

ISPRS

2008

CLOSING CEREMONY

Programme of the Closing Ceremony

Report of Congress Director Chen Jun

Address of Outgoing President Ian Dowman

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PROGRAMME OF THE CLOSING CEREMONY

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REPORT OF CONGRESS DIRECTOR CHEN JUN

In the summer of 2004, when the ISPRS General Assembly made its decision to elect Beijing as the host city for the XXI ISPRS Congress, we made a promise: we will make this congress special! Over the past four years, with the full support from the ISPRS community, the Chinese Society of Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography and the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping, we have done our best to prepare and organize the ISPRS Congress in its literal sense - to create an Informative, Special, Progressive, Relaxed and Successful Congress.

1. Informative

The Beijing congress has received 2815 abstracts and 1776 full papers. Technical commission IV has the largest number of abstracts and full papers. The numbers of abstracts and full papers per technical commission are given in Table 1.

Table 1 Number of abstracts and full papers of ISPRS 8 technical commissions

COM.	Number of Abstracts	Number of full papers	Remarks
COM I	376	233	
COM II	353	193	
COM III	298	178	
COM IV	457	324	
COM V	365	186	
COM VI	180	108	Including Youth Forum papers
COM VII	389	303	
COM VIII	397	251	
Total	2815	1776	

Ten volumes of proceedings were edited. Technical Commission III has one volume (Part III-a) for peer review papers and another one (Part III-b) for other papers. Part IX contains all the papers presented at the Youth Forums. Both hard and electronically proceedings were produced. The hard proceedings have in total 10334 pages and the CD proceedings have 2.14GB.

Table 2 Volumes of Beijing congress proceedings

No.	Parts	Commissions	full papers	Pages
1	Part I	Commission I	233	1374
2	Part II	Commission II	193	1132
3	Part III - a	Commission III	48	308
4	Part III - b	Commission III	130	756
5	Part IV	Commission IV	324	1864
6	Part V	Commission V	186	1106
7	Part VI	Commission VI	49	272
8	Part VII	Commission VII	303	1750
9	Part VIII	Commission VIII	251	1430
10	Part IX	Youth Forum	59	342
total			1776	10334

More than 270 academic events were moderated and organized during the congress, (see table 3), including 3 Plenary Sessions (PTS), 112 Working Group sessions and theme sessions, 19 special sessions, 3 user's forum sessions, 84 interactive (poster) sessions, 6 pre-congress workshops, 10 pre-congress tutorials and one 4 days' summer school. In total 655 papers were presented at oral sessions and 729 papers were presented at the interactive sessions. An Elsevier Workshop on How to Write Good Journal Papers was also organized to help congress participants to write good technical papers.

2. Special

Some new features had been added to the scientific and technical programs of the Beijing. Three user forum sessions were moderated and organized. The user forums provided a platform to demonstrate successful solutions. They also provide a forum for end users to voice demands and an opportunity for manufacturers to work with practitioners.

A number of multi-disciplinary special sessions were organized with sister institutions for covering topics not directly addressed by ISPRS working groups. Two special sessions with a local focus have been organized. One is on mapping in western China - a region with a very harsh natural environment, and the other is on Digital Olympics.

We have also published a monograph entitled Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in China, which is written in both Chinese and English. This book provides a brief review of the development of photogrammetry and remote sensing in China and it has contributions from over 50 scholars. This is a rich and informative book for domestic and foreign counterparts wanting to know about China's progress and accomplishments in peacefully applying spatial information technology.

3. Progressive

As a milestone in the ISPRS history, the 2008 ISPRS Congress approved Beijing Declaration which declares commitment to promote use of imagery for the benefit of society. It calls on international communities to work together and commit adequate resources to promote the peaceful use of geospatial technology for the benefit of society and the environment. The document reaffirms the ISPRS commitment to realise the full potential of information from imagery through research and development, scientific networking, international cooperation, inter-disciplinary integration and education and training. It also sets out a number ways in which the ISPRS and international communities can work to this end. The Declaration was made by the General Assembly of ISPRS at its XXI Congress held in Beijing, and was announced at a press conference on July 11th attended by the former minister of Science and Technology of China, Xu Guanhua and some 30 members of the Chinese press.

For the first time in ISPRS history, an ISPRS Congress Book has been published on the occasion of the Beijing congress. This book contains 34 chapters contributed by more than 60 active researchers. It provides a comprehensive overview of the progress made in these areas since the 20th ISPRS congress held in 2004 in Istanbul, Turkey. This volume will be invaluable not only to scientists and researchers, but also university students and practitioners.

4. Relaxed

The participants to the Beijing congress were among the few and privileged people who had the opportunity to closely observe the famous new Olympic Stadium (nicknamed the Bird's Nest) and the National Swimming Centre (nicknamed the Water Cube), which could be seen from the conference venue. They even managed to have the first-hand experience of special Olympic traffic lane when they went to the gala dinner.

An exciting and enjoyable program has been made for social activities including traditional Peking opera, an acrobatic show, Beijing Night show and a night at Laoshe Tea House. More than 5000 peoples participated these social events and welcome reception, Exhibitors' Reception, as well as city tours.

A variety of technical tours had also been organized for the congress participants to visit organizations in Beijing, including government agencies, research institutions and commercial companies for photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information technology. About 300 participants joined the technical tours.

5. Successful

About 2500 individuals registered for the congress, with 1661 registrations from 76 countries outside China. The General Assembly gathered 120 delegates from 41 members. 95 international and local technology providers (from 26 countries and regions) presented at the four day Technical exhibition. 6 countries (Australia, China, Netherlands, Turkey, UK and USA) joined the National and Scientific Exhibition. About 15,000 individuals visited the Exhibition.

During the congress, many technical sessions were full of participants. There were even more than 900 participants during the closing ceremony. With the full support and active involvement from ISPRS colleagues and participants, we had a successful congress!

ADDRESS OF OUTGOING PRESIDENT IAN DOWMAN

Congress Director Chen Jun, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have nearly reached the end of a very exciting 8 days and I very much hope that all of you will take home pleasant memories and new ideas and information for your work. We have heard from the TCPs about the technical highlights of the Congress and I am sure that everyone of you will have enjoyed participation in other activities. We have had successful meeting of the General Assembly as you have heard from the Secretary General.

We have also approved the Beijing Declaration which calls on international organisations to work together to promote the peaceful use of geospatial technology for the benefit of society and the environment.

I am very gratified that the themes which I mentioned in my opening speech of collaboration and applying science to the benefit of society have been echoed in many meetings and presentations during the Congress. I think that we can move forward with great optimism about fulfilling our mission and implementing the Beijing Declaration over the next four years. The Youth Consortium has been formalised and the Youth Forum was a great success.

A lot of progress has been made in the past four years but there is always room for improvement. We have learnt lessons and will address shortcomings in the coming years. As I have mentioned before a new strategic plan is being prepared, this will take into account the rapid changes in science, education and the global market.

This is the end of my term of office as president and all that is left for me to do is to thank many people for their help and support during the past four years. Whatever has been achieved could not have been done without a committed and dedicated team. Of course we have had disagreements but we have overcome these and indeed strengthened our understanding of each other and moved on.

Let me start with my colleagues on Council. Secretary General Orhan Altan has set up an efficient organisation in Istanbul and ensured that Council has been supported by this. Treasurer Stan Morain has also

run a well oiled office of the treasurer and has made sure that we hand over a good system and a sound financial situation to his successor. I have benefited enormously from the experience and wise advice from 1st Vice President John Trinder and from the insightful comment and attention to detail of 2nd Vice President Manos Baltasvias. Their input has been invaluable in the discussions of Council. I do not need to repeat what a good job Congress Director Chen Jun has done in organising the Congress, and he has also made strong and useful contributions to all aspects of Council discussion.

Council has been supported by a strong team of TCPs who have provided the framework and encouragement for a strong technical programme; this has also been made possible by the work of the working group chairs and co-chairs.

And of course the local organizing committee for the Congress has done a fantastic job, they have been efficient and friendly and anxious to make sure that both Council and participants have a good Congress. I would particularly like to mention 2 people who have been largely unseen, probably because they have been working so hard, but who have done a great job on the scientific committee and the publications: Jiang Jie has done a great job in putting together the technical programme and liaising with the Technical Commission Presidents, and Zhilin Li has ensured that the Congress Book has been of high quality and published on time, as well as working on the Congress Daily.

I have been well supported by my colleagues in the UK, both at UCL and the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetric Society.

There is one person without whom this would have not been possible: that is my wife Jan. She has put up with my absences and helped me both materially and emotionally when we have been working together. I could not have done this job without her.

Council has a responsibility to run ISPRS for the benefit of you all-its members and participants in the Congress. If you go away from Beijing with new knowledge, new friends and inspiration for the coming four years, we can be satisfied with a job will be done and I can pass the responsibilities of the office to the new president

with a clear conscience that I have served the Society to the best of my ability.

This brings me to my final duty as president of ISPRS - to pass the chain of office over to Orhan Altan, your president for the next four years. I believe that ISPRS

is in a strong and well placed to continue its role of promoting our science, and I am quite sure that Orhan will do an excellent job in all aspects of the work of ISPRS. I congratulate him on his election and wish him well for his term as President.

ADDRESS OF INCOMING PRESIDENT ORHAN ALTAN

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 commencing with Dolezal and followed by many others including Doyle, Konecny, Torlegard, Murai, Fritz, Trinder and Dowman.

Please let me share with you some of my experiences from the time I was Congress Director, to when I became Secretary General. First of all, I recall some of my friends' warnings when they previously compared the work of Congress Director and Secretary General. They told me "Orhan don't expect an easier job. Be sure that being a Secretary General is more difficult than a Congress Director".

At the very beginning I didn't believe or I didn't want to believe them. Today, I have completed my term as Secretary General, and realize my friends' warnings 4 years ago were accurate.

However, the main difference between these jobs is quite obvious. During the Congress period I was working with various task groups and managing the congress committees following democratic principles, but I was the only decision maker and had to personally carry all responsibilities. The only way to complete this work successfully was to check if the related actions are done properly, with appropriate coordination and on time.

Meanwhile, as the Secretary General of the ISPRS, I had

to establish close contacts with all members, follow the activities of WG's and the 200 people working within them. Most of these activities don't need decisions but it was my duty to follow these up and ask the related people to conduct these activities as per the regulations of the organization. I had to deal with different cultures, traditions, perceptions and modes of operation. All these are the most difficult part of the job, really!

As the Congress Director you are the king of your own operations within already established terms. You are familiar with your own country's regulation, customs and way your team works, and you are also familiar with the capacity of your own country and environment whereas The Secretary General is only the servant to the most of the people that he is working with! I think this is something that the next Secretary General should take note of...

Dear Friends,

This is a time not only to look back and to give a brief of account on the activities for the past 4 years. I have done this at the General Assembly. As a person in a responsible position one should also give some thoughts to the future.

For me the most important issue for a human living on this planet is to think about the future of his/her environment. This is currently the most important issue for scientists, whether or not he or she is working on an area close to the subjects such as "Environmental Monitoring", "Climate Change" or "Global Warming".

Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of United Nations, mentioned in his speech last month on the "World Environment Day";

"Addiction is a terrible thing. It consumes and controls us, makes us deny important truths and blinds us to

the consequences of our actions. Our world is in the grip of a dangerous carbon habit...

Our dependence on carbon-based energy has caused a significant build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Last year, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change put the final nail in the coffin of global warming skeptics. We know that climate change is happening, and we know that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that we emit are the cause".

It is my opinion that in ISPRS we should give "Environmental Monitoring and Sustainable Development", "Disaster Management" and "Food Security" high priority in our activities. I believe that our sciences and technologies can contribute greatly to environmental issues of the globe. We should be in the actions of "Powering a Sustainable Future: Policies and measures to make it happen". We should be one of the International Scientific Societies, which contributes to reach the "Millennium Development Goals".

I hope that we will be in the service of the Society not only with the Earth Observation also with our other science and technologies we will try to solve the different problems of people living on this planet like in the preservation of Culture Heritage, Human Health and/or ease the daily life of them.

This brings me to another point which should rank highly, for my understanding, in the priority list of actions. This is "Publicizing our Science and Technology to the general population". This can also be formulated as "Outreach of ISPRS". For this we have to be prepared not only with scientific papers but also with translating them "Scientific Achievements of ISPRS into common language". These documents can also help us to communicate with other NGO's and elicit feedback from them. One of these NGOs is the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is a CEO-led, global association of some 190 companies dealing exclusively with business and sustainable development. Close contact with this organization will assist ISPRS in establishing links with the commercial world for pursuing issues of sustainable development.

The Council is perusing several objectives and is focusing on four key areas:

Energy and Climate

Development
The Business Role
Ecosystems

ISPRS has many overlapping interest in these key areas and the establishment of links with the Business Council took place on in May 2008 at Istanbul when President Dowman and I gave presentations on the "Structure and Aims of ISPRS and Sustainable Indicators".

The WBCSD is just one example of the many organizations; contacts with which I hope will intensify ISPRS's outreach to the outside world in order to demonstrate its scientific achievements to society.

ISPRS was founded on the 4th of July 1910 as ISP in Vienna by Prof. Eduard Dolezal: Council has decided to celebrate the centenary of the foundation of the Society with a series of activities on July 4, 2010 in Vienna Austria. The Board of the centenary preparations met this morning to consider plans for the celebrations and I urge you to mark this date in your calendar. This occasion will be used also to outreach our technology and sciences, and of course ISPRS, to the outside world. I can assure you that we will try to offer you a program that you will remember for many years.

This is not only the celebration we are going to have in the next few years. You should also remember the forthcoming dates of the ASPRS Conference next year in Baltimore from 8th to 13th March, where our friends in USA are going to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of their Society, then following this event the German Society (DGPF) is going to celebrate its centenary of Foundation on the 24th to 26th of March 2009 in Jena, the birthplace of the German Society and that is not all. In September next year we will also celebrate 100 Years of the Photogrammetric Week.

All these events will give us the opportunity to remember our roots and think about the future. I hope that most of us will not miss these events.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
I would like to acknowledge support from many people during my time as Secretary General, most particularly from ITU: my colleagues in the Department of Geodesy and Photogrammetry Engineering, especially Özgür Avşar and Umut Aydar, who have worked with enthusiasm in ISPRS daily matters. I have also had excellent support from the Turkish National Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. My thanks are also to the Turkish Government,

who supported the Headquarters with a large grant and the Istanbul Technical University for providing me free time to devote to ISPRS business. I would like to thank everybody within ISPRS who has efficiently interacted with me particularly TCPs and WG chairs and of course Council, with whom it has been a real pleasure to work.

The climate of the Council fostered collegial respect, teamwork and cooperation. We owe this climate primarily to President Ian Dowman to whom I would like to express my sincerest thanks. I also would like to thank First-Vice President John Trinder: Without his help I would not be able to fulfill the requirements of this demanding position. John Trinder was the person to receive my reports, documents and edited them with dedication and unpretentious skills.

As I've said lot of effort is involved in the position of Secretary General but the rewards working with such a dedicated and stimulating group of people is the reward that makes it all worthwhile. Finally I would like to thank my wife, Melike, without whose tolerance and support, I would not have been able to serve the Society as Secretary General.

Before concluding I have the responsibility of thank in the Congress Director and his team for organizing

this Conference. In 2004 he promised a memorable congress on "Silk Road for Information from Imagery". He has certainly fulfilled this promise. We have excellent facilities here at the Congress Centre, an unsurpassed technical program, outstanding organization by the Congress team and if this were not enough we have been had the opportunity to explore the exotic Chinese culture to the full through the social program. All this has been enjoyed by participants from all continents. 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 Jiang Jie and the rest of the large local organizing committee has given him. 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. Starting from Istanbul we followed the Silk Road to Beijing, and I look forward to seeing you, and many others, in Melbourne in 2012.

So finally I would like to give my word that I will fulfill my responsibilities as President of this Society in the same manner as I have already done for many years.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen for listening to me.

ADDRESS OF INCOMING CONGRESS DIRECTOR CLIFF OGLEBY

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to talk to you about the next ISPRS Congress which is going to be held in my home town, Melbourne Australia. It is a great place for a Congress, and perfect chance to catch up with old friends, meet some new ones, eat some fantastic food, drink delicious wines and experience a very unique city and country.

Melbourne consistently ranks as one of the world's leading convention destinations, and has won many awards and accolades for its prowess as a host city for international conventions including: World's Best Convention Centre; World's Best Convention City and Best Convention Bureau Australia/Asia Pacific. The venue is a new state-of-the-art congress centre right next to the central business district on the Yarra River. It is a 6 star environmentally rated facility with plenty of natural light and an extensive use of recycled materials within a short walk from many hotels so our carbon footprint is small.

Melbourne has many attractions, apart from being my home. It is a city of 3.8 million people, and a rich cultural melange with over 200 ethnic communities and 180 spoken languages. There are over 6500 restaurants and 70 different cuisines. It is now a shopping destination, but still has many other cultural attractions including a spectacular arts and entertainment precinct.

Melbourne is also very easy to get to, and the airport is ranked No. 5 in the world by some organization that ranks airports. The Domestic and International Terminals are under one roof, it operates 24 hours per day every day, and there is a Foreign Language Welcome Desk & Wheelchair Assist Service. It is also serviced by over 25 airlines including budget carriers.

The timing of the Congress is early Spring (in the Southern Hemisphere) which is not only a wonderful time to experience Melbourne's Spring Carnival and Australian Rules Football games but also the best weather to explore all that Australia has to offer.

There are plenty of accommodation options in the city with 22,000 rooms (14,800+ within the CBD), over 5,400 rooms within walking distance to the Congress Venue and around 3,000 budget Hostel or Backpacker beds.

Australia has a very active photogrammetry and remote sensing community of academics, government and industry. We have a long involvement with ISPRS, and also understand how to have a good time while being enriched by a Congress.

The Congress Organising Committee is committed to offering an excellent scientific and social program, and a Congress relevant to the goals of the ISPRS. I invite you all to the next ISPRS Congress in 2012 in Melbourne, Australia.