



## Editorial



### Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 21st Century! We close out the 20th Century with this review of the past year. Our Society has continued to promote progress in the photogrammetric, remote sensing and spatial information sciences. As you will note in this 1999 Annual Report issue, our Commissions and their Working Groups have been quite active as evidenced by the 31 conferences and workshops which they have sponsored during 1999. It is noteworthy that so many international specialists, who range from a multitude of cultures and national perspectives, are so willing to collaborate through ISPRS in sharing their knowledge and tackling difficult problems for the advancement of the information from imagery sciences. They are the strength of our Society and we are all very grateful for their voluntary efforts. We also appreciate the efforts of their leaders, the current Commission Presidents and WG Chairpersons, who for the fourth time during this inter-Congress term have devoted their time to prepare a public summary of their groups' activities and perspectives on the state of the science and technology. A full summary of their work and of the progress in our sciences and technologies will be presented in many sessions at the our XIXth ISPRS Congress in Amsterdam.

Often individuals ask how one can get involved in ISPRS activities. Although ISPRS is a Society of organizational memberships and not individual memberships, if you are a member of one of the 103 Ordinary or 9 Associate national member organizations of ISPRS, you are welcome and encouraged to participate in ISPRS activities. Leading specialists in research, standards, development activities including educators and practitioners in applications of any of the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences are urged to participate in Working Groups (WG's) which cover their area of expertise. At each quadrennial Congress the General Assembly (GA) elects different member organizations for hosting the seven Commissions for the next four year term. Similarly, the GA approves Resolutions which are aimed at advancing the state of the science. Each of the new Presidents of the Commissions, with the advice and consent of Council, identifies a reasonable set of WG's which can adequately cover the standing terms of reference for the Commission and the Resolutions relevant to the Commission. This process includes selection of respected Chair and Co-Chairpersons to lead the WG's and development of terms of reference for each WG. The WG's then carry on the scientific work of the Society for the ensuing four years. To communicate and coordinate national member organization activities with those of ISPRS, each of the member organizations appoints a Commission Correspondent to each of the seven Commissions. This offers another opportunity for interested individuals to observe, support

and report on Commission activities to their parent organization. Obviously there are many other opportunities to get involved by serving on committees and in communications activities of ISPRS. If you are interested in becoming more active in the Society, please contact a member of Council or a Commission President.

This past year we have seen major advancements in the sciences and technologies we represent. Some leading events this year include the successful Commission VI Symposium held in Bandung, Indonesia and the strong participation of ISPRS in the UNISPACE III Conference in Vienna highlighted by a Seminar, two Workshops and exhibit. Positive international coordination and collaboration has continued with the UN, CEOS, ICA, CIPA, ICSU and Regional Members. Dialog with and overtures for closer collaboration with other related organizations have been extended to help coordinate activities of common purpose. The International Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC) and the newly formed International Science Advisory Committee (ISAC) have been initiated and are active. New items of service to our community have been added to the ISPRS Home Page and our Journal and Highlights publications are running smoothly.

Are you aware that July 4th 2000 is a date of special significance to ISPRS? It marks completion of 90 years of Society activities since the founding of ISP in 1910 at Vienna by Edouard Dolezal. This year, on the 14th July, the XIXth Congress begins with two days of Tutorials and Workshops. On the 16th the 103 nation ISPRS General Assembly convenes the first of its four assemblies planned during the Congress. Official Delegates from each ISPRS member organization will not want to miss this first assembly as it will feature presentations by the contenders for the 2004 Congress, which to date include Barcelona, Beijing, Brisbane and Istanbul. Monday the 17th will convene the formal opening of the Congress which will continue throughout the week featuring theme sessions and a major exhibition, with the Closing Plenary Sessions to be held on the afternoon of Sunday the 23rd July. Prof. Klaas Jan Beek and his organizing committee are planning many innovative and exciting events for this Congress which you surely should attend.

I thank all who have contributed to making 1999 a successful year and look forward to welcoming you all to the Congress this July.

Yours sincerely,

Lawrence W. Fritz  
ISPRS President

