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ISPRS Highlights

Colophon
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ISPRS Events Calendar

Inter Society Activities
ISPRS represents the views of the international
ISPRS community at international fora. The principal
organisations, which we work with at the moment, are the United Nations, the Group on

GIS for Sustainable Development
Sustainable development is a complex process
that encompasses the different dimensions of
development such as economic, environmental,
and social. The book by Michele Campagna pre-
sents recent research results and case studies
which offer a diverse perspective of the prob-
lem. Book Review
By John Trinder, First Vice President Operations Officer, ISPRS Foundation

**ISPRS Foundation Grants First Awards**

The ISPRS Foundation is pleased to announce the award of grants from its funds in 2006. With thanks to donors, event sponsors and selection committees 21 Grants were awarded to deserving grantees.

- **Travel Grants** (Sponsored by the Trust Fund Amsterdam 2000) were provided for 18 grantees from 14 countries to participate in 2006 ISPRS Symposia convened by Commissions:
  - IV - “Geospatial Databases for Sustainable Development”, Goa, India
  - V - “Image Engineering & Vision Metrology”, Dresden, Germany
  - VI - “E-Learning & the Next Steps for Education”, Tokyo, Japan
  - VII - “Remote Sensing: From Pixels to Processes”, Enschede, The Netherlands

- **CATCON4 (4th Computer Aided Teaching Contest) Awards** – The contest promotes the development and dissemination of effective and user-friendly software packages, videos and data sets designed and used specifically for computer assisted teaching. In general, the software or data set should be non-commercial, provided to users without license charges or other fees, and be available for download on the ISPRS web site. The 2006 winners were selected from demonstrations of 14 software entries presented at the Commission VI Symposium in Tokyo, Japan.

ISPRS Council intends to support worthy applicants for funding in 2007. The details will be announced in the near future.

**Board of Trustees Officers**

Following the meeting of the Board of Trustees in Paris in June, the newly elected officers are as follows:

- **Chair:** Dieter Fritsch (Germany)
- **Operations Officer:** John Trinder (Australia)
- **Financial Officer:** Lawrence Fritz (USA)

Responsibilities of the Board include, but are not limited to: wise investment, management, and approval for disbursement of Foundation funds; determination of funds available for distribution of grants from each Fund account and approval of the annual operating budget of the Foundation; consideration of priorities for charitable goals; disbursement of funds for approved grants; and acceptance of bequests, donations, contributions, or subscriptions as may be made to the Foundation by individuals. All Foundation funds have been invested in secure interest bearing deposits at current rates.

Read the Full Editorial online

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**Winners of the CATCON4 awards** (front left to right): Bronze Award winner for “SV3DVISION-Satellite Image 3D Presentation System for Education”, Diego Gonzalez Aguilera (Spain); Silver Award winner for “CARST 1.0-Computer Assisted Remote Sensing Training ver. 1.0”, Nguyen Dinh Duong (Vietnam); Shunji Murai (Japan), sponsor of the CATCON Awards; and Gold Award winner for “E-Tutor for GIS” Dr. P. Venkatachalam, (India).
Annual Report 2006

Introduction
The Annual Report of the Secretary General of the ISPRS is provided hereinafter.
I am covering the report of the activities within 2006. Besides, you may find the reviews of the researches and developments of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in this report.
On behalf of the ISPRS Council, I would like to relay its appreciation to all of our members’ efforts and contributions who have participated in these activities.
Please feel free to contact directly with me in case you have any question and / or comments related with this Annual Report.

Orhan Altan, Secretary General

Inter Society Activities
ISPRS in an international non-governmental organisation devoted to promoting Photogrammetry, remote sensing and the spatial information sciences globally. We do this by representing the views of the international ISPRS community at international fora. The principal organisations, which we work with at the moment, are the United Nations, the Group on Earth Observation and the International Council for Science (ICSU). We are also represented at meetings of our sister societies and during 2006 have concentrated on promoting our science in Africa.

Secretary General’s Report
Society Activities and Membership
The Office of the Secretary General at the Istanbul Technical University, Turkey continued to carry day to day works of the Office, maintain communication with all members and related organizations and also replied various requests within 2006.
A Questionnaire sent to all OdM, StM, RgM and AsM to renew the database of the Society. Upon receipt of the replies, updating and modifications have been carried.
Official Documents such as Silver Book and Blue Book are also updating accordingly.

Treasurer’s Report 2006
The Society has had a successful mid-term year that, subject to year-end expenses, should result in a positive bank balance for the year.
Revenue from Technical Commission symposia provided this happy circumstance. All of the TC Presidents and Working Groups are thanked for their technical and scientific achievements and financial contributions.
These resources have been put to good use in pursuing the Society’s strategic plan, especially the African initiative and in providing complimentary subscriptions of the ISPRS Journal to deserving organizations around the world.
Thanks also to the ISPRS Foundation, which provided travel grants for young professionals to attend mid-term Symposia. Without these additional resources there would be little opportunity to expand tangible benefits to our members, particularly at a time when meeting and publication costs are increasing faster than other sectors of the economy.
Despite the relatively good year financially, the question of member fees has been a frequent topic in Council. Fees have not been increased since before the 18th Congress in Vienna (1996). This has hampered Council’s ability to keep up with rising costs of doing business, or to provide more services to members.
With oversight from the Financial Committee (FinCom), I have begun work on a proposal for a new fee structure that will be equitable for all categories of membership. As FinCom and Council debate this complex issue, I welcome any comments or suggestions from you.

Stan Morain, Treasurer

Read more
ISPRS Technical Commission I
Image Data Acquisition - Sensors And Platforms

In 2006 eight Remote Sensing satellites have been launched (e.g. ALOS from Japan) and the GEO has begun the implementation of the GEOSS; the performances of digital cameras, SAR and LiDAR have been improved. In this context more than 200 participants have attended the TC I Symposium on “From Sensors to Imagery” in July 2006 at Marne-la-Vallée, France where the more recent techniques and ideas were presented, as the results of studies and projects on calibration, SAR and LiDAR, sensor network, digital cameras, sensor modelling and DEM generation, small satellites and mobile mapping.

ISPRS Technical Commission II
Theory And Concepts Of Spatio-temporal Data Handling And Information

President: Wolfgang Kainz
Secretary: Alexander Pucher

Although much progress has been made in recent years in geographic information science, many questions still remain that touch the very foundation of representation of space, spatial reasoning and human understanding of space. The major event for TC II in the year 2006 was GICON 2006 “Geoinformation Connecting Societies” which was held 10 – 14 July 2006 in Vienna, Austria. Three parallel scientific conferences covering the mentioned issues brought together representatives from ISPRS, ICA and IGU.

ISPRS Technical Commission III
Photogrammetric Computer Vision And Image Analysis

President: Wolfgang Förstner
Vice – President: Helmut Mayer
Secretary: Karl-Heiko Ellenbeck

In 2006 the working groups of Commission III left place for the symposia. However, chairmen were in the review committee of IGARSS 2006, and performed Workshop “25 Years RANSAC” (http://cmp.felk.cvut.cz/ransac-cvpr2006/).

ISPRS Technical Commission IV
Geo-databases And Digital Mapping

President: Dr. Shailesh Nayak, India
Secretary: Dr. Subhan Khan Pathan, India
Web Master: Dr. Shibendu Shankar Ray, India

Technical Commission IV is promoting research and development towards utilizing geo-databases at local, regional, global and extra-terrestrial level, spatial Image analysis, especially high resolution data, automated and semi-automated approaches for mapping and change, applications for such as landscape modeling, emergency services management and location-based service and Web GIS.

As a pre-symposium activity, TC IV organized following events.


Apart from this, The working groups of Commission IV also have organized tutorials, workshops, special issue ISPRS Journal, ISPRS theme issues, and collaborative activities with GEO/GEOS, ICA, Cartosat-1 Scientific Assessment Programme (C-SAP), a joint activity between ISRO and ISPRS is a major activity undertaken this year.

161 oral and 50 poster papers were presented during the symposium.

Read more
**Annual Report 2006**

**ISPRS Technical Commission V**

**Close-range Sensing: Analysis And Applications**

President: Hans – Gerd Maas
Secretary: Danilo Schneider

Driven by progress in sensor technology, algorithms and data processing capabilities, the focus of Commission V has propagated into a wide range of new application fields such as industrial quality control, robotics, virtual reality or quantitative biomedical imaging over the past two decades. A central issue in many developments is the integration of sensor technology with reliable data processing schemes to generate highly automated online or real-time photogrammetric measurement systems. A new dimension has been added to the activities of Commission V by the advent of powerful terrestrial laser scanners and novel 3D-cameras.

Read more

**Technical Commission VI**

**Education And Outreach**

President: Kohei Cho
Scientific Secretary: Mitsunori Yoshimura

E-Learning is expanding the possibility of education. The technical matters to be discussed within Com.VI are increasing. 150 participants from 27 countries have attended the Com.VI mid-term Symposium organized in Tokyo in June 27-30. Various presentations and discussions on education mainly focused on e-Learning were performed at the symposium. Organization of CATCON4 and JICA distance learning demo were highlights of the symposium. The Com VI is performing strategic approaches to reinforce the educational activities of ISPRS.

Read more

**ISPRS Technical Commission VII**

**Thematic Processing, Modeling And Analysis Of Remotely Sensed Data**

President: Prof. Dr. John van Genderen
Secretary: Andrew Skidmore

2006 was a very successful year for our Technical Commission. The highlight of the year was the ISPRS MID-TERM SYMPOSIUM held at ITC in Enschede, the Netherlands, on the theme of “From Pixels to Processes” It was attended by over 500 persons from around the World (participants from 75 countries!). For next year, our Technical Commission has organized no less than nine Workshops/conferences in various regions around the World. Please check the ISPRS Calendar of Events for full details on these events. We have also started preparations for the next ISPRS Congress to be held in Beijing in July, 2008.

Read more
Annual Report 2006

**ISAC Annual Report 2006**

In 2006 ISAC welcomed as new Member Dr. Mustafa Onder, GIS and Photogrammetric Applications Manager Inta Spaceturk, Ankara (monder@spaceturk.com.tr).

Dr. Onder will help us enforcing the Professional Practice and Industry connections.

The Symposia of 2006 were attended only by a small number of ISAC Members; therefore a sound analysis of the events was not feasible.

For the Committee several tasks lie ahead:

- Drawing conclusions from the ISPRS Commission Symposia 2006 concerning scientific content, relevance of issues, future directions, WG structure and activities, etc.
- Discussing further the goals, tasks and structure of ISAC
- Issues surrounding the establishment of a User Forum (permanently?) and related activities at the Beijing Congress
- Discussion of emerging scientific and technical topics, with the goal of addressing them at the Congress and in future Commission activities

A. Gruen, ISAC Chairman

**ISPRS Highlights Report 2006**

In 2006 we have published three issues of ISPRS Highlights as e-bulletin and distributed via e-mail as announced before. Articles about the Meetings, Reports of the midterm symposia of ISPRS Technical Commissions, News about the Beijing 2008 Congress and Annual reports have been published in these three issues of ISPRS Highlights.

A. Gruen, ISAC Chairman

**ISO Report**


Wolfgang Kresse
Chairman Ad-hoc Group on Standards

**ISPRS Journal Report 2006**


Wolfgang Kresse
Chairman Ad-hoc Group on Standards

**EarSeL Report 2006**

EARSeL was founded in 1977 under the auspices of the European Space Agency, the Council of Europe and the European Commission. EARSeL is run by a Council of elected national representatives from each country where there are member laboratories and an executive Bureau, elected by the Council.

**EARSeL Report 2006**

EARSeL is a scientific network of European remote sensing laboratories, coming from both academia and the commercial/industrial sector. EARSeL is unique in that it represents the interests of these institutes rather than individuals. There are at present about 250 member laboratories.

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The Annual Report of CIPA describes events and publications the Commission has undertaken in 2006. Also, the links to other organisations and a summary of the world areas where this group is active are reported.

Read more

The ISPRS homepage, online since 1995, is nowadays one of the most important components of ISPRS society. With more than 25 000 lines of information and 1250 PDF files, it proves up-to-date in format about the society, its events and publications and links its various activities. A mailing list communicates the latest news inside the website as well as new events, links, call for papers, online material and job opportunities.

Fabio Remondino
Webmaster

Read more

The ISPRS Events Calendar is regularly updated on the ISPRS Web Page and has a hyperlink on the ISPRS e-Highlights. The Calendar contains a list of all ISPRS sponsored and co-sponsored workshops, symposia, tutorials and other meetings. It also contains details of all international and national conferences on topics related to the activities of ISPRS, including those in photogrammetry, remote sensing, spatial information systems, geomatics, surveying, mapping, machine vision.

Tuan-Chih Chen, ISPRS Calendar Editor

Read more

The Congress Director reports on the organisational and the promotional activities for the 2008 ISPRS Congress in Beijing, China. He also mentions the visits of congresses and symposia that he has undertaken in order to promote the event.

Paul Aplin, ISPRS Book Series Editor

Read more
In Memoriam
Madeleine Godefroy

On Thursday 28-th of September in the evening, and during the EARSeL SIG-meeting on Land Use and Land Cover in Bonn, Germany, the sad news came to us that our dear former secretary Madeleine Godefroy passed away in a Hospital in Caen, France. Madeleine served our Association for more than 24 years. Besides running EARSeL’s secretariat, she was organising the annual symposia and the numerous workshops of the association and collecting articles for the Newsletter.

Prof. Rudi Goossens, President of EARSeL


On the 26th and 27th October 2006, the Department of War Studies, King’s College London, in conjunction with ISPRS (International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing) and GMOSS (Global Monitoring for Security & Stability), hosted a workshop on Treaty Monitoring and Data Dissemination Policies. The Department of War Studies has long been a leader in research devoted to the multi-disciplinary study of war and conflict. Dr. Bhupendra Jasani of the Department, who has an excellent reputation in nuclear weapons proliferation areas in general and outer space affairs in particular, was a major driving force in persuading the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) to use commercially available space-based remote sensing data to monitor the nuclear activities of the signatories to the IAEA safeguards agreement. As early as 1984, the European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC) was conceptualised and since 1990 has been actively involved in monitoring arms control treaties, crisis and environment monitoring using information available from commercial remote sensing satellites.

International Symposium on Geoinformation for Disaster management (Gi4DM)

By Sisi Zlatanova and Shailesh Nayak

Geo-information technologies have proven to offer a variety of opportunities to aid management and recovery in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters such as industrial accidents, road collisions, complex emergencies, earthquakes, fires, floods and similar catastrophes. Intelligent context-aware technologies can provide access to needed information, facilitate the interoperability of emergency services, and provide high-quality care to the public. However, disaster management poses significant challenges for data collection, monitoring, processing, management, discovery, translation, integration, visualisation and communication of information. Challenges to geo-information technologies are rather extreme due to the heterogeneous information sources with numerous variations: scale/resolution, dimension (2D or 3D), type of representation (vector or raster), classification and attributes schemes, temporal aspects (timely delivery, history, predictions of the future), spatial reference system used, etc.

Call for Book Review

The ISPRS Highlights is a widely distributed journal among ISPRS members including professionals of surveying, photogrammetry and geospatial information sciences worldwide. From time to time, the Highlights publishes reviews on the newly published books, which will provide the most up-to-date information and comments about publications in the discipline.

Read more


Reviewed by Dr Pramod K. Singh, Assistant Professor, Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), Anand, Gujarat, India. E-mail: pramod@irma.ac.in

Sustainable development is a complex process that encompasses the different dimensions of development such as economic, environmental, and social. The book by Michele Campagna presents recent research results and case studies which offer a diverse perspective of the problem, taking into account methodological, technical, organizational, and societal issues related to the use of GIS to solve complex problems faced by practitioners in planning and implementing the objectives of sustainable development.

Read more