



WELCOME TO THE XXIV ISPRS CONGRESS

**Welcome from Congress Director,
Nicolas Paparoditis**

Welcome from the Congress Director

Dear Presidents, dear directors, dear officers, dear colleagues, dear ladies and gentlemen,

I am, together with the XXIV Congress executive committee and the programme chairs of this XXIV Congress, very proud to host you and quite relieved to meet you in-person at last after 6 long years of preparation.

As you may have noticed, this Nice event is the third edition of the XXIV ISPRS Congress after the 2020 and 2021 digital events. We have done everything possible to ensure a scientific continuity during the pandemic, enabling our researchers and especially our PhD and master students to disseminate new knowledge, and get some feedback from discussions with experienced colleagues. To encourage this continuity, we have kept each registration alive for the 3 editions, thus one single registration giving access to up to 3 editions. We also wanted this event to be inclusive. Indeed, we have offered very early bird rates and quite a number of fee waivers to allow many colleagues and especially young colleagues from across the World to attend the Congress.

For this 2022 physical meeting we have built a rich programme with, of course, Science at the center but not just limited to science. Indeed, one main missions of ISPRS beyond extending the frontier of knowledge, is to address both Science and Technology together and to keep a strong link between academia, organisations and Industry. This is why we have an industry exhibition and why we have also introduced a technology track and also a very exciting forum track with ten sessions over the 6 days of the Congress. Hot topics for our community will be discussed, to be able to better respond to the challenges that our world is currently facing. I encourage you to also attend these tracks.

Now some quick numbers about this Congress: 3 editions, 3400 submitted contributions from over 120 countries, over 7k reviews performed, 2500+ oral or poster presentations

and over 2500 papers plagiarism-checked and published in the Annals and Archives which are reference by WoS, Scopus and EI. We have experienced along these 3 editions, a new media complementary to the papers which are the 10-minute pre-recorded videos. These are made Open Access on the ISPRS media library after the Congress. For the 3 editions, we have collected over 1500 videos. I believe they are going to be very useful and valuable for researchers to have a quick overview of the papers but also for education purposes. A survey carried out in 2021, with nearly 500 responses already showed that they were much appreciated by the community.

With the experience we have now acquired, one question remains on the future shape and flavour of our large ISPRS events. Hybrid or not hybrid, that is the question? These big and non-annual events are already very complex to organize. The additional complexity and costs of a hybrid format led to a real organizational difficulty and overload, and a necessary change of the economic model. Beyond research dissemination, ISPRS is all about networking and sharing our cultures, and I believe, and I don't think I am the only one to believe this, that this can only be done in physical meetings. In any case, this will be a challenge that the future ISPRS Council with the future event organisers will have to tackle with the consent of the community.

At last, I would like to warmly acknowledge our institutional sponsors IGN, CNES, IRD, CNRS, INRIA and the Order of French Surveyors which have all been very supportive, but also and above all our industry sponsors for their fidelity to ISPRS and to this XXIV Congress throughout these 3 Congress editions.

Enjoy the Congress and of course also enjoy the weather, the sea, Nice and its surroundings.

Long live Photogrammetry, remote sensing, and spatial information sciences!

