

ORGANISATION AND FUTURE OF ISPRS STUDENT CONSORTIUM

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ABSTRACT:

During XX. Congress of International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) in Istanbul, some student activities such as; Youth Forum, Summer Camp and Youth Technical Session were organised. These activities were regarded as the first, in ISPRS history and it was decided by the Council, that Youth Forum should be organised in the future ISPRS congresses. As a conclusion of these positive developments for students within ISPRS, Student Consortium (SC) was established under Commission VI “Education and Outreach” and the continuity of the Student Consortium was ensured by setting up an ISPRS Working Group “Promotion of the Profession to Students” that would provide a stable link between Student Consortium and ISPRS. ISPRS Summer School 2005 was the first main activity of Student Consortium and organised in Istanbul Technical University, with the topic of “Satellite Data Processing and Spatio-Temporal Analysis (for Resource and Disaster Mapping, Monitoring and Management)”, between 19-26 June, 2005. Today Student Consortium has members from almost 30 countries all over the world and the members have started to build the future of Student Consortium. This study is a collective work of Student Consortium members and covers some topics such as; past, establishing & purpose, activities & today and future of Student Consortium.

1. PRIOR TO STUDENT CONSORTIUM

1.1 Students within ISPRS

It is trivial to mention that advanced graduate and especially postgraduate students generate a significant part of the scientific work developed within ISPRS and constitute the future backbone of ISPRS and its Members. However, for a long period there were no specific ISPRS activities targeted at this important group. It was only in 1996, during the Vienna Congress that the Best Papers by Young Author Awards were established and respective special sessions for presentations of these papers were organised. These awards were since then established and presented in all subsequent Congresses and many Technical Commission Symposia. However, neither other activities regarding students and young researchers were organised nor an organisational structure within ISPRS to host such activities was set up. In parallel to this, most National Societies, members of ISPRS, did not have a provision of student membership and student chapters. (Baltsavias, 2005)

1.2 Developing Idea: An Organisational Structure for Students within ISPRS

During the XX. Congress of ISPRS in Istanbul, some student activities were organised. These were Youth Technical Session, The Best Paper and Best Poster by Young Authors Awards, Youth Forum and Summer Camp. All the activities were really productive and encouraging for students.

These Youth Forum and Summer Camp were regarded as the first in ISPRS history.

During preparation of young people activities in ISPRS two targets were determined;

- first was to provide sustainability of Youth Forum
- second was to establish a Student Consortium under Commission VI “Education and Outreach”.

Youth Forum

Organisation and preparation of Youth Forum is realized by a group of students under the supervision Local Organising Committee of the Congress. The topic of the Youth Forum was “Professional Contributions on Sustainable Development” and focused mainly on sustainable development including professional education and training methodology, future perspectives of the profession, the views of the youth community and their expectations from the professional society and pressures of technological developments.

A lot of students, young researchers from different countries and also the Council members were ready in the Youth Forum. Under the supervision student coordinators of Youth Forum everybody discussed and shared their ideas after speeches of keynote speakers.

Moreover, terms of references of an organisational structure for students within ISPRS are kindly suggested to the Council.

Sustainability of Youth Forum was agreed for all general assembly congresses in XX. Congress of ISPRS by the Council.



Figure 1. Youth Forum - ISPRS XX. Congress Istanbul

Summer Camp

Organisation and preparation of Summer Camp is realized by a group of students under the supervision Local Organising Committee of the Congress. ISPRS 2004 Summer Youth Camp was held in Guzelyali, Canakkale, Turkey; between 23-29 July 2004.

The camp was on the base of developing social relationships between students who are concerned with subjects in the content of photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences. In the scope of the camp there were social and technical workshops, technical and social seminars, student presentations, leisure activities, and excursions. (Avci, 2004)

39 students from 10 different countries has participated the summer camp. The participation of students to both professional and social activities was enthusiastic.



Figure 2. Summer Camp Participants – Troya 2004

2. ESTABLISHING AND PURPOSE OF STUDENT CONSORTIUM

2.1 Establishing of Student Consortium

By the successful student activities during Istanbul Congress, the Council decided to set up ISPRS Student Consortium. It was established under Commission VI “Education and Outreach” and the continuity of the Student Consortium is ensured by setting up an ISPRS Working Group “Promotion of the Profession to Students” that will provide a stable link between Student Consortium and ISPRS.

Terms of References of WG VI/5 “Promotion of the Profession to Students”

- Promotion and support of international student activities including the ISPRS Student Consortium.
- Encouragement of active participation of students, especially undergraduate students, in ISPRS events and promotion of reduced fees and stipend for their participation.
- Collection and maintenance of a database on people who are involved in the promotion of the profession to students, including the members of ISPRS Student Consortium and educators.

Not only young researchers but also advanced diploma students can join Student Consortium. Student Consortium is led by student coordinators and www.commission6.isprs.org/wg5 is the door through which you can find information on Student Consortium and its activities, announcements and also membership form of Student Consortium.

2.2 Purpose of Student Consortium

The main purpose of the Student Consortium is to link students in different countries who are interested in photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences, provide a platform for exchange of information and culture and organise student-specific events either independently or within larger ISPRS events. By these events Student Consortium acts as a bridge between students and ISPRS.

3. STUDENT CONSORTIUM TODAY AND ITS ACTIVITIES

3.1 ISPRS Summer School 2005 Istanbul



Figure 3. Logo of ISPRS Summer School 2005

The designing and realization of the first ISPRS Summer School (SS) has also been one of the main goals for Student Consortium during the first year of its appearance. This event took place at Istanbul Technical University’s Maslak campus during 19-26 of June 2005 and it was arranged in cooperation between Student Consortium Coordinators and the Local Organising Committee consisting of Turkish students. Altogether almost 50 students registered for the meeting, from which 39 from 11 different countries finally participated. The general topic of ISPRS Summer School was “Satellite Data Processing and Spatio-Temporal Analysis (for Resource and Disaster Mapping, Monitoring and Management)”. In practice, this topic was presented to the participants in a wide range of theory and application lectures provided by many world-class lecturers, real professionals in their own subject matter. (Jarvinen, 2005)

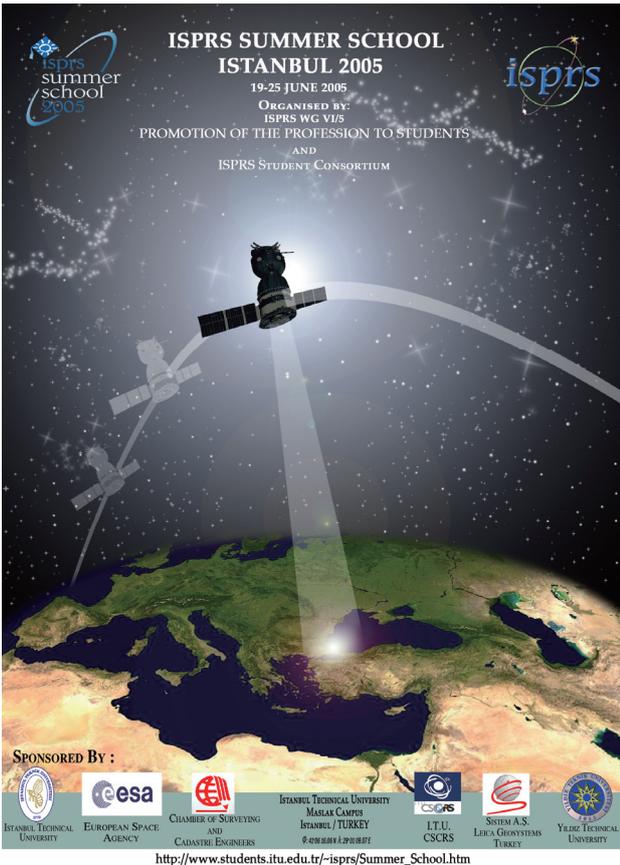


Figure 4. Poster of ISPRS Summer School 2005



Figure 5. Participants of ISPRS Summer School 2005 (ISPRS SC web page, www.commission6.isprs.org/wg5)

3.2 Members of Student Consortium

Coordination of Student Consortium is ensured by Student Coordinators and current four Student Consortium Coordinators are from Turkey, Finland, Switzerland and Japan.

Distribution of Student Consortium members among the countries all over the world is graphically showed below.



Figure 6. Distrubtion of SC Members among the Countries

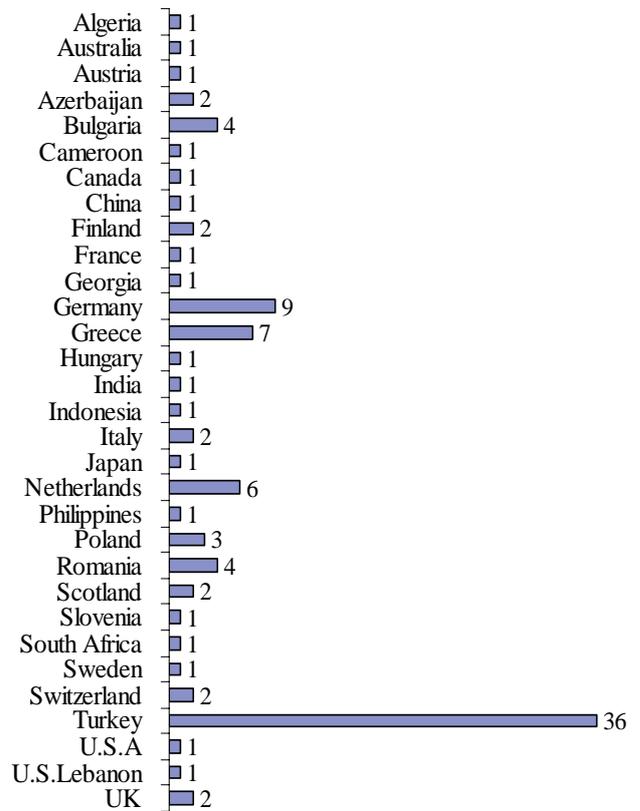


Chart 1. Distrubtion of SC Members among the Countries

3.3 The Initial Team

In Turkey, an initial team, consisting of Student Consortium members, was established in November 2005 with a purpose of taking the role of shaping ISPRS Student Consortium’s organisation plan and future. The team members include undergraduate, graduate students and young researchers. The team’s main work topics are the new and permanent web site of Student Consortium, design of a member database and a sustainable student network plan all over the world. Infrastructure work of the team; the aim of which is to build Student Consortium on a strong base, is going on and developing.

4. FUTURE OF STUDENT CONSORTIUM

As a foresight of Student Consortium's future;

- the ideas and comments on developing of Student Consortium, which appear in the evaluation forum of ISPRS Summer School 2005,
- the tasks for Student Consortium which are drawn by the Student Consortium Coordinators,
- the topics on which the team in Turkey is working

are commented as:

National liaisons should be established and national coordinators should work for building, developing Student Consortium network in local region and for providing feedback to Student Consortium about universities, students and national liaison. Therefore, stable student network all over the world should be established.

Activities of Student Consortium should be varied; it should not be just a summer school; projects can be developed, as collective work of Student Consortium members.

Student Consortium should have an interactive and smart web page. It should work as a portal, which enables both coordinators and members to use different interfaces for performing some administration tasks and queries in member database.

Till XXI. Congress of ISPRS in Beijing, in 2008; organisational structure of Student Consortium, well organised advertising of Student Consortium, effective activities and establishing a global student network should be achieved. After the Congress, Student Consortium keeps on growing by impressive activities.

In conclusion, Student Consortium will be an effective bridge between students and ISPRS. By Student Consortium activities students will be familiar with ISPRS. People, who will take responsibilities within ISPRS in the future, will commence working within Student Consortium.

In other words, Student Consortium will shape the future of ISPRS.

LET'S COME TOGETHER TO MAKE THE WORLD SMALLER AND SMALLER, WHILE ENLARGING AND POWERING OUR STUDENT CONSORTIUM NETWORK!!

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