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 (2008-2012)

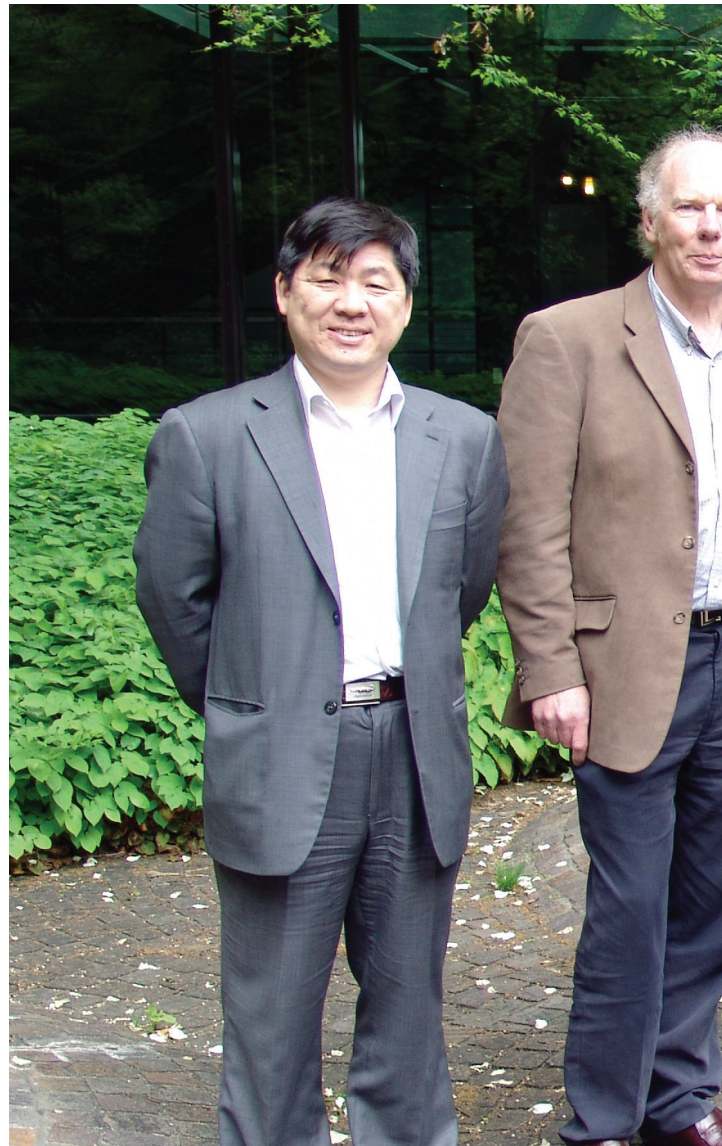
# AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY OF SOCIETIES

**M**y involvement in the activities of ISP(RS) began in late 1970s and the first Society event I attended was the Technical Commission V symposium in Stockholm, where I presented two papers on structural monitoring with close-range methods. The next milestone in my career was the Hamburg Congress where I had the chance to present several papers. During this Congress, I was appointed as the liaison between TCV and TCVII on "Engineering Applications."

The TCV Symposium in York, UK and TCVII Symposium in Tübingen, Germany were other ISPRS events where I participated actively. During these meetings I learnt about several colleagues working in different scientific organisations and was invited to participate in the activities of IAG and FIG on "Engineering Applications" as Working Group or Task Group officer. I returned to ISPRS activities with the Congress in Vienna, where my institute received the "Dolezal Support" and members presented several papers.

Working on "Photogrammetric Applications," the Turkish Ordinary Member applied to the Council in 1999 to organise the ISPRS in 2004 Congress in Istanbul with me as the Candidate Congress Director. The bid was successful at the Congress in Amsterdam and I started to work as Congress Director of the council during 2000-2004. This was followed by the council membership of Secretary General and then being President of the Society since 2008. All during these years I have learnt many things and made many friendships.

Technologies in photogrammetry and remote sensing have changed enormously over the past 100 years. They





were originally based on hardcopy images and outputs and the processing methods, prior to the development of computers, were aimed at avoiding computations because of their complexity. Today's images are digital and the processing is likewise digital. Also, multi-spectral digital imaging from aircraft and satellites is far more readily available than in the past. Management of spatial data has become an inherent part of the processing of information derived by image processing. Hence, ISPRS now has two technical commissions dealing with spatial information acquisition, processing and management. ISPRS today is also governed by statutes and bylaws that ensure that the Society is well managed and is very active in terms of attracting high quality scientists to work on the ISPRS Council and to manage its scientific activities. Therefore, ISPRS today has evolved from the strong foundation intro-

duced by the early leaders based on photogrammetry, into a leading broad-based Society dealing with all aspects of 'information from imagery.'

ISPRS is a 'Society of Societies' with a mandate to include members from all regions around the world. The Society adheres to the statutes and bylaws of ISPRS which specify that the 'Society pursues its aims without any discrimination on grounds of race, religion, nationality, or political philosophy.' Through the ISPRS technical commissions, we aim to attract people from as many countries as possible to participate in their activities. The newly appointed regional representatives from Africa, Latin America and Asia are a further demonstration of the Society's commitment to include participants from parts of the world. Recent meetings with these representatives have







proved to be very fruitful and have led to new collaborative initiatives for the regions. Also, the ISPRS Council has been very active in visiting as many national members, regional members and international organisations to encourage participation in ISPRS activities.

The major applications of our technologies include managing and monitoring natural and man-made disasters. The 'JBGIS Best Practises Booklet on Geo-information for Risk and Disaster Management,' to be launched at the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs (UN-OOSA) on July 2, 2010 during the ISPRS Centenary Celebrations will document a number of examples. There has been excellent cooperation between ISPRS and UN-SPIDER in applying remote sensing technologies for disaster monitoring, management of relief for victims and documenting the impacts of the disasters. In addition, ISPRS is a member organisation

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of the Group on Earth Observation (GEO), which is making significant advances in the development of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). Achievements of GEOSS are many, but key achievements include: the GEOSS data sharing principles and the Geo Web portal and GEOSS clearinghouse for searching data, information and services registries containing information about GEOSS components.

Looking into the crystal ball is fraught with difficulties, not the least because one can be accountable for one's predictions. However, in a general fashion, I think we can see an increase in the type and flexibility of new digital imaging and LiDAR systems. We are likely to see increasingly higher resolution space systems; there will be a continued introduction of automation for processing images, so that maps can be kept up-to-date more rapidly on a regular basis and there will be a greater availability and use of images and spatial information. However, we are not likely to see a major leap forward in these developments. Looking back over the past 10 years, the improvements have been gradual and I think this will continue to occur over the next 10 years.

The role of president is indeed very challenging, but I am grateful to my supervisors at Istanbul Technical University who have permitted me to hold council positions at ISPRS, including the presidency. I am indebted to my colleagues at the Institute for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing who undertake my duties in my absence. My wife Melike has encouraged me to take on this role, even though it means that she remains at home while I carry out many of my responsibilities, even during very difficult times for her. I am very grateful to her for her on-going support. ■