

ISPRS

2004

CONGRESS KITCHEN

Organization Committee

..... and in closing!

In the Kitchen...

ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

As mentioned at the opening ceremony I thank

The Organization Committee



and to the Magister Tours, Inc.



..... and in closing!



To organize and run an international congress on the scale of the 2004 Istanbul Congress needs a great deal of time and personal input – far greater than one would imagine at the outset. In case any of our readers is contemplating volunteering to organize such a congress in the future, the following may be of interest to them!

The idea of Turkey hosting the ISPRS Congress in 2004 was first mooted at an annual meeting of the Turkish National Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (TNSPRS) on January 16, 1998. The concept was mulled over, a final decision being put off until the next meeting in mid June. At that meeting, my name was put forward as a candidate to draw up and lead the Turkish application, the proposer being TNSPRS. Surprisingly, I had no prior knowledge that I would be nominated; however, there was no way of pulling out.

My first task was to form a steering committee of volunteers, each individual having specialist skills ranging from the technical side of the Congress organization, through financial planning expertise down to linguistics. Needless to say, locating and convincing people with the required expertise took greater effort than we had originally reckoned. Should we be successful, the Congress was a long way away, six years, and people were reluctant to commit themselves to such a long period.

Meticulous planning, countless visits convincing possible sponsors, contacts with top political figures to obtain their support, resulted in Istanbul being

nominated as the venue for the 2004 Congress. Celebrations were short lived, I don't remember any champagne being opened, but I well remember trying to convince my team in Amsterdam that they would be the nucleus of the organizing committee, and that we would meet at my office the day after our return to Istanbul. Incredulity could be seen in their faces, but they did all turn up regardless!

There followed four years of hard work, human beings being what they are, personal idiosyncrasies unexpectedly surfaced with resulting recriminations. Holding down two fulltime jobs that of my professorship plus the ever increasing work for ISPRS with its demands for new staff and their integration into a functioning team meant extremely long hours at two different locations. Frequent foreign travel also took its toll and sadly I was struck down with a brain tumor requiring urgent surgery, from which, thank God, I quickly recovered.

Fortunately, all the hard work we had put into organizing an efficient and balanced team paid off. So finally, we came to the opening of the Congress, feeling sure that all our hard work would surely result in a smoothly run and successful Congress, the team, having worked together for six years being capable of overcoming any unexpected minor problems.

So it turned out to be!

Now is the time to give credit where credit is due. Topping the list is TNSPRS and the General Command of Mapping for their continued support and cooperation. Second on our list are the numerous universities and institutions, regardless of whether they are government or private sector, all of whom unstintingly gave their support and advice when called for. Thirdly, due thanks to Magister A.S., the specialist congress organizers, who apart from their specialist services provided us among others with office space, secretarial services and financial support.

Finally you may well ask whether I would once again apply to host another ISPRS Congress. Wholeheartedly I would say YES – most of my colleagues, both here and abroad now count as my close personal friends.

IN THE KITCHEN...



Preparing for an exhibition can turn your head ...



Collecting energy for the Congress...



Planning ahead...



Even the Council does not know what to do...



Nothing like relaxing...



"I am too busy..."



Watermelons give energy...



You have to feed well before the Congress...



**...and the congress concluded.
A year after, most of the participants recall such joyful moments!**