



## **OPENING CEREMONY**

**Opening Address by Nicolas Paparoditis, Congress Director**

**Welcome Address by Christian Heipke, ISPRS President**

**Awards presented at the Opening Ceremony**

**Keynote Speakers**

**Opening of the XXIII Congress**

## Opening Ceremony Program

- Introductory Remarks and Welcome
- Opening Address by Congress Director, Nicolas Paparoditis
- Welcome Address by ISPRS President, Christian Heipke
- Welcome message from SFPT President, Aurélie Sand
- Welcome message from IGN Deputy General Director, Magali Stoll
- Welcome message from CNES Director of Orbital Systems and Applications, Caroline Laurent
- Presentation: Pléiades Neo, the most advanced Optical Constellation for sophisticated Applications  
François Lombard, AIRBUS, Toulouse, France
- Presentation: Exploring Human Heritage  
Yves Ubelman, ICONEM, Paris, France
- Presentation of Awards  
Presentation of Brock Gold Medal Award  
Proposal for ISPRS Honorary Membership
- Film projection, “A propos de Nice” by Jean Vigo
- Opening of the XXIV Congress
- Welcome Reception

### Opening Address by Nicolas Paparoditis

Dear officials, dear colleagues, dear friends,

Welcome to my home town, Nice, and to this opening ceremony, the first plenary session of the XXIV ISPRS Congress that I have the huge honour and pleasure to chair. It is good to see you in person after so many years after our last Congress in Prague in 2016 and the Geospatial Week in 2019.

It is always a very special moment for a Greek, even by origin, to speak from the Acropolis to the community and the people. And it reminds me how much democracy and peace are important and that Science should be at the center of these.

We are going to start this opening ceremony not with a traditional “dance from Provence” which I used to practice when I was a kid (you can ask my mother sitting at the front row :) but with a movie, a very special movie for cinema lovers, a black and white film of the 1930s from the director Jean Vigo.

But why does the Congress Director want to show us an old black and white film here at the opening?

Well ISPRS, and in particular, the ISPRS Congress beyond the Science and the networking is all about sharing our culture with others and helping your colleagues discover yours. This is definitely one of the things I wanted to share with you beyond all that you will discover throughout the week: the weather, the landscapes, the gastronomy, the baroque architecture and some more.

So why a film and why this film? Well, we are in the birth country of cinema with the Freres Lumieres. Every year in May-June, the French Riviera is also the center of the world of Cinema with the Cannes Film Festival

which finished just a few days ago. Tertio, this film is called a « A propos de Nice ». It means “about Nice”. This film depicts life in Nice in the 1930’s. Well this is how Nice was when France hosted the last Congress in 1934!

Jean Vigo actually died in 1934 aged 29. His cinematographic production, although very small, has had a very strong influence on the development of Cinema in France but also worldwide.

This film is originally a silent movie. But we will have what we call a cine-concert, with an original live soundtrack by a group of excellent professional musicians highly inspired by the Mediterranean Culture and Jazz.

Indeed, Nice is also a historical city of Jazz with its international Jazz Festival created in 1948, one of the first international jazz festivals. The musicians and other artists in France have a specific working statute in France called the “Intermittents du spectacle” that you would translate as “Show intermittents”. This statute enables artists to make a decent living out of their art and this is a part of what we call the French cultural exception.

But now enough talking, I will let you enjoy the film.

With this film projection I declare this XXIVth ceremony open.

## Welcome Address by Christian Heipke, ISPRS President

Chère Mme Sand, Présidente de la Société Française de Photogrammétrie et de Télédétection (SFPT), dear Aurélie,

Chère Mme Stoll, Directrice Générale Adjointe de l'Institut National de l'Information Géographique et Forestière (IGN),

Chère Mme Laurent, Directrice des Systèmes Orbitaux et membre du Comité Exécutif du Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES),

Cher Directeur du XXIV Congrès ISPRS, dear Nicolas,

Your excellencies from the world of science and from our host country France,

Dear presidents and representatives of our sister societies,

Distinguished Congress participants here in the room and from remote,

Dear Friends,

Thank you all for coming and a very warm welcome to the XXIV ISPRS Congress. I am so glad to see you after those long months of not being able to mingle and discuss photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information science face-to-face. Nevertheless, let's not forget that for many of our friends, travelling is still not possible – let's send a special welcome to everybody remotely connected to this opening ceremony.

As we have also experienced in the preparation of the Congress, in times of disruptive change, planning, even when it is based on sound scientific grounds, may be of limited value. However, it is still the best thing we, as humans, can do to make this world a better place. It is our common responsibility as scientists and as citizens to search for and to find solutions which make sure that we will leave the planet in a sustained state for future generations. And remember - we must get it right now, we only have this one world, we don't have a plan(et) B.

Here, our disciplines come into play. Whether we are concerned with global earth observation to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, with autonomous driving to increase traffic safety and comfort, or with virtual entertainment shows (as we recently saw in *Abba Voyage* with their avatars called *abbatars*) – imagery, visualisation and spatial questions play a major role. We can and should contribute to these developments, and of course to many more.

"Common responsibility" obviously includes communication and cooperation. While this can be extremely difficult at times in politics, we should not forget that there is only one science in the world. Therefore, in my view science must withstand political pressure to cut off ties and relationships between scientists and must strive to keep communication channels open. After all, at some point in time, even the worst crisis will be over. Also, environmental challenges and disasters do not know national or cultural borders.

I want to close on a happier note. I am looking forward to a full week of exciting presentations and inspiring discussions of photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information science. I am looking forward to chatting with old friends, to making new friends and to learning about the latest development of our field. I am also looking forward to seeing a new group of ISPRS leaders being elected and taking over the steering wheel of ISPRS. In short, I am looking forward to a fascinating week full of science, industry relationships and global education, the three pillars of ISPRS.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Council members, Technical Commission Presidents and ISPRS officers for the collaborative management of the Society, all sister societies for their support and all participants for being here.

Merci beaucoup aussi à l'équipe française pour avoir préparé ce congrès pour nous malgré toutes les difficultés que vous avez rencontré pendant les six dernières années !

Thank you very much for your attention and have a great week!



### Welcome from SFPT



Aurélie Sand, SFPT President

### Welcome from IGN



Magali Stoll, Deputy General Director, IGN

### Welcome from CNES



Caroline Laurent, Director of Orbital Systems, and Applications, CNE



## Awards presented at the Opening Ceremony

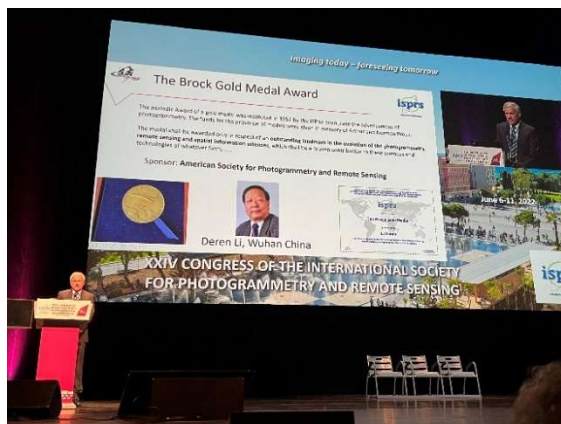
### ISPRS Honorary Member

**Chen Jun** received his Honorary membership in a virtual handover from ISPRS President, Christian Heipke.



### The Brock Gold Medal

**Li Deren** received the Brock Gold Medal award virtually presented by Charles Toth, ISPRS Vice-President and representative of the sponsor, ASPRS.



## Keynote Speakers

### Pléiades Neo, the most advanced Optical Constellation for sophisticated Applications

François Lombard, AIRBUS, Toulouse, France



### Exploring Human Heritage

Yves Ubelman, ICONEM, Paris, France



## Opening of the XXIII Congress



Nicolas Paparoditis and Christian Heipke officially opening the Congress, with the help of Ava Paparoditis and Matthias Heipke