

WELCOME ADDRESS OF ISPRS PRESIDENT

SHUNJI MURAI, President, ISPRS
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Mr. President, Austrian Society for Surveying and Geoinformation, Professor August Hochwartner, Mr. Congress Director, Professor Karl Kraus, Distinguished Delegates, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, I extend a cordial welcome to the 18th International Congress of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing to all of you. Since our society was founded in 1910 and the first Congress was held in 1913, here in Vienna, Austria, under the strong leadership of Professor Eduard Dolezal, we are very pleased to return to the original starting point. We owe our presence here to Professor Karl Kraus, our Congress Director and his team who have prepared this Congress. On behalf of all participants, I would like to thank this team and the many organizations in Austria who dedicated great efforts to make this Congress possible in this beautiful and historical city of Vienna. For this we thank our Austrian hosts.

My first duty as the President was to keep the ISPRS tradition that has been inherited by the past presidents, particularly Dr. Fred Doyle, Professor Gottfried Konecny and Professor Kennert Torlegard since the Society has changed the name from ISP to ISPRS in 1980. The ISPRS's tradition is a democratic spirit and open attitude.

It is very sad for me to report to you that two Honorary Members have passed away in the past four years. Mr. Jean Cruset, Honorary Member as well as the last President in the age of ISP, 1976-1980, and Professor Placidino Machado Fagundes, the past Congress Director at Rio Congress in 1984 passed away. In addition, a former Council Member, Professor W. Bachmann, who served as Secretary General (1964-1968) and Vice President (1968-1972) passed away.

In their memory, I ask you to rise for a moment of silence. Thank you,

My second duty was to restructure the Society to meet the requirements of the age. The present is called "computer age", "information age", "space age", "multi-media age" and so on. In these past four years, the population has increased by four hundred millions, several tens of millions computers were installed, several hundreds of thousands of satellite scenes were taken and several million maps were digitized in the world. The question is how to recognize the requirements of our profession.

We have to recognize and accept the following changes:

- from analog to digital form
- from air survey to space remote sensing
- from paper to electronic media
- from static to dynamic measurements
- from single to multiple disciplines
- from centralized to distributed systems
- from manual to automatic operations
- from closed to open data policy

These changes have strongly influenced the restructuring of our institutions and profession. In this sense, the ISPRS is going to propose to amend the Statutes and Bylaws at General Assemblies to be held during this Congress. I sincerely request the delegates to support the proposal. Otherwise the Society will not be able to survive.

My third duty was to activate all Technical Commissions and Working Groups for the benefit of the Society. I am very proud to report to you that the activities of 7 Technical Commissions and 46 Working Groups were the most exciting and fruitful in terms of technical progress, compared with the past. In this respect, I thank all of Technical Commission Presidents and Working Group Chairmen for their great contribution to our Society. I believe that all these achievements will be reflected in the technical sessions with high quality paper presentations in this Congress.

You will share information about most advanced technologies such as very high resolution satellite imagery, synthetic aperture radar (SAR) interferometry, laser scanners with GPS/INS, image understanding to extract spatial information from images, etc., through technical sessions and exhibitions of this Congress.

My fourth duty was to determine how to communicate more effectively with ISPRS Members. The Council has decided to offer a better information service to our Members. I believe that the information flow was much improved in the past four years. Particularly I thank Mr. Lawrence W. Fritz, our Secretary General for his tremendous efforts to publish the new ISPRS Annual Report.

Finally I appreciate fully the excellent preparation that Professor Karl Kraus and his team have accomplished. I believe that the Vienna Congress would be a most exciting and successful one, full of excellent papers and exciting exhibitions.

Thank you.