

The Activity of the OEEPE  
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The European Organisation for Experimental Photogrammetric Research (OEEPE) is an international governmental organisation founded 1952. At present ten countries are members of the organisation: Austria, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

In keeping with its name the OEEPE engages in experimental photogrammetric research. According to the founding rules "the aim of the Organisation is to increase the accuracy, quality and efficiency of aerial surveys by speeding up the development and improvement of photogrammetric methods, in particular by arranging and carrying out, in mutual co-operation a joint programme of experimental photogrammetric research".

The above passage from the rules mentions the most essential aspect of operations, i.e. "mutual co-operation". Tasks which can be carried out on the national level do not blend in well with the nature of research conducted by the OEEPE. Only when the research is very wide-ranging and varied does it suit the international forum.

The research is conducted in the form of projects as described below. The OEEPE has set up Scientific Committees for various areas of current photogrammetric interest. In these Committees the projects are prepared by setting targets and outlining the general course of research. The research plan is submitted to the Steering Committee for approval. For each approved project a special Pilot Centre is set up, the tasks of which are entrusted to an institute in one of the member countries. The Pilot Centre draws up detailed instructions, gathers and arranges for material for the Participating Centres and is thus responsible for execution and co-ordination.

The practical aspects of research are seen to by the Participating Centres. The routines involved in the work are divided among the institutes, normally ranging between 6 and 10 in number, which have voluntarily signed up for the purpose. Since the equipment, staff and methods used vary somewhat from one country to another, an adequate number of views becomes possible, especially as even the same institute may employ different approaches within the approved programme to carry out the task.

The Pilot Centre sees to the practical routines of the work, compiles the results and processes them as necessary., i.e. makes the necessary calculations and summaries. Actual final analysis, comparison and interpretation of the results takes place in Scientific Committee.

The results of research are published in the OEEPE'S series of publications and, if necessary, elsewhere. An account of research conducted by the OEEPE was given by B. Verlaine.

Honorary Secretary of the Organisation, in his article "15 years of OEEPE". The article is to be found in OEEPE publication No 11. More detailed information on the various research projects have been published in a number of publications.

A sufficient number of research projects have been completed to date to warrant conclusions. One of the first and foremost conclusions to be drawn is that the bringing together of representatives from various countries and different institutes for joint efforts has proved worthwhile. What has been important is that in selecting topics for research the representatives of universities and research institutes have co-operated with the production organisations. This has made it possible to focus many research projects on targets important for practical application, while maintaining the scientific competence of the research.

Experience has shown that applied research frequently has led to fundamental research. This has provided universities and research institutes with good subjects for research. At the same time, however, it has been found that applied research may have to suffer due to the necessity of fundamental. The former may either have decelerated or remained inadequate in terms of scientific basis.

As regards the present outlook for OEEPE operations, mention might be made of certain basic features. The scope of photogrammetry has expanded, thus making expansion of the scope of research also essential. Examples of this are remote sensing, the economics of photogrammetric work, the work methods employed in the developing countries and, above all, advances in automation and ADP. Owing to rapid technological progress, a tight schedule must nowadays be set for research to permit application of the results to work methods at the right time.

The member countries have no shortage of capacity at their disposal. It is therefore necessary to make the organisations of research, in particular, more efficient. In particular, sound project planning may enable us to avoid loss of time. At the same time it is essential, at every stage of research, to resort to specialist without delay in order to avoid a situation in which lack of basic data leads to excessive delays or excessively superficial research.

The above issues have recently been of central interest to the Steering Committee of the OEEPE. Since the work of development is still in progress, the results cannot be presented yet, though they are likely to appear in the near future.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring up one more subject. Just where do relations between the OEEPE and the ISP stand? Both are international organisations and both are active in the same field and carry out research in it. The key to mutual relations is that passage in the OEEPE rules which states that the OEEPE shall establish close relations with ISP.

Consequently, in the course of the existence of the OEEPE the relations have been cultivated. One expression of this is the fact that it has been possible to give an account of OEEPE research results at ISP congresses, and this is taking place again at this congress. Quite apart from the rules of the OEEPE one guarantee of good co-operation in the future, too, may well be the fact that several persons are active in both organisations.