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.

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