

**John Trinder**

Former President, ISPRS (2000-2004)

TAKING ISPRS BEYOND PHOTOGRAMMETRY

After completing my undergraduate degree from the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney in 1962, I received a scholarship from the Netherlands government to study at ITC in Delft for two years. My first exposure to what was then ISP was in 1964 when many of the ITC staff members went to the ISP Congress in Lisbon in 1964. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Congress, but I was able to attend some of the post-Congress workshops at ITC where results of some of the sessions at the Congress were reviewed and discussed.

On returning to Australia in 1965, I was employed by UNSW and was not able to attend an ISP Congress until 1972 in Ottawa, after I had spent 10 months at Purdue University in Indiana, USA during 1971-72. I have attended every ISP/ISPRS Congress since then. At the 1976 Congress in Helsinki, I commenced my participation in ISP scientific activities. I became a member of a working group (WG) in Commission I. In addition, I got to know that a number of the ISP participants were urging ISP Council to take a more active role in the new area of remote sensing lest other organisations may become more prominent in the field. ISP Council did indeed heed to these requests and took the significant step of renaming the Society at the Hamburg Congress in 1980. From my subsequent experience with ISPRS as a leader of an ad hoc committee in ISPRS from 1988 to 1990 and then as President, I could observe that the name change did lead to ISPRS being a player in the field of remote sensing, but it was clearly not the dominant organisation involved in remote sensing.

At the Hamburg Congress, I was elected as President of Commission I with the title 'primary data acquisition.'

During the Rio de Janeiro Congress in 1984, the Australian Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing asked me to bid as Congress Director for the 1988 Congress in Australia. The bid was unsuccessful, but it led to my being nominated and elected as second vice president of ISPRS from 1984-1988. This appointment gave me exposure to operations of ISPRS Council and I was indeed very impressed with the commitment and dedication of President Gottfried Konecny and Secretary General Kenneth Torlegard to ISPRS.

From 1988-1990, I chaired an ad hoc committee to investigate the future directions of the Society. The report of the committee was submitted to the Council in 1990 and to the General Assembly in Washington 1992. The report found that the decision to change the name of the Society by the General Assembly included rephrasing the terms of reference of the technical commissions to



Manos Baltasvias (Second Vice President), John Trinder (First Vice President), Orhan Altan (Secretary General), Ian Dowman (President), Stan Morain (Treasurer) and Chen Jun (Congress Director)

include remote sensing in their activities where relevant, and a request for members to change their activities to include remote sensing. However, there was little else done to demonstrate to the remote sensing community that ISPRS was a leader in the field of remote sensing through its activities. Hence, coupled with the fact that remote sensing had already developed outside ISPRS for nearly 20 years prior to 1980, in my view ISPRS had not encompassed remote sensing to the extent that it could have had it actively encouraged participation of remote sensing experts in ISPRS earlier, especially when the first Landsat satellite was launched. The ad hoc committee also recommended that ISPRS should embrace spatial information systems, because it was considered that while ISPRS primarily deals with imaging, this topic cannot be treated in isolation from the subsequent processing of spatial information. Hence, while ISPRS had already included spatial information systems in its activities, the ad hoc committee recommended that ISPRS should expand its activities in this area. These recommendations led to the reframing of the terms of reference of the Technical Commissions in 1992 and also in 2004, when a new technical commission structure was also introduced. In 1991, I was appointed Chair of the Financial Commission following the death of the then Chair, Giovanna Togliatti. In 1992, I was nominated and elected as Treasurer, commencing a term of 16 years on the ISPRS Council, when I was subsequently elected as Secretary General, President and First Vice President. In recognition of this service, I was elected as an Honorary Member of ISPRS at the Beijing Congress.

Since 1992, technologies in ISPRS have changed radically. Therefore, a strategic planning meeting was held in 1998, which led to a number of decisions for action, such as the possibility of permanent headquarters of the Society, the financing the Society and publicity of ISPRS. Three decisions from the strategic plan that involved work by the Council during the period when I was President from 2000-2004 were: the review commission structure; the registration of ISPRS in an appropriate country; and the development of The ISPRS Foundation.

After considering a number of countries in which to register ISPRS, and many discussions with ISPRS Members,



ISPRS Council, the International Advisory Board, Technical Commission Presidents and officers of ISPRS - in front of St. Sophia

the Council decided to officially register ISPRS in the state of Maryland, USA in April 2006. Following extensive discussions with participants in ISPRS Symposia in 2002, the new terms of reference of the Society were developed by the Council in 2003 and sent to members for voting in the same year so that they could be implemented in 2004. In this revised version of the technical commissions including a new commission VIII, two commissions deal with theory and applications for each of the three topics of photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences and two overarching commissions deal with data acquisition, and education and outreach. This commission structure has now been successfully operating for two inter-Congress periods. The Congress was successfully held in Istanbul, Turkey in 2004 while I was President. A new addition to the Congress was the Youth forum, comprising students from all over the world, giving them an opportunity to present papers on their research and discussing issues related to their work. The forum was also held in the 2008 Congress in Beijing China and subsequently the ISPRS Student Consortium has been officially established and approved by the General Assembly in Beijing. This consortium has been developed to ensure that ISPRS continues to attract young people into its activities, guaranteeing the future of the Society.

On the occasion of its centenary, ISPRS heads can be thankful for the dedicated people who have worked to maintain its vibrancy and relevance over the past 100 years. I am sure that with the current Council and the young people interested in participating in its future activities, ISPRS is in good hands. I congratulate ISPRS for an outstanding 100 years and look forward to its continuing success in the future. ■