

EDITORIAL - SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

After many years of preparation the United Nations General Assembly through its resolution dated December 10, 1997 decided to organise the Third UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) in Vienna, Austria, from 19 to 30 of last July. UNISPACE III served as an ideal forum to construct a well-defined framework for the global society to maximise the benefits of space science and technology through international co-operation in space activities in the years ahead. High-level government officials from the 185 Member States of the United Nations as well as representatives of intergovernmental, non-governmental organisation, as our ISPRS, and executives from space-related industry attended this Conference.

ISPRS played an important and remarkable role at UNISPACE III. Besides the opportunity to address to the Plenary Session our views, priorities and recommendations, through a formal statement made by President Larry Fritz, ISPRS has organised the "Workshop on Resource Mapping from Space" (Secretary General John Trinder and Congress Director Klaas Jan Beek as chairs and Former President G. Konecny as one of the speakers), the "Seminar on Environment and Remote Sensing for Sustainable Development", jointly with NASA, (President Larry Fritz as co-chair and 2nd Vice-President Marcio Barbosa as one of the speakers) and the "Workshop on Remote Sensing for the Detection, Monitoring and Mitigation of Natural Disasters", jointly with EARSAL-European Association of Remote Sensing Labs. These events had a very good attendance and the related reports were sent to the consideration of the Conference. It is also important to mention the participation of First Vice-President Shunji Murai (from the Japanese delegation) as President of Committee I - Benefits of Basic Space Science and Capacity Building.

The States participating in the UNISPACE III, at the end, taking into account the results and recommendations of the Conference, approved the "Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development".

Finally, I do recommend to all readers to obtain the Special UNISPACE III Volume of Remote Sensing Papers presented in the three meetings organised by ISPRS. I am sure that these papers will serve as important elements to encourage the debates at the incoming Amsterdam Congress.

Yours Sincerely,

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