

Editorial

An Invitation to Attend

Two years ago I was given the task of organising and running the ISPRS 2004 Istanbul Congress. At the time the date seemed a long way off! Four full years, plenty of time to recruit a close working team of capable assistants, plenty of time to organise the groundwork, select the venue, make arrangements with hotels, restaurants, etc. etc. In fact, everything could have looked so simple, with masses of time to finalise what, when sitting round a table seemed so straightforward and simple!

Yet we knew this was never the case, nor would it be for this Congress! In fact when we chose our partner for this project, Magister Tourism, and our team for our presentation in Amsterdam, we had already formed the nucleus of our team which would, should Istanbul be selected, carry on with the planning of this congress. Shortly after our return from Holland where, by voting for us, you showed your confidence in us, this same committee started their work in earnest to prepare for your arrival in Istanbul, and to meet your rightful expectation of a well run, lively and invigorating congress.

Let me give you a synopsis of what we have already finalised for your 2004 congress:

In December 2000, the congress web-site was started and we shall be expanding it very soon.

As we had announced, we sent out 45,000 first announcement folders during February 2001. It is now the time to remind potential exhibitors that they will have to make their preliminary reservations. An eight page leaflet entitled 'Sponsorship Prospectus' has been printed for distribution at the Intergeo Fair in Frankfurt. Included in the leaflet are both enticing prospects and the relevant rates. As your Congress Director, I have been travelling extensively on ISPRS business, including all ISPRS sponsored meetings as well as the midterm commissions for the symposium.

There are many factors which go to make any congress a success. On the operational side, you need to have no reservations, as our partners, Magister Tourism has had years of experience in organising such international events. Under their guidance, we are about to finalise an extensive and varied variety of pre and post congress tour options. A diverse range of accommodation has been tentatively block-booked, including a special category of budget priced rooms for full time students.

As for the content of the papers to be presented, the meat and bones of any congress, this is beyond our immediate control. However, we have no reason to believe that the level of scholarship would be any lower than those at the Vienna and Amsterdam Congresses.

The remaining core factor is the number and quality of the attendants. Regarding quality, we have no qualms as we feel certain that past attendants are aware of the ever rising level of scholarship and business acumen of participants.

This leaves us with the single, as yet unknown, the number of attendants. Between now and July 2004, much may change, both politically and economically. Being dyed in the wool optimists, we take the view that all things being equal, Istanbul will be the place to be in July 2004, not only because of the technical and scientific content of the Congress, but also because of the opportunity of visiting not only our city, but also to avail yourself of the tour opportunities to explore Anatolia!

Please note the date: July 2004, and mark your forward planner with the key words:

ISTANBUL plus ANATOLIA

M. Orhan Altan
Congress Director

