

# ISPRS Society



## ISPRS Council Meeting, Buenos Aires, 7 – 11th April 2002

### Summary of Minutes

By Ian J. Dowman, ISPRS Secretary General

#### Attendees

President	John Trinder (JT)
Secretary General	Ian Dowman (ID)
First Vice President	Lawrence Fritz (LF)
Second Vice President	Gerard Begni (GB)
Congress Director	Orhan Altan (OA)
Treasurer	Ammatzia Peled (AP)

#### 1. Opening

JT welcomed Council and thanked them for attending. He noted that there are some important matters requiring decisions, especially the registration of ISPRS and publications. He especially thanked ICORSE for their sponsorship of the Council and the meeting venue in Buenos Aires.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

The draft agenda was approved.

#### 3. Review of Minutes of the Council Meeting in London, September 2001

A number of items arising from the minutes of the meetings in London were discussed. The main item was the application for an ICSU grant on sustainability indicators. This was not pursued for the 2002 round of applications as no additional support from other Unions could be found. Possible collaboration should be discussed with ICORSE and with ICSU Unions during the ICSU General Assembly in September 2002.

It was noted that ISPRS had supported a bid by IAG to ICSU for a geodetic network in Africa.

#### 4. Policy Matters

##### 4.1 Registration of ISPRS

JT outlined the work done to date. ID reported on a meeting in **Austria**, and tabled comments from lawyers on the liability of Council. LF presented the proposal for registration in **USA** and tabled a draft application for registration as a 'non stock corporation' in Maryland, USA.

Council decided that ISPRS should proceed with registration in USA and have this decision ratified by the GA in Istanbul.

##### 4.2 Task Force – Remote Sensing for International Policies and Treaties (JT)

GB outlined the actions to date regarding the EARSeL SIG/MEA. There are currently 12 members of the group. It was agreed that an official ISPRS representative should be appointed.

It was also agreed that Council should consult ICORSE, IPAC, ISAC and some TCPs on the main issues and for names of possible members.

##### 4.3 ICORSE

[Note: this item was dealt with in two parts, once before a meeting with ICORSE and once afterwards. A report of the meeting with ICORSE is attached as CMBA4.3]

During the first Council discussion the following issues for discussion with ICORSE were identified:

- Venue for ISRS 2003, 2005
- ICORSE involvement in ISPRS Symposia and Congress
- Possibility of setting up ICORSE WGs and task forces
- How to help ICORSE with contacts: COPUOS, ICSU...
- Working together with ICORSE more effectively
- ISPRS Task Force on international treaties and policies
- Sustainable development issues involving remote sensing

After the meeting with ICORSE, Council expressed satisfaction at the way in which the agreement was working, and the positive attitude of ICORSE towards ISPRS. Council would ensure that ICORSE members were kept fully informed of ISPRS activities.

##### 4.4 Foundation

LF tabled revised Bylaws for the ISPRS Foundation. Council had an animated discussion on the extent to which ISPRS Council should have control of the Foundation. It was decided that the Bylaws of the Foundation should ensure that Council would make proposals to the Board of the Foundation which would then make independent decisions on allocation of funds. Some changes to the draft were proposed as a consequence.

##### 4.5 Review of Technical Commission Structure

JT introduced a paper on this item. It was decided that there should be discussion on the options put forward by JT at the TC Symposia. JT will prepare a paper as basis for discussion. There should be wide discussion which should include ISAC and all ISPRS Members.

##### 4.6 Policy on Approval of Working Group and Other Meetings

There have been some cases where it has not been clear-cut whether approval should be given for sponsorship of WG and other workshops. Discussion centred on how rigorous the guidelines should be applied.

Council endorsed the policy that no workshop should be held within 4 months of relevant symposia and the SG was asked to implement this requirement.

## 5. Technical Commissions (ID)

### 5.1 Contracts

JT reported that all contracts with the Technical Commissions for organising the Symposia have now been signed. It was decided that a revised model contract should be prepared with notes on experiences with agreeing contract.

### 5.2 Plans for Symposia

Council reviewed the information provided by TCPs and agreed that generally the activity is good, but that some WG chairs should be encouraged to be more active.

### 5.3 Commission Board Meetings

Commission Board meetings at the symposia would be chaired by the TCP and would be used to discuss WG activities and Congress plans, and to inform WG chairs of their responsibilities and the opportunities offered by various initiatives.

### 5.4 Review of WG Activities

From information available WG activity was generally healthy, but would be assessed in more detail during the symposia.

There was a problem in finding a chair for the joint ISPRS/CEOS Task Force. This issue would be discussed further with SM, and ID would report to WGCV.

## 6. Congress Plans

OA outlined the plans to date and noted that theme sessions and special/plenary sessions should be included in the programme; these should be discussed with TCPs. Suggestions are needed for topic for Special Sessions (the following were put forward by the organising committee: Earthquakes, eGovernment). OA would try to obtain the topics of the sessions before the JM in December.

## 7. ISPRS Membership

### 7.1 Ordinary members

The members in arrears by more than 3 years had been contacted, Council discussed their response and decided on further action.

### 7.2 Regional Members

Council agreed that a postal vote be held to accept Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP) as a regional member.

### 7.3 Sustaining Members

New members admitted since last CM: e-HD, SeaGate, Suprosoft

New member admitted at this meeting: Hansa Luftbild AG

Any organisation 2 years in arrears would be sent a letter of warning and then be automatically removed.

A membership certificate would be sent each year when membership is renewed.

AP will ask TCPs to propose Sustaining Members in their countries.

## 8. ISPRS Publications

### 8.1 Database and Blue Book

#### 8.1.1 Status Report

ID reported that the database had been brought up to date and that the Blue Book had been produced using this information. It will be distributed shortly. A mechanism was needed to ensure that the database was kept up to date and made available to officers when needed in a convenient form. ID and AP would have further discussions on additional functionality for the data base and procedures for updating.

#### 8.1.2 Sale of Database and Blue Book

A number of requests had been received for ISPRS mailing lists. It was noted that there may be issues of confidentiality in certain countries. Individuals with names on a list may need to give permission for the list to be distributed.

It was agreed that the list of Congress participants would not be distributed by Council. The Blue Book is generally available, and it was agreed that a digital version would be provided free to members and at a cost of \$200 to non-members.

### 8.2 ISPRS Bulletin, Including Calendar, Editorials, Front Page, Recipient List / Renewals

ID reported that Highlights is appearing on time and that there are no problems at present. It was suggested there should be more information from Sustaining Members on their latest developments.

### 8.3 Brochure

The brochure had been produced by OA and will be distributed with the Blue Book. It should be sent with copies of Highlights to conferences.

### 8.4 Home Page

ID reported that he had had a meeting with FR in Zürich and that a number of changes were being made to the home page.

The brochure should be included in downloadable format. There should be a section of ISPRS services to cover the benefits which ISPRS can provide, categorised to users, and a section on 'What is photogrammetry, RS and GIS?' TCVI should be asked to advise on this.

### 8.5 Archives

ID reported that a new ISSN had been allocated for hard-copy and CD versions of the Archives. These are:

ISSN 1682-1750 (Print)

ISSN 1682-1777 (CD-Rom)

The question of the status of standing orders [e.g. Harvard library], are handled by GITC. The possibility of making standard orders should be promoted by GITC.

A new cover for the CIPA proceedings was approved, this would be different from the standard cover for the Archives, as agreed by the previous Council. CIPA proceedings would still be published as ISPRS Archives but would also have a CIPA volume number

#### 8.6 Orange Book

Draft guidelines for Commission correspondents were discussed and approved subject to some minor changes.

#### 8.7 Journal

A report from EB was tabled and ID reported on discussions with EB about the Journal. There had been significant success in getting members of the Editorial Board to help with the editing process. EB should be encouraged to use this resource and move to reduce the backlog of papers. It was considered by Council that the priority was to bring the Journal back on schedule.

#### 8.8 Book Series

JT reported on progress but full information was not available about the Elsevier proposal. Council did not consider that the Book Series was a high priority, but it was agreed to advertise in Highlights for a Book Series editor.

#### 8.9 Publications Committee

This issue had not been pursued and there were no obvious people who could serve on such a committee at present. The matter would be brought forward to next meeting.

### 9. Financial Affairs

#### 9.1 Budget

AP presented details of income from subscriptions and assets and also presented the budget. After some discussion Council approved the budget and Council noted that ISPRS finances are healthy and that a surplus is projected for next year.

#### 9.2 Science Initiatives

The following applications for funding were approved:

Tania Maria Sausen – Education Yellow pages

Agreed that the 'Yellow Pages' be supported until 2004, subject to more information on what money will be spent on and satisfactory reports at end of each year

Ryotashi Tateishi - 2nd volume of Database book

Tateishi should investigate printing and distribution with GITC and provide a marketing proposal which will generate income. Suitable reference must be made to ISPRS.

#### 9.3 Payment Process for New Members

This issue had been raised by recent applicants to Sustaining Membership. It was noted that ISPRS financial year runs from 1st April and was agreed that anyone admitted after December 31st will not be required to pay for current year.

### 10. Relations with International and other Organisations

#### 10.1 CEOS

WGCV:

ID reported that no chair had been found for Joint ISPRS/WGCV Task Force on Radiometric and Geometric Standards.

WGISS:

ID reported that Poul Fredericson has agreed to act as ISPRS representative on WGISS.

WGEdu:

JT reported on a WGEdu telecon and expects that ISPRS will be asked to contribute to future activities.

#### 10.2 COPUOS

ID reported on contacts at COPUOS and noted that OOSA are more likely to make use of ISPRS expertise if ISPRS we could provide a list of experts for OOSA use and also fund speakers to attend workshops.

It was agreed that ID would provide to Mazlan Othman a list of experts, compiled from an edited list of WG chairs.

OOSA had asked for ISPRS advice on a project to provide satellite data and GIS expertise for project to support refugees in Afghanistan circulate information to all WG chairs.

#### 10.3 ICSU

JT reported on responses re support for membership of ICSU. About 10 letters of support had been support received so far.

ID reported that he had received a document prepared by ICSU for WSSD in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2002, to which ISPRS had made a contribution.

ID reported that RN and RH were involved in preparing position statements from ICSU

#### 10.4 SPIE

ISPRS had agreed with SPIE that events would be advertised by both organisations, but Council noted that ISPRS must be more careful which meetings we co-sponsor in order to avoid clashes, especially during the mid term symposia.

#### 10.5 Joint Board

ID reported that a meeting would be held in Washington at the FIG conference, JT and ID would attend.

A draft MOU with FIG, prepared by FIG, was tabled. After some discussion it was decided to sign a revised version.

#### 10.6 Certification of qualifications

Council reaffirmed its position that it did not agree with a standard for certification of professionals but should keep in touch with developments.

10.7 Others  
IEEE-IGARSS

Charles Luther, President of IGARSS-GRS joined Council and discussed organisation of IGARSS conference. There is a need to develop a closer relationship with IGARSS. JT and ID would visit Luther in Washington.

World Space Congress  
TS will attend. Vern Singhroy is organising a session.

ISO  
ID reported that he had received an email from Manfred Schroeder about continued ISPRS representation. Council endorsed his involvement under the current conditions and asked that he give a report to Council.  
There would be a meeting on standards at the FIG Congress in Washington, TCPs and WG chairs had been encouraged to attend.

11. Reports from Council

The reports from Council members were noted.

12. Review of Actions

Council actions were reviewed and updated.

New actions from this meeting were reviewed.

13. Other Business

13.1 Tim Foresman, of UNEP briefed Council on the operational global land cover project (with FAO). There could be

an opportunity for collaboration on Treaties and Policy issues.

The awards flier should be updated for circulation at the symposia.

14. Next Council Meeting

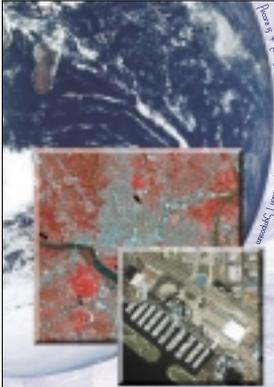
The next Council meeting and joint Meeting with TCPs would be in Hyderabad, 7th – 11th December 2002.

15. JT closed the meeting, with thanks to all for a productive session, at 18.00 on 10th April.

Abbreviations used in the text

- TCP I Stan Morain (SM)
- TCP II Chen Jun (CJ)
- TCP III Franz Leberl (FL)
- TCP IV Costas Armenakis (CA)
- TCP V Petros Patias (PP)
- TCP VI Tania Maria Sausen (TS)
- TCP VII Rangnath Navalgund (RN)

- Chair Finance Committee Heinz R ther (HR)
- Chair International Science
- Advisory Committee (ISAC) Armin Gruen (AG)
- Chair International Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC) Ray Harris (RH)
- International Committee On Remote Sensing of Environment (ICORSE)



## Integrating Remote Sensing at the Global, Regional, and Local Scale

November 10 to 15, 2002 + Adam's Mark Hotel + Denver, Colorado, USA

**Commission I: Sensors, Platforms, and Imagery...** The ISPRS Commission I Mid-Term Symposium and the 15th William T. Pecora Memorial Remote Sensing Symposium/Land Satellite Information IV Conference will be held jointly in Denver, Colorado, USA.

The Commission I technical program will consist of sessions, workshops, and tutorials focusing on Working Group subjects, including: Defining Sensor Parameters; Sensor Calibration and Validation; Active Sensor Systems; Advanced Sensor Systems; Platform and Sensor Integration; and Airborne Optical Sensor Systems. In addition, the ISPRS Program will have integrated sessions with the Pecora/Land Satellite tracks, including natural resources, forestry, agriculture, environment, national security and policy issues, transportation, and disasters, hazards, and emergency response. These integrated sessions will extend the topics of Commission I into the Pecora Symposium by providing technical background on sensors and platforms.

The conference will also feature posters, exhibits, technical tours, social events, and an Awards Program including the ISPRS best poster award and young authors award, and the William T. Pecora Award.

**The Preliminary Program is available on-line at [www.asprs.org/Pecora-ISPRS-2002](http://www.asprs.org/Pecora-ISPRS-2002).**

ATTENTION EXHIBITORS: Exhibit space is limited. Interested exhibitors should contact Truby Chiaviello, Exhibits and Advertising, by email at [potompub@aol.com](mailto:potompub@aol.com) or by phone at 1+202-333-1421.

Information on the Commission I Mid-Term Symposium can be found at <http://www.commission1.isprs.org>. Information on the Pecora/Land Satellite Symposium can be found at <http://www.asprs.org>.

**Conference Organizers: ASPRS and ISPRS**  
Conference Co-Organizer: Transportation Research Board (TRB)




Sponsors: U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Imagery and Mapping Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Geographic Data Committee, U.S. Army Core of Engineers, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.  
Cooperating Organizations: ERIM International, and the National States Geographic Information Council.

Images courtesy of Research Systems, Inc., Space Imaging, Florida Marine Research Institute, Intermap Technologies, and [www.arttoday.com](http://www.arttoday.com). Some of these images have been distorted and are not true representations of the original image.

## Obituary Wang Zhizhuo

It is with the greatest sadness that we announce the death of Wang Zhizhuo. In the early hours of 18th May, after a long period of illness, aged 92, he passed away. He had been the Professor of Wuhan University, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Science, Honorary Member of

ISPRS and an Internationally Prominent Expert in the field of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. The mortal remains leave-taking rite took place in the Funeral Chapel of Wuchang, Wuhan, China, on 22nd May 2002.



### XXX Congress – The Ottoman Legacy

By M. Orhan Altan, ISPRS 2004 Congress Director

ISTANBUL

ISPRS  
2004



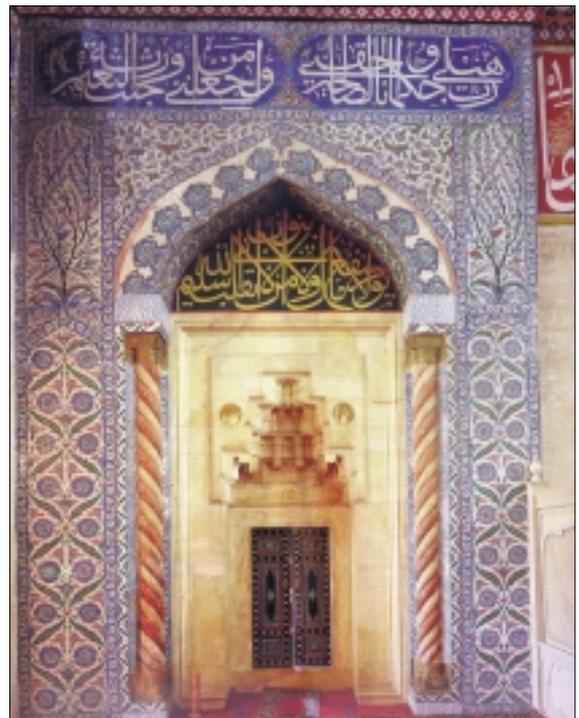
In 1071, the first Ottoman people came to an area we now call Eskişehir, between Ankara and Istanbul, and settled there. It is estimated that the whole tribe numbered around 300 tents. So how did the descendants from these 300 tents manage to subdue and conquer lands in three different continents? Furthermore, how did they succeed in holding onto lands in Asia, Europe and Africa far over 600 years? During the duration of the Ottoman Empire, not only was it considered to be, what in today's terms would be considered as being a Superpower, it was also foremost in the field of civil liberties. So how was it that, in the words of one of the greatest poets, we turned from being just another tribe to being a world power?

Let us for a moment consider the secrets behind this development. To understand this conundrum we should consider the cases of the Balkan and Palestine. Far around 400 years the Balkan formed part of the Ottoman Empire, living together in relative peace. It is only in the last century that ethnic divisions appeared between Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia and Herzegovina while these various ethnic groups lived together amicably under Ottoman rule. The key to this peaceful coexistence was the Ottoman policy of granting self-determination to the people of the region, and to show tolerance to the local habits and customs, including religious tolerance. This policy was strictly adhered to, and in the opinion of many historians, it was one of the fundamental causes of the collapse of the Empire. Until the advent of the industrial revolution, the Ottomans and their culture were the leading entity regarding learning and culture.

One of the greatest Ottoman Sultans who left his indelible mark on the Empire was the Sultan Soliman known in the West as Soliman the Magnificent, while among Turks he is known as Soliman the Lawmaker. His legacy in the field of passing humane and far its time, modern laws is acknowledged today, when his effigy is found on the walls of the U.S. Senate building in Washington. While much has been written in western historical texts about the siege of

Constantinople by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror in 1453, much less attention has been paid his tolerant approach on the citizens of the city he had conquered. One of his first acts in entering the city in triumph at the head of his army was to issue an edict or 'Ferman' guaranteeing the freedom to pursue their religious beliefs as well as safeguarding their property and trades.

Throughout Anatolia and in particular in present day Istanbul, examples of Byzantine religious buildings can be seen, among which one can enumerate Aya Sophia,



Emperor's Gate of Selimiye Mosque (Edirne).



*China in Selimiye Mosque (Edirne).*

the Church of Chora, while in some of the old monasteries in Greece and Bulgaria plaques expressing thanks to the Ottomans for permitting them to carry on with their religious teachings and services can be seen. Civilian monuments such as bridges, roads and Kervansarays, the forerunners of present day travellers' inns and hotels can be seen in lands formerly part of the extended empire.

At the time when Christopher Columbus was preparing to set out to discover the new world, the Sephardic Jews from Spain were being faced to leave the Iberian Peninsula and seek refuge elsewhere. The one state that opened its doors to these people seeking refuge was the Ottoman Empire, opening its gates to thousands of Sephardic refugees. The British historian Bernard Lewis, in his book "The Jews of Islam", quotes from the letter of Rabbi Isaac Zarfati, written in 1454 to his congregation, relating "I, Isaac Zarfati, though

I spring from French stock, yet I was born in Germany, ..... I proclaim to you that Turkey is a land wherein nothing is lacking, and where, if you will, all shall yet be well with you. Here every man dwell at peace under his own vine and fig tree." A living testimony of the ingrained tolerance of the Ottomans who harboured the Sephardic people for centuries, while at the same time being the centre of Islamic learning, as well as holding the post of Caliphate for centuries. The traditional tolerant outlook has come down from Ottoman times to Republican Turkey, and as an example, we can look back to the period prior

to the Second World War, when a substantial number of academics from Germany came to Turkey and continued their academic career in safety unaffected by war and discrimination.

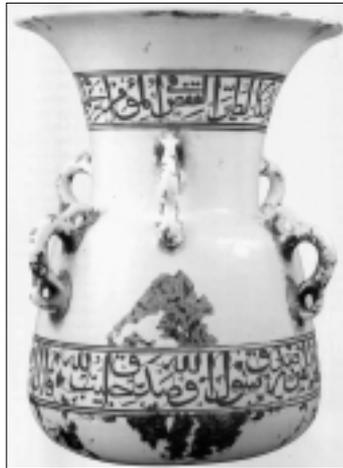
Moving on from the political to the field of the arts, we can see the interrelationship between the arts and the ruling classes, who were not only the instigators of monumental buildings, but also the guardians of such work of art. Such examples, which have survived the passage of time and are still preserved either as museums or have changed their primary functions are the Topkapı Palace complex, the Dolmabahçe and Beylerbeyi Palaces, all three now serving as museums, while the Çırağan Palace on the shores of the Bosphorus is now serving the tourist industry as a five star hotel.

The Ottomans' most important contribution to the arts lay in two major fields, architecture and the field of calligraphy. As one can expect, in architecture the main domain was the field of palaces for the ruling family in the capital city, the universities, which in those days were the 'medrese' attached to religious institutions, and the places of worship. Numerous examples of such institutions survive to our days in Anatolia, but let us confine our overview to just a few examples to be seen in Istanbul. Any visitor to Istanbul will surely visit the Museum of Ayasofya, next to which is the grandiose mosque of Sultan Ahmet with its six pencil thin minarets. This mosque, known in the West as the Blue Mosque due to the blue coloured tiles adorning the interior walls, is not only a place of worship, but also a place of learning having a seminary looking out onto the main courtyard. It is also a small burial place for dignitaries and lesser mem-



*Blue Mosque and its surroundings.*

bers of the Sultan's family, but whereas in churches and cathedrals, people were buried within the main building, in the Moslem religion people were buried in special small outhouse within the mosque complex. The pinnacle of mosque architecture is without a doubt the Selimiye Mosque in the old Ottoman capital of Edirne. This magnificent religious mosque was designed and built by the greatest Ottoman architect Sinan, who also built many smaller mosques as well as bridges. His other great mosque complex, which, according to same architectural historians is considered to be equal to, if not greater than the Selimiye Mosque is the Süleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul.



*Iznik lamb (16. century).*

It is well worth spending half a day visiting this imposing edifice, not only to see the place of worship, but also to visit its library, its baths, and just across it, the old kitchens where food was distributed to the poor and needy.

The second major art from the Ottomans was the art of calligraphy, which, though extensively-practised throughout the Moslem world, the most sought after calligraphers were the Turkish calligraphers. Due to the restraints imposed by religious teachings, those born with artistic talent channelled their talents into calligraphy as an art form and were apprenticed to master calligraphers with whom they spent long years learning this art form before being allowed to call themselves calligraphers and be able to open their own studio. As is to be expected in an empire, which was deeply religious, the major field of writing was in writing the Koran. Printing came late to the Empire due to conservatism of the clergy, and so all books were still hand-written long after such practices ceased to exist in the West. This however meant that many more beautifully decorated hand-written Korans, and religious books continued to be produced in the Ottoman Empire, and in particular in Istanbul, the seat of the Caliphate. Another important outlet for calligraphers was writing or carrying texts from the Koran or individual prayers on the walls above the entrance of mosques. Some of the greatest calligraphers have examples of this craft chiselled in stone either on the walls of mosques or on the tombstones of leading Ottoman dignitaries.

Parallel with the development of the art of calligraphy was the development of the art of miniatures, which was to be found in books, mainly histories, though not in books on religious matters. In these books containing miniatures, depiction of humans as well as animals was allowed. Contrary to western practices walls of dwellings and palaces were not hung with paintings, instead wall hangings of geometric forms were quite common, and miniatures were forever condemned to remaining under cover in hand-

written books. Today with the interaction of free trade and world-wide communication, the interest in examples of Ottoman hand-written works has increased enormously, the prices for such specimens commanding very high prices at auctions all over the world.

Another field of Ottoman art is the large variety of ceramic ware, which was produced in the towns of Iznik and Kütahya. Widely used in decorating mosques and palaces until the 16th century, the decorations were applied over the glaze, whereas after this date, the decorations were glazed over. Though the vast majority of the output of Iznik was in the form of tiles of vary-

ing sizes, there was a limited quantity of household products produced. The opposite was true of Kütahya, whose main production was in the form of household artefacts, and has thus been able to maintain an uninterrupted production of ceramic ware.

The same was not true for Iznik, where the production of tiles declined rapidly with the changing tastes and the impoverishment of the Empire leading to the decline in demand for grandiose buildings. In fact, at one period production ceased altogether, however, a revived interest in Ottoman culture and artefacts has meant a revival of this craft, and copies of old designs are now being remade.

One of the many attributes of the Ottomans was their love of keeping records of everything. Copies of all these documents were despatched to its capital, where they were meticulously stored. Many of these archives have survived earthquakes and fires, and are available today for study by historians. Due to the change in the alphabet brought about by Atatürk, changing from the Arabic to the Latin script, there are still many documents, which as yet, have not been transcribed, and are waiting for scholars to transcribe them. Many of the records are of land tenure, encompassing all parts of the Empire, and with the break-up of the Ottoman Empire in 1923 resulting in the formation of over 20 independent states, many of whom have had to apply to these state archives to settle disputes over land boundaries.

As you can see, the Ottoman Empire has sprawled many new countries, but the land of Anatolia with its synthesis of many cultures has given birth to a young and vibrant nation, Turkey.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE !**

We kindly recommend you to read carefully this serial about Turkey, and to keep it for your further reference. By the end of 2003, there will be a quiz and winners will be awarded with promotional gifts of the ISPRS 2004 Istanbul Congress.



## Council Plans a Review of Technical Commission Terms of Reference

By John Trinder, ISPRS President

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Technical Commissions, described in Bylaw XIII of the Statutes and Bylaws, are based on a structure that was developed at the 1948 ISP Congress in The Hague. This structure was based on the then sequence of processes in photogrammetry, which can be generally described as follows: Commission I - data acquisition, Commission II - instrumentation, Commission III - study of theory and algorithms, Commissions IV,V - mapping and non-topographic applications respectively, Commission VI - profession matters. Commission VII - photo-interpretation, also dealing with applications, was added in 1952. Considerable modifications have been made to the terms of reference of the Commissions since they were originally developed, but the structure is still primarily the same. The current Commissions are named as follows (ToRs of the Commissions is available on [www.isprs.org](http://www.isprs.org)):

- Commission I: Sensors, Platforms and Imagery
- Commission II: Systems for Data Processing, Analysis and Representation
- Commission III: Theory and Algorithms
- Commission IV: Spatial Information Systems and Digital Mapping
- Commission V: Close-Range Vision Techniques
- Commission VI: Education and Communications
- Commission VII: Resource and Environmental Monitoring

Clearly, the technologies in ISPRS have developed markedly since the structure was developed more than 50 years ago. While working within the current structure, the distinctions between some of the processes are not always clear. Often the divisions between the Commissions appear to be arbitrary. Hence, problems arise in determining where a new technology should be studied within the Commission structure. ISPRS officers have found many anomalies in the areas of activity of the Commissions. Some examples of these anomalies are:

- There appears to be an unwritten understanding (although it is not written in Bylaw XII) that Commissions I, II, III, IV and VII cover topographic aspects of photogrammetry and remote sensing, while Commission V covers non-topographic aspects. This means that Commission III has tended not to study theory and algorithms of close-range sensing and machine vision. It is questionable whether such a division appropriate
- Commission II now includes all aspects of mobile mapping, including data acquisition, processing and applications
- There are overlaps between areas of activity of Commission II and several other Commissions

- Studies of radar and LIDAR are covered in a number of Commissions
- The theory of image classification has normally been studied in Commission VII in an applications context, whereas it should also be studied in the context of image understanding of Commission III. This has led to ISPRS being viewed as primarily covering applications, and not the theory of information extraction and image understanding
- The theory of GIS is now studied exclusively in Commission IV, not Commission III. Commission IV is primarily associated with applications. Hence Commission IV is now the largest Commission in terms of WGs, and it may be attempting to cover too many topics. As well, ISAC has indicated that it does not cover some applications areas of GIS adequately

Are these anomalies in the structure of the Technical Commission serious? Would such anomalies always exist no matter what the structure? Can we devise a better structure?

There have been a number of requests to review the structure of the Commissions prior to the last Congress and subsequently. As well, Council is required to review the terms of reference of the Commissions as part of the actions derived from the Strategic Plan, which were endorsed by the General Assembly in Amsterdam in 2000. There are a number of possible sub-divisions of the scientific areas of ISPRS. Some individuals in ISPRS say that the current structure has served its purpose well for 50 years and will continue to do so, others say that it is out-of-date. It is interesting that the structure of the Commissions changed a number of times between 1910 and 1948. The Society needs a full and open discussion on the Commission structure to determine whether they require modification.

Therefore I am proposing to take a number of steps to ensure that adequate discussion is held on the structure of the Commissions over the next 18 months. These steps will include:

- Advice from the Society's International Science Advisory Committee (ISAC)
- Holding discussion sessions at each of the Symposia this year, where all attendees will be invited to contribute
- Seeking direct input from all Members
- Requesting input from Honorary Members, and all ISPRS officers
- Requesting input from readers of the ISPRS Newsletter

I propose that the review process should be completed

the beginning of 2004, so that the impact of the changes can be assessed before the Istanbul Congress.

It is important for the future of the Society that the Commission structure operates in an effective manner, since it impacts on the quality of the science that is undertaken within ISPRS. I therefore encourage all individuals who are interested in the future of ISPRS, to consider this matter and respond in at least one of the avenues that will be available for comment. If you are attending one or more

of the Symposia, I welcome your attendance and input to the discussion sessions. Alternatively, you may wish to respond directly to Council on this issue, either formally or informally. Addresses are available in the front of this publication.

Thank you for your co-operation.

John Trinder, President, June 2002

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## 2001 Annual Report - Latin American Society on Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Systems (SELPER)

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SELPER is a 'not-for-profit' International Technical and Scientific Association, created in Ecuador in 1980. It is formed by National Chapters of different Latin American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay y Venezuela, each one of them are directed by a National Co-ordinator; and Special Chapters of countries which have an important development on Remote Sensing Techniques and support different activities carried out by SELPER as: Germany, Canada, Spain, United States, France and Italy. Its Headquarter changes each two years, and at the present time is in Argentina (2000 – 2002). This Society has an International Directory and three Committees: Education and Research Committee, International Relationships Committee and Editorial Committee.

### Objectives:

- To support all the activities related to Remote Sensing and Spatial Information System and to stimulate the professional improvement of its members, looking for the benefits of the Latin American community and its Institutions
- To congregate all the professionals and Institutions dedicated or interested on research, development and application of Remote Sensing Techniques, looking for cooperation between the diverse sectors of this activity and interchange of information

### International Directory

President - Serafini, María Cristina (UNLu - Argentina)  
Vice-President - Colomb, Raúl (CONAE - Argentina)  
Vice-President - Ruiz, Gustavo (Venezuela)  
Vice-President - Lizeca, José Luis (ABTEMA - Bolivia)  
Secretary - Antes, Miriam (UNLu - Argentina)  
Treasurer - Redondo, Francisco (DAIS - Argentina)  
Web Responsible - Sione, Walter (UNLu - Argentina)

### Education and Research Committee

President - Sausen, Tania (Brazil)  
Serafini, María Cristina (Argentina)  
Castro R., Roberto (Chile)

Sorani, Valentino (Mexico)  
Alvarez Portal, Ricardo (Cuba)

### Editorial Committee

President - Araya, Mauricio (Chile)  
Ardila Torres, Myriam (Colombia)  
Campi, Marcelo (Argentina)  
Fonseca, Leila María G. (Brazil)  
Gonzalez, Francisca (Argentina)

### International Relationships Committee

President - Martini, Paulo Roberto (Brazil)  
Salcedo, Ramiro (Venezuela)  
Moreau, Sophie (Bolivia)

### National Coordinators

Argentina: Francisca Celia González  
Brazil: Leila Fonseca  
Bolivia: José Luis Lizeca  
Chile: Carlos Patillo  
Colombia: Carlos Germán Ramírez  
Cuba: Eloy Pérez García  
Ecuador: Juan Domínguez  
Guatemala: Carlos Duarte  
Mexico: Valentino Soriani  
Paraguay: Sergio M. Burgos  
Uruguay: Fernando Curbelo  
Venezuela: Gustavo Ruiz  
United States: Patricia Ravelo

### Headquarters

1980: Quito - Ecuador  
1983: Santiago - Chile  
1986: Gramados - Brazil  
1989: San Carlos de Bariloche - Argentina  
1991: Cuzco - Peru  
1993: Cartagena - Colombia  
1995: Puerto Vallarta - Mexico  
1997: Mérida - Venezuela  
2000: Puerto Iguazú - Argentina

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## Guidelines on Communication through Commission Correspondents of the Ordinary and Associate Members

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In order help communication between individuals and the Technical Commissions, Ordinary and Associate Members of ISPRS may appoint correspondents to each commission. At the last General Assembly in Amsterdam it was agreed that guidelines should be drawn up to assist members, commission presidents and the correspondents in their responsibilities. The following guidelines have been prepared by Council and will be incorporated into the Orange Book.

### 1 It is the responsibility of the Commission Correspondent to:

- 1.1 Establish and maintain contact with the Commission through its President, Secretary and WG Chairmen;
- 1.2 Set up a national mailing list of those interested in the work of the Commission, in co-operation with the Chairs of the WG of the Commission;
- 1.3 Pass on information from the Commission and its Working Groups to organisations and individuals within the member country and encourage participation and feedback;
- 1.4 Report to their member organisation and attend meetings arranged by the member organisation;
- 1.5 Report annually to TCPs on relevant activity within their country;
- 1.6 Contribute to the preparation of the Member Reports to the ISPRS;
- 1.7 Encourage relevant companies and institutions in their country to apply for sustaining membership.

### 2 It is the responsibility of the member organisation to:

- 2.1 Pass on to Correspondents any relevant information received from ISPRS (Highlights, information on resolutions, meetings etc.);
- 2.2 Keep Correspondent informed of member activities;
- 2.3 Arrange meetings of Correspondents;
- 2.4 Use its influence to ensure that ISPRS Commissions and others do communicate through the Correspondents;
- 2.5 Ensure that the names and addresses of Correspondents are correct in the Blue Book;
- 2.6 Make available, within its capacity, such resources as are necessary for the effective functioning of Correspondents.

### 3 It is the responsibility of the TCP to:

- 3.1 To communicate regularly with Correspondents and to keep them informed of all relevant events and

activities;

- 3.2 To involve Correspondents in Commission activities when ever possible;
- 3.3 Hold WG meetings in countries which do not regularly participate in ISPRS activities and to initiate such meetings with the help of Correspondents;
- 3.4 To assist the work of the Correspondents in whatever way which is feasible.

### 2000-2004 Canadian Correspondents for the Commissions of ISPRS

**Commission I:** Pending for now

**Commission II:** Dr. Yun Zhang  
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and for WG: III/1, III/5, III/7, III/8:

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**Commission IV:** Dr. Vincent Tao  
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 Fax: 1-613-995-2000  
 E-mail: siekiers@NRCan.gc.ca

**Commission VII:** Pending for now

## Report of the Joint Workshop ‘Challenges in Geospatial Analysis, Integration and Visualization’

*Held in Athens, Georgia, USA from 29-31 October 2001*

*By Sylvie Jodouin, University of Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada and Geomatic Canada, sjodouin@NRCan.gc.ca.*



The ISPRS Commission IV Working Group IV/6, ‘Landscape Modeling and Visualization’ hosted a Joint Workshop in Athens, Georgia, USA on October 29-31, 2001. Entitled ‘Challenges in Geospatial Analysis, Integration and Visualization’, the Workshop brought together members of four ISPRS Working Groups.

- WG IV/3 – Data Generalization and Data Mining
- WG IV/5 – Image-Based Geospatial Databases
- WG IV/6 – Landscape Modeling and Visualization
- WG IV/7 – Data Integration and Digital Mapping

Representing the countries of Germany, Canada, the United States, Hong Kong and Japan, the Chairs and Co-Chairs of these working groups collaborated to plan and organise the workshop. From the beginning it was decided that the workshop would not only serve as a forum for sharing research results, but would also provide the opportunity for researchers to pose questions, present challenges and discuss possible solutions to problems. Topics of concern identified to focus discussions and presentations included: 1) data mining, spatial data retrieval and location-based services; 2) scale issues in image analysis and spatial databases for interpretation/visualisation; 3) image-based geospatial databases and multimedia in integrated spatial

information systems; 4) spatiotemporal analysis in modelling, queries, summarisation and metadata; 5) integration of multi-sensor data in landscape modelling/visualisation; 6) applications in virtual reality and advanced visualisation for 2-D, 3-D and 4-D mapping tasks; 7) characteristics and issues related to data fusion at image, feature and information levels; and 8) mapping from high-resolution satellite imagery.

Approximately 25 abstracts were submitted for the Joint Workshop by scientists from eight different countries and interest was expressed by researchers as far away as Nepal in participating in the workshop discussions. At the time the dates were selected, however, it was not imagined that the workshop would so closely follow dramatic events that would impact people worldwide. Due to the uncertainty of travel following September 11th, not all of the authors were ultimately able to attend. A total of 16 participants did gather in Athens and the workshop was moved from a large auditorium to a small meeting room with tables arranged in a circle. The relatively small group had the unexpected opportunity for close discussion to get to know one another, exchange information and present ideas. It was an honour to have the President of Commission IV,

Costas Armenakis, in attendance to deliver an Invited Paper on change detection and feature extraction from scanned maps and Landsat 7 image data. A second Invited Paper was presented by Roy Welch, President of Commission IV from 1992-1996, on evaluation of remotely sensed images for the development of coastal zone databases. Manfred Ehlers delivered a third Invited Paper that focused on the challenges of automated analysis of ultra high-resolution (15-cm) remote sensing data.

The two and one-half day format of the Workshop allowed ample time for questions and discussion following the interesting and high quality presentations. Break-out sessions also were conducted to identify key topics of concern that require further investigation by researchers in the remote sensing/GIS community.

- Integration of geospatial theories and analysis procedures into GIS packages to address the analysis of GIS data sets (i.e., procedures to quantify spatial trends, processes, correlations and patterns)
- Development of intelligent/transparent GIS procedures for lineage tracking, user notification of operations suitable for particular data types, creating/using metadata, quality-fitness of data for targeted uses)
- New theories, models and techniques for high-resolution data including model-driven interpretation, multi-scale/hierarchical analysis, fuzzy spatial objects and application- dependent procedures
- Better incorporation of prior knowledge for the analysis of remote sensing data and remote sensing/GIS integration

The opportunity for discussion and acquaintance among the small group of participants was further enhanced by the great organisation of our hosts in offering all meals included in the program cost of the workshop. The group met for coffee breaks, lunches and dinners within the conference facility and enjoyed listening to traditional Appalachian folk music provided by photogrammetrist/guitar-player Tommy Jordan (Secretary of ISPRS WG IV/6) and his fellow musicians. This warm ambience certainly contributed to the collaboration of all guests in the different key-topics discussions.

Proceedings, in hardcopy and CD-ROM formats, were compiled in Volume 34, Part 4/W5 of the International Archives of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing to document the progress/results of the participants' research endeavours and allow information to be shared with those who could not attend the workshop. This volume of the ISPRS Archives was dedicated to the memory of those who lost their lives in the World Trade Center buildings in New York City and in the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. on 11 September 2001. Papers in the proceedings were limited to extended abstracts and short papers of approximately five pages in length to allow for the submission of full manuscripts to a theme issue of the ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, 'Challenges in GIS Analysis and Visualization' that will focus on the topics of the Joint Workshop. The planned publication date for the ISPRS Journal Special Issue is December 2002 and copies of the Joint Workshop Proceedings will be available from GITC bv, P.O. Box 112, 8530 AC Lemmer, The Netherlands, Fax: +31-514-56 38 98, E-mail: mailbox@gitc.nl

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## Report of the ISPRS WG II/2 Workshop 'Three-dimensional Mapping from InSAR and Lidar'

*Held in Banff, Canada, from 11-13 July 2001*

*By Bryan Mercer, Chief Scientist, Intermap Technologies Corp.*

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The beautiful three-dimensional setting of Banff in the Rocky Mountains of Canada was an appropriate setting for this 3 day workshop on Three-Dimensional Mapping from InSAR and Lidar. Approximately 40 attendees partic-

ipated from 8 countries of Asia, North America and Europe. The cross-mix included researchers, users, teachers, data providers, and system vendors from academia, government and the commercial world with a good representation of students. The event was co-sponsored by Intermap Technologies, The Center for Mapping at Ohio State, and The Geomatics Engineering Department of the University of Calgary with very welcome support from Applanix, Optech and Terrapoint.

The attendees participated in 20 technical presentations, a keynote address by Professor Ian Dowman on 'Geospatial Information and the Role of Lidar and InSAR' and a very spirited panel plus audience session devoted to Technical

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Issues and Challenges. The sessions included approximately equal numbers of Lidar and InSAR topics including applications, bald-earth processing, comparative performance, synergies with optical cameras, and the common link - GPS/INS. While the lidar topics were exclusively related to airborne, small-footprint systems, the InSAR presentations included airborne, repeat-pass satellite and SRTM topics.

Perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of a small workshop is

the possibility for interaction and for question and answer opportunities. There were ample opportunities of this type not only during the technical sessions but during the various social occasions.

The proceedings of the workshop, (in the form of presentations plus several papers which arrived before the submission deadline) are available on CD. Details may be found on the WGII/2 web-site [www.commission2.isprs.org/wg2](http://www.commission2.isprs.org/wg2).

## **Review of the 3rd ISPRS Workshop on Dynamic and Multi-dimensional GIS**

### **The 10th Annual Conference of CPGIS on Geoinformatics**

*Held at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand from 23-25 May 2001*  
 By Dr. Xiaoyong Chen

The workshop has been approved by ISPRS Council and co-organised by six working groups of ISPRS: ISPRS WG. II/3, (Integrated Systems for Spatial Information Services), WG. II/5 (Design and Operation of Spatial Decision Support Systems), WG. II/6, ISPRS (Image-based Systems for Spatial Analysis and Visualisation), WG. IV/1, ISPRS (Spatial and Temporal Data Modelling and Analysis), WG. IV/2, ISPRS (Federated Databases and Interoperability), WG V/5, ISPRS (Quick Response and Distributed Computing for Close-range Applications), The Association of Chinese

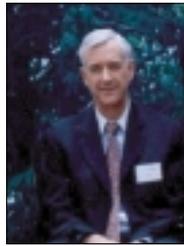
Professionals in Geographic Information Systems (CPGIS), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), National Key Lab. for Information Engineering in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (LIESMARS). ISPRS Council Meeting was also held in AIT and all ISPRS Council members have attended our workshop. Their strong supports make this conference successful. Another joint meeting on 'Geoinformatics New Terms' been held in the workshop time.

This joint workshop of Geoinformatics & DMGIS'2001



*DMGIS'2001 (The 3rd ISPRS workshop on Dynamic and Multi-dimensional GIS, The 10th Annual Conference of CPGIS on Geoinformatics) was held at the AIT Conference Center from 23-25 May 2001.*

Prof. John Trinder, President of ISPRS, had kindly presented a welcome speech on the opening ceremony.



Prof. Deren Li, Director of LISMARS of Wuhan University, P. R. China had presented a speech on the opening ceremony.

Prof. Ian Dowman, Secretary General ISPRS, has served as Chairperson of the International Steering Committee.



In the conference five young outstanding papers were awarded.

Prof. Martien Moleenaar and Prof. Shun-ji Murai delivered their successful keynote speeches.



Prof. Jun Chen, President of ISPRS Comm. II (left 2 of front line), Dr. C. V. Tao, President of CPGIS (right 1 of front line), and Dr. Xiaoyong Chen, Chairperson of organisation committee (left 1 of front line) are in the close ceremony of the joint workshop.



Other ISPRS Council members, Prof. Orhan Altan, Prof. Lawrence W. Fritz, Prof. Gerard Begni and Prof. Ammatzia Peled had attended the conference, render their strong support and spent their valuable time with the participants.

has provided a successful forum for researchers and professions over the world to discuss research topics, share their experience, and promote international collaboration in this field. More than 150 persons have attended this joint workshop, which include officers, researchers and scientists from more than 30 countries and areas from Europe, America, Asia and other parts of the world. Near 100 papers were presented in 20 respective technical sessions of the workshop and current front-line research topics were extensively discussed during the workshop. From the workshop, all papers enclose to the conference proceeding to make a new record for both the ISPRS DMGIS workshop series and CPGIS annual conferences. This volume will provide an excellent up-to-date overview on the theoretical methodologies and techniques on both Geoinformatics and DMGIS.

According to the thematic focus and to new technological developments the symposium consisted of the following session topics:

- Spatial relations and reasoning
- Multi-scale representation
- 3D and 4D spatial data modelling
- Digital terrain modelling
- 3D visualisation
- Spatial-temporal databases
- Web-based spatial databases
- System integration
- Spatial decision support system
- Spatial Analysis
- Use of artificial neural networks and fuzzy set theory
- Information extraction from remotely sensed data
- Digital Photogrammetry and 3D object reconstruction
- GPS and mobile mapping
- Spatial data quality and uncertainty
- Advances in earth observation technologies.
- GIS applications: environment management
- GIS applications: urban and regional development
- GIS applications: transportation

Prof. Jun Chen, President of ISPRS Comm. II, thanks for Dr. Xiaoyong Chen, Chairperson of organisation committee, for successfully organising the joint Workshop.



Prof. Wolfgang Kainz will be the Chairperson of organisation committee of DMGIS'2003 Workshop at ITC of The Netherlands.

During the conference period, ISPRS Council Meeting was also held in AIT and all ISPRS Council members have attended our conference, render their strong support and spent their valuable time with the participants. Prof. John Trinder, President of ISPRS, has kindly accepted our invitation to present a welcome speech on the opening ceremony. Prof. Ian Dowman, Secretary General of ISPRS, has severed as Chairperson of the International Steering Committee of our workshop and chaired the opening ceremony. Prof. Martien Molenaar, one of the most outstanding leading researchers on GIS theory, Prof. Shunji Murai, the former president and honorary member of ISPRS, delivered their successful keynote speeches.

In the conference five young outstanding papers were awarded. They are:

- Generalisation for 3D GIS F. W. Bai, X. Y. Chen, Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand)

- A Self-Adaptive Algorithm of Automatic Interior Orientation for Metric Images W. S. Jiang, G. Zhang, D. R. Li, Wuhan University (P.R. China)
- Topologic Data Structure for a 3D GIS M. Pfund, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (Switzerland)
- A New Stereo Matching Approach Using Edges and Nonlinear Matching Process Objected for Urban Area M. Sakamoto, W. Lu, P. T. Wang, Y. Kosugi, Asia Air Survey Co., Ltd. (Japan)
- Mining Sequential Pattern from Geospatial Data Y. Shan, T. Cheng, H. Lin, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong, P. R. China)

The next ISPRS DMGIS workshop will be hold in 2003 at ITC of Netherlands. Prof. Wolfgang Kainz has been selected as the Chairperson of organisation committee of DMGIS'2003.



## Work in Progress

*Leuven University (BE)*

3D model of a medusa head automatically obtained from a video sequence using the Shape-from-Video software developed by Marc Pollefeys and co-workers at the K.U. Leuven. The medusa head was recorded on the archaeological site of Sagalassos in Turkey excavated by Marc Waelkens and his team.

## Kennert Torlegard Retired

By Anders Boberg

Prof Dr Kennert Torlegard, the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm, retired on January 1st, 2002, to the status of emeritus professor. In his honour, an international symposium "Photogrammetry Meets Geoinformatics" was organised on April 17, 2002, in conjunction with the Swedish Map Days (Kartdagarna) in Jonkoping, Sweden. To this symposium his colleagues from all over the world were invited. The response was greater than anticipated, resulting in a very interesting symposium pro-



Participants at the seminar with Kennert and Margareta.

gram, followed by a dinner for Kennert and Margareta on board a boat on the lake Vattern.

A special issue of the journal *Bildteknik/Image Science*, issued by the Swedish Society for Photogrammetry and



Kennert thanks the guests at dinner on the boat.

Remote Sensing, was dedicated to Kennert. The interest to contribute to this issue was even greater, resulting not only in proceedings from the symposium but also in an even more comprehensive volume of 237 pages.

In 1974 Kennert was appointed full professor in Photogrammetry at KTH, the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. He is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering Sciences since 1983, he was Dean of the KTH School of Surveying 1983-84, Dean of the Faculty of KTH 1987-90 and member of the Board of KTH 1991-94. He also made an international career. He was Secretary General of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote sensing (ISPRS) 1984-88, President 1988-1992 and Vice President 1992-96, and was Chairman of the OEEPE Science Committee 1996-2000. He became a honorary member of the Swedish Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in 2001.

The special issue of *Bildteknik/Image Science* may be ordered from the Swedish Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing or from Anders Boberg, E-mail: [abg@terra.geomatics.kth.se](mailto:abg@terra.geomatics.kth.se).



Some guests at the dinner.

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Contact Jeroen Zaagemans at GITC by:  
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