



VIENNA, AUSTRIA
1996

INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVES OF PHOTOGRAMMETRY AND REMOTE SENSING
ARCHIVES INTERNATIONALES DE PHOTOGRAMMETRIE ET DE TELEDETECTION
INTERNATIONALES ARCHIV FÜR PHOTOGRAMMETRIE UND FERNERKUNDUNG

VOLUME
VOLUME
BAND **XXXI**

PART
TOME
TEIL **B1**

COMMISSION
COMMISSION
KOMMISSION **I**



Edited by:
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ISPRS Council 1992 - 1996

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International Archives of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (IAPRS)

Founded bei Eduard Doležal (Austria) in 1913.

Volume XXXI, Part B1

Invited and Presented Papers of the XVIIIth Congress, Vienna, Austria, July 9 to 19, 1996.

Technical Commission I Sensors, Platforms and Imagery

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Printing: Druckerei Berger, Horn

For Sale after the Congress

Copies of individual parts and complete series may be obtained from:

RICS Books
Surveyor Court
Westwood Way
Coventry CV4 8KE U.K.
Fax: +44 71 334 3800

FOREWORD

At Washington '92 Congress and ISPRS General Assembly, Italy got the honour to serve ISPRS hosting the Technical Commission I (TC I), in the period 1992-96. In this period:

- 6 WG's were established;
- 8 WG's (2 belonging to OEEPE) were engaged as Cooperating WG's;
- 3 workshops (among which the Mid Term Symposium) were organized, in Trento, Como and Udine, with a scheduling of one year;
- 4 volumes of Proceedings have been issued;
- 110 papers were presented and printed;
- 190 people attended the events.

After the Joint Meetings of Council and Technical Commission Presidents, that were held in Beijing, Vienna and Bali, the TC I got 6 technical sessions, 2 poster sessions (each of these of about 10 papers) and 1 key-note in the Vienna '96 Congress.

It is a big pleasure to note as all technical sessions will host officially, or unofficially, one or more Cooperating WG's, so that the TC I isn't a small, isolated and, maybe, useless Commission, but it plays an important role among several Technical Commissions increasing their cooperation and emphasizing the topics of primary data acquisition and evaluation. Furthermore a special attention to Industrial Equipments for Data Acquisition must be given by every WG's, paying a lack of content in the TC I which, according to its name Sensors Platforms and Imagery and the Terms of Reference, cannot neglect or dismiss contributions from industries, engineering firms, etc.

Concerning presented papers, since the Congress Director gave each Commission the possibility to decide a "review process" for TC I papers in Vienna, the following review process has been chosen:

- 2 people (usually Chairmen and Co-Chairmen of TC I WG's, or Cooperating WG's) will do a "blind review process", assigning a vote (A to E) decreasing with the quality of the abstract;
- 2 people (the President and the Secretary of TC I) will prepare the proposals for the TC P's and Council Meeting, taking into account the "blind review process", in the hope to collect a big number of high quality papers.

Regarding ISPRS TC I future role, two different strategies can be identified:

- from the point of view of contents: TC's III, IV, V and VII cover all ISPRS scientific and technical arguments;
- from the point of view of the participation: TC's I, II and VI offer open space suitable to study different aspects, for which the major Commissions are too small: consequently there aren't discussion, circulation, promotion, etc.

A possible suggestion is to form a double structure in the ISPRS:

- with 4 major Commissions,
- that meet 3 minor Commissions
- by separate, but parallel, WG's,
- whose Terms of Reference recommend to establish close contact among themselves,
- whose activities foresee Intercommission Workshops and
- the participation in the activities of different Commissions as Cooperating WG's.

The philosophy of this opinion is that "cooperation" is better than "competition" and assures bigger and more stable advantages.

Luigi Mussio
(President of TC I)

Gianfranco Forlani
(Secretary of TC I)

The International Archives of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
Volume XXXI, Part B1
ISPRS Commission I - Sensors, Platforms and Imagery

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