

# 1995 Annual Report - Introduction

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*Lawrence W. Fritz, ISPRS Secretary General*

The **1995 ISPRS Annual Report** has been prepared and published to meet several ISPRS objectives:

- Promote international cooperation, coordination and advancement of photogrammetry, remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS) and related sciences.
- Provide timely information on the state of the art research and development to all interested parties.
- Improve communication of ISPRS objectives and activities to ISPRS Member organizations and to other scientific organizations and international forums such as the United Nations.
- Fulfill reporting requirements of Commissions and Working Groups as prescribed in the ISPRS Bylaws and Guidelines.

During 1995, many workshops, conferences and meetings were conducted by our seven Technical Commissions and their 46 Working Groups. A summary of these events and some of the knowledge shared at them is contained in this report. We hope you will appreciate each of their assessments of the state of the science and technology of the subjects and topics for which they have responsibility.

The official term of all current ISPRS officers is completed on 19 July 1996. At the 18th ISPRS Congress, which convenes during 9-19 July 1996 in Vienna, Austria, the new Council and Commission Presidents will be elected by the ISPRS General Assembly. This quadrennial Congress provides an opportunity for ISPRS to renew its activities with vigor, fed by the innovative and fresh ideas offered from the wealth of knowledge and capabilities of our members. We are fortunate to have a framework which allows for a smooth transition of experience to occur. We encourage all individuals and organizations which have an interest in the subjects covered by ISPRS to participate fully in the Congress which always proves to be a milestone event.

At the Congress, the General Assembly will discuss proposed changes to the Terms of Reference of Commissions and will modify the Society Bylaws as appropriate. In the Commission Open-Business Meetings at the Congress, all interested attendees will discuss and recommend to the General Assembly, a set of general Resolutions formulated to guide the direction of the Commissions for the 1996-2000 term. The essence of these Resolutions forms the basis for the establishment or renewal of Commission Working Groups and for developing the Terms of Reference for their activities during 1996-2000. The purpose for this process is for ISPRS to maintain the relevance and value of its activities by reflecting changes precipitated by advancements in science and technology and by recognition of the need for new innovative applications in order to improve the way of life for humankind.

All persons interested in participating in any of the scientific activities of a Commission are invited to contact the office of the Commission President, whose

communication numbers are listed on the facing page (vi). We encourage and welcome you to join the open discussions at the Congress in Vienna.

ISPRS is pleased to welcome our new Regional Member, the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, and we welcome the many new Sustaining Members who help support our endeavors. On behalf of ISPRS Council, I encourage the readers of this Report to send us your comments. We hope that the information contained herein is of value to you and encourage you to make copies for further distribution. It has been my pleasure to have had the opportunity to participate in the preparation of this Annual Report for the past three years.