participants having direct access to Australian animals such as a meter-long crocodile, koala, dingo puppies and various cream-colored pythons being displayed by animal handlers of the Melbourne Zoo.

From 25 August to 1 September, 2012, over 1,000 papers were presented in Oral Technical, Theme and Special Sessions, along with 11 Plenary presentations, 30 Invited Papers and 95 Short + Interactive digital posters. These presentations focused on the Congress theme, “Imaging a Sustainable Future” and covered the topics of eight ISPRS Commissions: I) image data acquisition, sensors and platforms; II) theory and concepts of spatial information science; III) photogrammetric computer vision and image analysis; IV) geodatabases and digital mapping; V) close-range sensing: analysis and applications; VI) education and outreach; VII) thematic processing, modeling and analysis of remotely sensed data; and VIII) remote sensing applications and policies. The introduction of a Congress App operational on cell phones, tablets, laptops and kiosks located throughout the Convention Center greatly facilitated the participants’ Congress experience of the Technical Program and direct access to all Congress documents. Seventy eight exhibitors, noting especially Congress Platinum Sponsor, Hexagon, Silver Sponsor, Esri, and a number of Chinese geospatial companies, offered state-of-the-art services and hardware/software solutions for data collection, processing, display and feature extraction.

Delegates from nearly 40 Ordinary Member countries met in four General Assemblies to address Society policies and elect Council members and Technical Commission Presidents for the next term. The Melbourne Congress ended with a Gala Dinner held at the world famous Flemington Racecourse. Participants enjoyed a splendid meal and live entertainment.

Prestigious awards were awarded during the Congress. The Brock Gold Medal Award was presented to Franz Leberl for his landmark developments over the past 30 years in the fields of photogrammetry and remote sensing. Two individuals, Ian Dowman and Li Deren, were elected as Honorary Members of ISPRS for their life-long and distinguished services to the Society. Finally, Dieter Fritsch, Martien Molenaar, Shailesh Nayak, Paul Newby and Heinz Rüther were elected as ISPRS Fellows in recognition of their sustained and excellent service to ISPRS.

In four years time, the XXIII ISPRS Congress will be held 12-19, July, 2016 in the beautiful and historic city of Prague in the Czech Republic. According to Lena Halounova, the first woman Congress Director in the 100-year history of ISPRS, the theme of the 2016 Prague Congress will be “From Human History to the Future with Spatial Information.”



Figure 1. View from the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, the venue for the XXII Congress of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) held 25 August to 1 September, 2012.



Figure 2. Coffee break at the ISPRS Melbourne Congress.