



32.2 Report of ISAC

Ian Dowman, Chair

1. Introduction

The International Science Advisory Committee (ISAC) has operated between 2012 and 2016 with the same terms of reference and the same membership. The committee has responded to Council requests and worked closely with Council on a number of issues. Terms of reference, membership and activities are set out below with some comments and recommendations for future action.

Terms of Reference

- Identify and prioritize scientific and technologic (S&T) trends which will impact the S&T activities of the Society and recommend actions to ISPRS Council.
- Facilitate excellence in scientific research and development and the use of proper and appropriate technology by evaluating and refining S&T Resolutions proposed in advance by ISPRS Member Organizations and Commissions for approval by the quadrennial ISPRS General Assembly.
- Collaborate with the ISPRS Council to formulate Resolutions for ISPRS General Assembly approval which will ensure that ISPRS is at the forefront of the S&T in the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences and covers the full breadth of the Society's mission.
- Review proposed Working Groups Terms of Reference with Council and identify S&T gaps and overlaps and recommend corresponding fills and consolidations.
- Evaluate inputs recommended for changing the overall scope and direction of S&T activities in the Society and advise Council accordingly.
- Suggest collaborative S&T activities with other international societies and intergovernmental bodies to foster cooperation on the inter-disciplinary boundaries.
- Propose worthy candidates for recognition and awards.

Membership

ISAC Member	Organisation	Discipline
Ian Dowman (ISAC Chair)	University College London, UK	Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
Kohei Cho	Tokai University, Japan	GI Science and remote sensing; education
Arup Dasgupta	Geospatial Media and Communications, India	GI Science

Clive Fraser	University of Melbourne, Australia	Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
Lawrence Friedl	NASA, USA	Remote Sensing
Menno Jan Kraak	ITC, University of Twente, Netherlands	GI Science
Nicholas Paparoditis	IGN, France	Photogrammetry
Michael Schaepman	University of Zurich, Switzerland	Remote Sensing
Monika Sester	Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany	GI Science
Jie Shan	Purdue University, USA	Photogrammetry
John Shi	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	GI Science
Andrew Skidmore	ITC, University of Twente, Netherlands	Remote Sensing
George Vosselman	ITC, University of Twente, Netherlands	Photogrammetry
Wolfgang Wagner	Vienna University of Technology, Austria	Remote Sensing
Stuart Walker	BAe Systems, USA	Photogrammetry
Stefan Winter	University of Melbourne, Australia	GI Science and photogrammetry

2. Activities

Terms of Reference of Working Groups

The Commission Presidents are charged with the task of forming working groups after the Congress and these are reviewed by Council with advice from ISAC. ISAC reviewed the proposals and the chair attended the joint meeting of Council and TCPs held in December 2012 at which the WG ToRs were discussed and agreed. Some general points were made relating to the interaction of WGs and joint activities. These were taken up by Council and resulted in new guidelines for meetings. ISAC also noted the importance of benchmarking projects and the provision of data which can be used by scientists for comparative testing.

Meeting structure

In an effort to make ISPRS activities more efficient, Council initiated a consultation on the ISPRS meeting structure. The thinking behind this was that more coordination of WG and TC meetings was necessary to avoid duplication and encourage collaboration. ISAC advised on this and this resulted in the introduction of the ISPRS Geospatial Week to be held in the odd years between the Congress and Commission Symposia.

Definitions

Council wished to revise the definitions of photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information science in order to bring them up to date and make them understood by the general public. This was done by generating a short definition covering all three aspects of ISPRS and supporting this with more comprehensive descriptions of photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information science. ISAC contributed to this process and the revised definition and descriptions are now incorporated into the Statutes and Bylaws and used in other literature.

Restructuring of Technical Commissions

ISAC contributed to the consultation on the restructuring of the Technical Commissions which has now been incorporated into the Bylaws.

Review of Scientific Initiatives

Two calls for scientific initiatives were made by Council during the 2012 - 2016 period. ISAC was asked to give an independent view of the quality of the projects completed in 2015 to determine whether the scheme in its current form is producing high quality results and is achieving its aims. ISAC concluded that the projects are generally sound scientific studies which met the objectives set out in the proposal. Those resulting in high participation are thought to be the most successful and those resulting in data being made available to the community are also thought to be successful. ISAC also suggested that the main shortcoming of the projects is their lack of promotion of ISPRS and lack of information propagated.

Meetings and Collaboration

The ISAC chair has attended 6 Council meetings over the past 4 years and contributed to a number of issues besides those outlined above. The chairs of ISAC and IPAC have kept in contact and collaborated in a panel discussion at the Geospatial Week in 2013 and have jointly organised the Space Agency Forum to be held at the Prague Congress.

3. Comments and Conclusions

ISAC has advised Council on a number of important issues during the past four years and has satisfied the terms of reference related to responding to Council. ISAC has not been proactive in identifying new trends within the scope of ISPRS, but has covered a number of issues in the responses made to Council and will do so in working towards formulating resolutions for the General Assembly in Prague.

It is recommended that ISAC continues with unchanged ToRs for the next four years and that the committee is more proactive in advising Council on developments which may not have been identified by Council. ISAC should consider meeting on convenient occasions for discussion of such issues. The membership of the committee should be reviewed and new blood brought in, but the distribution of members amongst specialisations should remain.