

Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

Have you ever asked "What benefits arise from participation in an International Society?" Some may perceive a Society as being an international meetinghouse or warehouse from which to gather or share information about how other countries are developing and using the photogrammetric, remote sensing and spatial information sciences (P&RS&SIS). To others an international Society is an opportunity to get involved internationally in their profession for meetings and travel with other technologists, scientists, marketplaces and cultures where they can conduct business, network or develop collaborations. We can be confident that there are many other perceptions too numerous to list here. In 1909, when Eduard Dolezal founded the ISP, it was to promote international cooperation in photogrammetry, the forerunner discipline of what we today call the P&RS&SI sciences.

The prime benefits from ISPRS are still international cooperation. In addition to its numerous Workshops, Symposia and Congresses, the Society issues publications, manages Committees and Commissions with dozens of Working Groups, recognizes outstanding achievements, and collaborates formally with many other international societies and intergovernmental organizations, all to enhance its mission. Now ISPRS is embarking on an exciting new stage in achieving its mission, a path which is destined to foster international cooperation in an even more tangible way by supporting opportunities for deserving activities and individuals, especially for those from the developing countries and regions of the world. Although conceived a few years back as part of the ISPRS Strategic Plan, it has taken much effort on the part of the ISPRS Council to work the legal, financial and administrative complexities in forming The ISPRS Foundation. It is my pleasure to inform you that The Foundation has been formally established as an independent legal entity as of 28 July 2003.

The paramount purpose of The ISPRS Foundation is to administer an extensive and broadly-based international program that through the raising of funds shall administer grants and other forms of assistance to qualified individuals and organizations which are pursuing and/or applying

knowledge for advancing the P&RS&SIS sciences for public good and for the well-being of humanity and sustainability of the environment. It is a not-for-profit foundation with ambitious goals to serve annual grant requests from the ISPRS for awards, travel grants, scholarships, research initiatives, fellowships, internships and exchange programs, distance learning, awareness education, tools, supplies and translation, workshop sponsorship, standards, and archive preservation.

The Foundation Bylaws have been meticulously developed to ensure that the majority of principal raised from donations, bequests, gifts, endowments, etc. will be preserved so that grant funds will be available into perpetuity and the administrative costs kept minimal. The Foundation will be managed by a Board of Trustees whose prime responsibility is for the wise investment, management and approval of grants of Foundation funds. The eleven Trustees will be appointed to reflect the international character and diversity of the ISPRS. Only two can be members of Council.

Watch soon for the brochure soliciting donations, as the fund raising activity has already begun. The Foundation will be presented to the ISPRS General Assembly at the Istanbul Congress and as soon as sufficient funds have been raised it is anticipated that grant applications will be accepted. We look forward to this new adjunct to ISPRS which can enable it to bring yet another benefit for whole of the Membership in its mission to foster international cooperation.

The preparation of this opening page of ISPRS Highlights is rotated among Council Members during their term of office. Since this is my last editorial, I wish to express my gratitude to the many friends and colleagues whom I have had the pleasure to work with in ISPRS over the past several decades and to wish all ISPRS a fruitful and successful future.

Sincerely,

Lawrence W. Fritz
1st Vice President

