

1995 Annual Report - President's Message

Dr. Shunji Murai, President of ISPRS

First of all, I want to report to you that I have returned to Tokyo, Japan after a three year appointment at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand from December, 1992 to December, 1995. It was an excellent experience enabling me to better understand the Asian economic growth as well as the Asian culture. I believe the experience will be valuable input to improve the ISPRS community.

The main activities of the ISPRS Council in 1995 were; 1) to restructure the scheme of ISPRS in terms of Statutes and Bylaws in order to expand ISPRS activities, and 2) to prepare for the XVIII ISPRS Congress which will convene in July 1996.

At the ISPRS Congress to be held in Vienna, the Council is going to propose a milestone amendment to the Statutes and Bylaws by introducing Associate Membership which will allow for multiple photogrammetry, remote sensing and/or GIS related organizations to join ISPRS activities. The Council has continued such restructuring and reform through three Presidential generations: Prof. G. Konecny (1984-1988), Prof. K. Torlegard (1988-1992) and me (1992-1996). However the Council had not reached a consensus until the more recent Council Meetings; Beijing, October 1994 and Vienna, June 1995. Another key debate among the Council members was on how to deal with GIS in ISPRS. The conclusion was that GIS should be considered as a discipline rather than a technique or application. This will be reflected in the amendments of the Statutes on Definition as well as on Mission.

The preparation for the Vienna Congress is going on very well in cooperation between Prof. K. Kraus, Congress Director, Council and Technical Commission Presidents/WG Chairmen. There is a great challenge in preparing the Congress by having to fulfill both of two important tasks; how to keep the high quality and how to open the Congress to everybody particularly to those of developing countries and former socialistic countries. The Council always assures that the Congress will be based on free and fair opportunity, friendly and humane atmosphere, and highly informatic and exciting discovery.

In conclusion, ISPRS continues to be successful in maintaining its high standard of following the present technical advancements and the future prospects.

Finally I am very pleased to report to you that Council forms a good team based on democratic but leadership spirit. In particular, I would like to thank Mr. Lawrence W. Fritz, Secretary General for his energetic work in compiling this annual report.

