

ISPRS

2004

CLOSING CEREMONY

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CONGRESS DIRECTOR'S REPORT AT CLOSING SESSION, ORHAN ALTAN

The honors and Awards bestowed by ISPRS to those who have made special contributions to the science and technology of photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences and to individuals who have rendered service to the Society itself were presented during the Opening Ceremony, General Assemblies, Closing Ceremony and Gala Dinner.

There were in total 1914 papers submitted to the Congress. 171 papers were withdrawn by the authors, 25 authors did not send their full papers. 1718 papers were presented in the Technical Programme. The program was made up of three Plenary Sessions for nine keynote speeches; 109 oral Technical Sessions covering all of the Technical Commissions and their Working Groups together with "Theme Sessions" assigned to "specific topics related to recent developments" and "Special Sessions" involving linked international organizations and dominant issues for the future, for a total 567 scheduled oral presentations; and 58 Poster Sessions for 1151 scheduled posters.

There were 1252 full participants, 327 reduced fee participants, 122 accompanying persons, 432 free registrations, 403 day registration and 254 visitors with a total of 2536 attendees.

108 countries were represented with: 294 Turkey, 253 Germany, 254 USA, 145 China, 119 Japan, 88 Switzerland, 81 Canada, 78 Italy, 76 Dutch, 73 Persia, and others 1075.

The Proceedings were distributed to all the participants on DVD ROM and hardcopy proceedings were available during the Congress at reasonable prices.

For the first time in the history of ISPRS, youth sessions were held lasting a whole day to give the

students a chance to discuss their work without being intimidated by the presence of experts. On Saturday, 17 July 2004, oral and poster sessions were organized by the young attendees covering the topics of photogrammetry, visualization and animation, remote sensing, geographic information systems and spatial data management. On 18 July 2004 an orienteering competition was scheduled to learn Istanbul's historical places by means of GPS.

The meetings held during the Congress can be summarized thus:

There were four General Assemblies, Joint Board Meetings, Open Business Meetings of all Technical Commissions, ISPRS-Recordim Roundtable Meeting, CIPA Board Meeting, Publication Meeting, ISPRS Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting, CATCON Competition, and a meeting of the Joint Board of the Geospatial Information Societies.

The Exhibition held during the second week of the Congress attracted 75 companies and was inaugurated by President John Trinder and Congress Director, Orhan Altan on 19th July. Following the Opening, a sumptuous cocktail party was held within the exhibition area drawing all the Congress attendants to the Exhibition Center which was adjacent to the Convention Centre. This building, called the Rumeli Hall, is really impressive with a total of 7000 sqm of exhibition space covering two floors. The Poster area was also moved to the lower floor of the Exhibition Hall in the second week of the Congress providing more space for the posters. The exhibition allowed the commercial companies and societies associated with the activities of ISPRS to present their latest developments.



ADDRESS OF OUTGOING PRESIDENT JOHN TRINDER

Ladies and gentlemen

The ISPRS Congress brings together colleagues from all over the world to meet, learn about and discuss the new developments with which ISPRS is involved. It seems only a short time since we met at the opening session 10 days ago, when we had the inspiring video summarizing the areas and achievements of members in ISPRS, together with an excellent cultural display. Sadly the time has come once again for us to depart and head for home to resume our normal activities. For nearly 2 weeks we have been all engrossed in the activities of the Congress, which has been full and all consuming. In a way the Congress becomes a way of life for a short period and ending this experience will be sad for many. Of course, all good things must come to an end, as this great Congress must.

You have already heard of the recent developments in the sciences and technologies of the Society, the resolutions and the decisions made by the General Assembly. I believe I am correct when I say that this Congress has been a resounding success. This success is due to the fact that it involves people from many of the more than 100 member countries with diverse interests, all of them contributing in their own.

The plenary and technical sessions have been well attended with many high quality papers. The commercial exhibit was excellent, while the social functions have been very enjoyable, enabling the attendees to relax after the hard days work. The Gala Dinner was outstanding. You will have your own impressions to take back to your countries and I am sure that they will be good.

I think that we can conclude that the scientific work of the Commissions has flourished. I believe a great deal of this success can be attributed to the Technical Commission Presidents and the WG Chairs, Co-Chairs and Secretaries. For their contributions to the scientific program of the Congress, as well as their excellent summaries presented at this session, they should be heartily congratulated. I have already acknowledged the work of the Commission Presidents with a gift.

I wish to acknowledge the enormous contributions made by the Council. Secretary General, Ian Dowman, has done an outstanding job in maintaining the headquarters of the Society and continuing correspondence. It is a never-ending task. Lawrence Fritz was the major initiator of the ISPRS Foundation. He will leave the Council after 16 years and his receiving honorary membership is a rare privilege that he richly deserves. I am sure that the incoming Council will miss his attention to detail. Gerard Begni has excellent contacts in the remote sensing community and also the Francophone world, especially in Africa and hence has made a significant contribution to ISPRS in an area that the rest of Council was not able to

satisfy. Ammatzia Peled has been a very dedicated Treasurer. He has ensured that many outstanding subscription fees from Members have been collected and also sought the best location for the investment of ISPRS funds. He has brought new ideas to investments for ISPRS. Orhan Altan has done an outstanding job in organizing the Congress. The contributions of Orhan and his dedicated team have meant that we have had a really outstanding Congress. I would like to express my deep appreciation to Orhan and his totally dedicated team for their wonderful efforts. I am sure we will remember the Istanbul Congress for many years.

As the Society enters this new quadrennium, I believe that it is well placed to develop further. The technologies that we have seen revealed at this Congress augur well for an interesting and productive period ahead. While there is always room for improvement, I believe that the Society is in excellent shape. The newly defined Technical Commissions will have more focused terms of reference for their activities, and their Working Groups should look forward to attracting more people to work with them. The financial position and legal status of the Society are both very secure. The ISPRS Foundation will enable the Society to more effectively perform its philanthropic aims in assisting deserving individuals to develop better skills to work in the areas of ISPRS.

I wish Chen Jun and his colleagues in Beijing well in organizing the next Congress. I look forward to working with the new Council as we try to continue to develop the Society. I know Ian has an enthusiastic team and I am confident that the Society will prosper.

For the future, I encourage Members from all over the world to work with the Society. With the help of all of us it will continue to prosper.

It has indeed been a privilege and an honor for me to have served as your President for 4 years. I have visited many new places around the world, learned about new cultures, enjoyed food and drink at these places and been honored to meet many famous people. More importantly, I have been most impressed with the developments that are occurring around the world in the sciences covered by ISPRS. It has been an exciting and invigorating experience. I am truly grateful for the honor of being President over the past 4 years.

It is now my pleasure to hand over the reins to such a competent person as Ian Dowman, my friend and colleague. He has gained a great deal of experience from the past 4 years that will hold him in good stead for the position of President. I am sure that he will also find being the Presidency of such a respected society very rewarding. I wish him and his wife Jan well, as they undertake this new task. It is my pleasure to transfer the President's chain to Ian. In fact the chain

will go home to the UK for first time since it was presented to ISP by the UK Society in 1964.

Thank you everyone. A safe trip home and I wish the Society the very best for the forthcoming 4 years. I look forward to resume the friendships of this Congress at the next one in Beijing in 2008.



Presentation of Chain of Office

ADDRESS OF INCOMING PRESIDENT IAN DOWMAN

Speech by Incoming President, Ian Dowman
Members of Council, Technical Commission Presidents,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am deeply honored that the General Assembly has entrusted me with the role of President of our Society for the next four years. I thank them for their confidence and look forward to upholding the tradition set by previous presidents. The Society would not be in the position that it is in today were it not for the dedication and foresight of previous presidents. I feel very privileged to be following in the footsteps of my predecessors such as Doyle, Konecny, Torlegard, Murai, Fritz and Trinder.

On a personal note I cannot let this occasion pass without commenting on this chain of office. The chain was presented to the ISP, as it was then, by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and Photogrammetric Society during the 10th ISPRS Congress in Lisbon in 1964. I feel very privileged that I should be the first person from the UK to wear this chain. The previous, and only, president from UK was General R Llywellyn Brown, who was Director General of Ordnance Survey, from 1956 – 1960.

My first and perhaps most important duty is to thank the outgoing Council for the experience of the past four years. I believe that ISPRS has made enormous progress in recent years and this has been largely due to the dedication and hard work of Council. John Trinder and Larry Fritz have been on Council for a combined total of 32 years, and their experience and leadership has been outstanding. The setting up of the ISPRS Foundation, the ISPRS Strategic Plan and Registration of ISPRS have been only some of their achievements. I will not dwell on the activities of the past four years as they have been rehearsed several times already, but I must say that this would not have been possible without John and Larry, supported by the rest of Council. Treasurer Ammatzia Peled has done much more than manage our accounts; he has chased members for their subscriptions and directed the financial policy of the Society with a sure and steady hand. His contributions to Council meetings are always direct and often idiosyncratic. Gerard Begni has contributed his wisdom and experience, particularly of working with developing regions, and in the francophone countries. I do not need to repeat the outstanding work done by Orhan Altan, our Congress Director, as the fruits of his efforts are here for all to see, and I will return to this later. But Orhan has not only been Congress Director, in all his work on Council he has seen ‘bridging continents’ as a priority.

I would also like personally to thank the Technical Commission Presidents for their work. This has been a particularly strong group, all experts in their field who have initiated an excellent program of work. The next four years promises to be equally challenging, and I am

confident that the new Council and TCPs will be equal to the task, and that we will have a very successful and rewarding four years. We have a balance on Council and the TCPs, with 4 continents being represented, although we still have gaps in representation from Africa and South America. But once again remote sensing is not well represented and, as John Trinder has mentioned already, we have no women. The new commission structure has ensured that we have a good balance between the different areas covered by ISPRS.

My objectives in the next four years will be to consolidate the science program of the society, expand the international role of ISPRS and develop education and outreach particularly in Africa and South America, hopefully with assistance from the Foundation. We must harness the expertise within our society in order to help solve global problems, particularly those related to the environment.

I believe that the scientific activities of ISPRS are in very good shape, the papers and activities at this Congress demonstrate the high quality and the breadth of activity. The structure of the Technical Commissions has been reviewed during the past 4 years and this has resulted in new terms of reference which will be used by the new TCPs. Council intends to closely monitor the setting up and operation of the working groups and to work to avoid duplication of effort and of meetings, and, by presenting a planned program, to make meetings more attractive to the whole photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information science community. We also plan to make ISPRS responsive to new developments and encourage the establishment of working groups at any time to meet specific requirements. For example external initiatives like the International Polar Year or the ICSU health and wellbeing initiative, or to fulfill the need to encourage activity in a particular region, and to respond to new scientific developments.

It is generally agreed that ISPRS needs to represent remote sensing more effectively. The establishment of a new Commission will help this but we must be seen to cover remote sensing. Our activities through the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs and the Committee on Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS) and through CEOS, are primarily concerned with Earth observation, and these organizations see ISPRS as representing remote sensing. We need to consolidate this by ensuring that the International Committee on Remote Sensing of the Environment (ICORSE), and the Symposium which they organize is fully recognized as an ISPRS activity; and by attracting more members who represent remote sensing either nationally (Associate Members) or regionally. I am hopeful that TCPs will plan their activities to link with regional requirements and interact with each other to promote this. Council also needs to

consider carefully its links with the computer vision, pattern recognition and cultural heritage communities.

Clearly a major role of an International Society is to represent its members on the International scene and the efforts of previous Councils to gain ISPRS representation onto COPUOS, ICSU (The International Council for Science) and CEOS has undoubtedly raised the profile of ISPRS. We also have relations with many other international bodies. If we decide that we wish to have an active relationship, we must make this effective and have mechanisms to respond quickly to new initiatives and we must be prepared to resource individuals to take part. The organizations in which we are active participants must be carefully selected but we must commit to being active in them.

Another major activity of an international society is education and outreach. The current activities include involvement in the educational activities of the United Nations and CEOS. Technical Commission VI ran a workshop in Africa in 2001 and Council has supported the European student network and the Youth program at the Congress. We must do more in this area and Council will make every effort through the Commissions, the Foundation, and our international liaisons to make the work of the Society accessible to people in developing countries.

In summary, I will be asking Council and the TCPs to work towards the following goals during the next four years.

- Sustain and develop the scientific program based on international excellence in research and in collaboration with other international scientific unions;
- Expand the international role of ISPRS by building on our existing links and developing a presence in developing countries;
- Continue the role of ISPRS in education and technology transfer in collaboration with international partners;
- Develop the Foundation and attract \$500 000 of funds by 2008.

All of this is altruistic, as well as for the benefit of our members. ISPRS must play its part in tackling global problems which might range from climate change to

food security, and embrace the problems of living in mega cities and the need for data to implement effective homeland security.

No organization can afford to stand still, we must grow and adapt in response to changing conditions and changing attitudes. As scientists we form conclusions based on evidence from our research. In the Society we must adjust our policies in line with external conditions and the wishes of the majority of the membership, whilst still maintaining our professional integrity. I am confident that Council will follow this approach.

Before concluding I have the responsibility of thank in the Congress Director and his team for organizing this Conference. In 2000 he promised a memorable Congress on Geoinformation Bridging Continents. He has certainly fulfilled this promise. We have excellent facilities here at the Congress Centre, and unsurpassed technical program, outstanding organization by Magister and the Congress team and if this is not enough we have a perfect environment for the Congress and have had the opportunity to explore this to the full through the social program. We have cruised the Bosphorous, had fun in Kumkapi and had a fabulous experience at the Dolmabahçe Palace. All this has been enjoyed by participants from all continents, truly bridging the divide between people and nations. Orhan. You have kept your promise and we cannot thank you enough.

However this is not the end of the story because behind every good Congress Director is a strong support team. All of Council very much appreciate the support which Orhan's wife Melike has give him, through difficult and not so difficult times. But all of you will appreciate the support given by the Congress Team. Orhan has thanked them and I am will not repeat the names of all individuals: except for one. I would like to thank very sincerely Sevil Zorlu who has supported Orhan in the organization and running of the Congress.

Finally I thank you all for making this Congress memorable and successful and urge you to return to your home countries and maintain the momentum achieved here in Istanbul. I hope that you will follow the Silk Road to Beijing, and I look forward to seeing you, and many others, in China in 2008.



Handover of the ISPRS Flag Former Congress Director Orhan Altan to Incoming Congress Director Chen Jun

ADDRESS OF INCOMING CONGRESS DIRECTOR CHEN JUN

Dear colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen:

After the exciting technical and social events in the past ten days, I believe that all of us agree that Prof. Altan and his team have organized an excellent and successful ISPRS congress. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their efforts and contribution.

Now I have a strong feeling that it would be a big challenge for me and my Chinese team to prepare a

more successful ISPRS Congress. We have to work hard and will do our best. We are looking forward to getting your support and participation. I am confident that you'll witness an innovative and colorful ISPRS congress in Beijing.

Thank you for your attention. Welcome to 21st ISPRS Congress in Beijing, July, 2008.