



Editorial



This issue of ISPRS Highlights features significant reports from the ISPRS Congress that was held in Amsterdam last July. At the Congress I was elected to serve the Society as President, for the next 4 years. I take on this responsibility with a great sense of honour. I thank the General Assembly for their confidence in voting me into this position and trust that the Members will be satisfied with the developments in the Society until 2004.

The Congress marks the end of the four year tenure of the Council and Technical Commission Presidents and the Financial Commission. All retiring officers have been dedicated to their task and on behalf of the Society, I thank them for their major contributions to the continued development of ISPRS. I especially recognise the contributions of Professor Shunji Murai, who was elected as an Honorary Member of ISPRS. The names of the new ISPRS officers are given in this publication. Much more will be heard from them in the future, and I especially look forward to working with them. A new Web Master has also been appointed to replace Andre Strelein. The outstanding work of Andre Strelein, the Web Master from 1995 to 2000, in developing and maintaining the ISPRS Web Page is acknowledged. The Web Page has now become a major source of information on ISPRS activities.

The first task for the new ISPRS officers will be to develop the new scientific and technical programs for the Society for the next four years. These programs are defined by the Technical Commission Presidents who will select the terms of reference and chairs of their new working groups, according to the definitions of the areas of responsibilities of the Commissions in the Bylaws, and the Congress resolutions. Once approval by Council, these programs will be publicised on the Web and in a new edition of the 'Silver Book'. This information should be available by late 2000.

In addition to the appointments of the Council, Technical Commission Presidents and the next Congress in Istanbul in Turkey, the General Assembly made a number of important decisions that impact on the future of the Society. It approved the Council developed Strategic Plan of the Society, that defines its future directions, and new Statutes and Bylaws. As part of this Strategic Plan a new mission statement for the Statutes and Bylaws was developed that is worded as follows:

The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing is a non-governmental international organisation, devoted to the development of internation-

al cooperation for the advancement of knowledge, research, development, education and training in the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences, their integration and applications for the well-being of humanity and the sustainability of the environment.

As well, the Strategic Plan more clearly defined the activities of the Society and its Members in the Statutes and Bylaws. It is hoped that, as a result of these new definitions of the responsibilities of Members, that there will be a greater level of participation from them in Society activities. The new Council will be tasked with the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The General Assembly also approved actions that can be taken by Council against Members which have been in default of payment of their subscription fees and do not communicate with ISPRS. This decision may well lead to the suspension of ISPRS Membership of some organisations if subscription fees are not paid. Council hopes that it will not have to take such drastic actions and urges all members to promptly pay their fees each year.

The new inter-Congress period for ISPRS will be very interesting. The technologies in the areas of interest of ISPRS are developing rapidly. New digital imaging systems are expanding opportunities for studies of many aspects of the environment, for precise mapping of the terrain form and surface cover, for the development of spatial information systems and for close range sensing systems. There is an opportunity for all Members of the ISPRS to participate in these studies.

I look forward to close co-operation with Members over the next four years.

John Trinder
President

