

Editorial

A year and change before the event, our next Congress in Istanbul, seems so far a way. Yet, it is so close. The second circular, registration forms and other information material were printed in an astounding amount of over 10,000 copies and were distributed for the last two months. Rooms for the plenary, technical and special sessions were ordered. Thousands of square meters were divided and planned for the exhibition. Some 500 oral presentations were accommodated for in the theme-like skeleton plan to be accompanied with other, as good, posters. The mixture of the cultural items, as part of the various social events, is almost set. The division of the General Assembly meeting hall was finalized. The tutorials and workshops, prior to the congress are registered and prepared. The Youth Forum, at the weekend, during the Congress is shaping into a grand event in itself. Early birds had indicated their will to host a technical commission or to bid for the 2008 Congress. It seems almost as a setup for the marathon at the ISPRS Olympics where all spectators are cheering in anticipation for the runners to enter the stadium. Almost as we, the Society for Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and SIS, are all the runners, the spectators, the referees, the media and more. The stadium is ready yet it is for us to elevate ourselves to the occasion in terms of excellent paper submission, innovative professional exhibitions and the amount of participants.

Passing the Mid-Congress Symposia and than some, it seems as if the magnificent shell that is being prepared in Istanbul will find its match with a beautiful pearl. The seven mid-congress Technical Commissions symposia attracted over two thousand nine hundred participants from sixty three countries. Over two thousand five hundred participants attended over 50 workshops, symposia and other scholarly and professional meetings that were launched by our working groups. These events were the product of a single WG or "multi-WG efforts; by "only" ISPRS or by Joint "Geo" societies and organizations' efforts. All these seem to pave a very promising route toward the pinnacle of the four-year-term rhythm of our Society on going pulsating life.

It seems also as if we all arrived at the final straight. In parallel to the major scientific and professional effort some administrative measures are to be taken as well. In some instances these are manifested in the finalization of a two year revision of the terms of references for our technical

commissions and the overall structure of the society. All these and many other resolutions will be brought up to be ratified by our members before and at the Congress. In other terms these administrative efforts may be depicted by the over 4000 e-mail and other letters that were issued by Council members. These are only those who were marked and referenced, of course. The final straight is manifesting itself in some sleepers who resurfaced and paid their over due contributions. Sadly, it is depicted also with members that are warned for the last time and are due to be expelled from the Society, should the General Assembly ratify it in its wisdom at the Istanbul meeting. As the Amsterdam GA called for the expulsion of such members in arrears, some twenty (20) members are to be considered for such a radical measure. In contrast to that one may be satisfied to learn the by May 15th, only six weeks into 2003 fiscal year, the annual contributions passed 40% of the annual dues and the 50% mark of the total annual contributions made over the whole last (2002) fiscal year.

It is true that ISPRS is a society of societies and organizations. Yet, it is made, nurtured and prosper by the combined effort of individuals. Thus, each and all of us should make it a personal goal to assist with the success of the society as it is focused now on the coming congress. One should not wait for the invoice or the call for papers and registration. Let us all make sure that our national society has paid its dues for FY2003 and 2004 so our representatives may participate in the General Assembly and make the difference in the various discussions, debates and ballots. Let us all make sure to submit our papers through the presidents of technical commissions, on time. Let us all make sure to register to the congress ASAP and to make sure our employees, students and other colleagues will participate as well. Let us make sure our organization has secured a space at the technical exhibition so our colleagues and customers may be impressed by our latest achievements and enhanced products. As always, in our case it is the whole that is greater than its parts. Thus, let each of us just make these small efforts as an individual so we may all benefit the combined produce of our ISPRS work.

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Ammatzia Peled
ISPRS Treasurer

