

The XX ISPRS Congress ‘Geo-imagery Bridging Continents’

At the General assembly held 18th July 2000 in Amsterdam, the ordinary members voted for the location of the next congress in 2004. The first ballot was as follows: China 64, Spain 54 and Turkey 73. In the second ballot, which was between China and Turkey, the members gave 64 votes to China and 113 to Turkey. The Turkish delegation has the privilege at organising this major international event under the leadership of the congress director Prof. M. Orhan Altan. The important dates of the pre-congress are as follows:

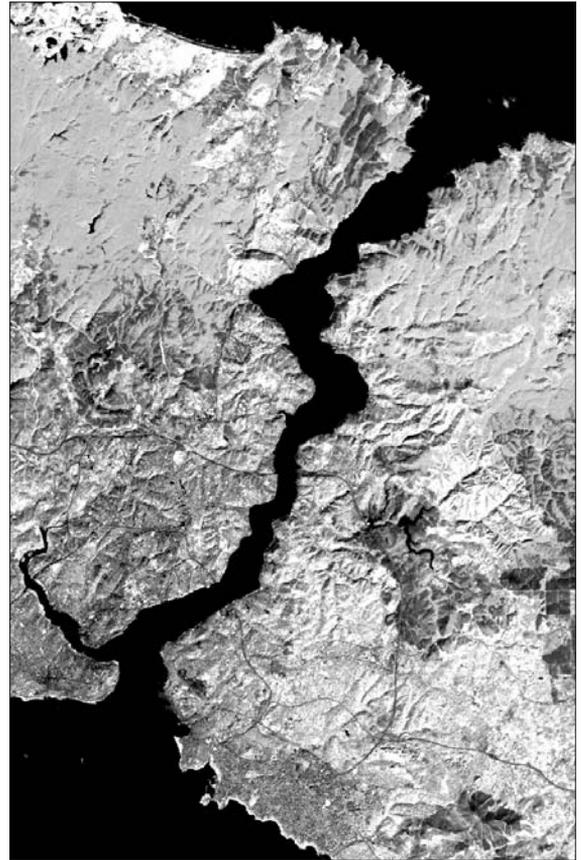
December 2000	Web-site of the Congress established
February 2001	First announcement
May 2002	Mid-time Newsletter
September 2002	Exhibition call
February 2003	Second announcement and call for papers
September 2003	Deadline for submission of abstracts
December 2003	Notification of authors
January 2004	Deadline for submission of full papers for application for young Authors Award
March 2004	Last date for submission of full papers
May 2004	Programme published

Theme of the Congress

The theme of the next congress has been chosen as ‘Geo-imagery Bridging Continents’. With this theme, the focus will be on the role of Istanbul in bridging continents, specially Europe and Asia. This is a physical reality of course, but it also emphasises that photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences are techniques for human beings. The bridging role of the congress location should remind the participants of the global role of science in recognising peaceful coexistence and its integration into human life in the coming decades through the study of history.

The Venue

Istanbul, apart from its long history as a capital city of 3 empires, its seat of learning and centre of commerce and navigation, Istanbul is the only city in the world to bridge 2 continents. As such it has a varied and unique culture, a blend of east and west, which can be seen in everyday life around the city in architecture, social habits and cuisine. Aware as we are that the attractions of a geographical location is not sufficient to ensure a successful congress, Istanbul has recently inaugurated the Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Centre (ICEC), which is both centrally located, and within walking distance of 16 hotels totalling 3,400 guest rooms. The centre is equipped with state-of-the-art congress facilities. ICEC is closely following developments in new conference technology.



View from Istanbul with Bosphorus.

Istanbul has a sufficient number of top class hotels within walking distance of the Congress venue. We have also set aside a total of nearly 800 beds at university hostels, which are also within easy walking distance of the Conference Centre.

As you can appreciate it is still too early to quote definite prices for accommodation. However, you may rest assured that we shall obtain the most competitive prices obtainable.

Organisational Support

The organisation committee received the whole-hearted support of the President of the Turkish Republic and the current Mayor of Istanbul. In practical terms however, we are closely co-operating with Magister Tours Inc., one of the leading congress organisers, who have successfully organised international congresses ranging from 100 to 20,000 delegates.

Orhan Altan
Congress Director