

Minutes, Council Meeting

Dubai

6-9 April 2025

In Attendance:

President	Lena Halounová (LH)
Vice President	Nicolas Paparoditis (NP)
Secretary General	Jiang Jie (JJ)
Past President	Christian Heipke (CH)
Treasurer	Stewart Walker (SW)
Congress Director	Derek Lichti (DL)

Guests:

Charles Toth (CT), ISAC Chair
Markus Englich (ME), Web Master
Wolfgang Kainz (WK), IJGI EiC
Clement Mallet (CM), IJPRS EiC - per Zoom
Qihao Weng (QW), IJPRS EiC -per Zoom
George Vosselman (GV), IOJPRS EiC - per Zoom
Liping Di (LDi), ISO
Saeed Al Mansoori (SAM), GSW2025 Director
Chen Jun (CJ), Honorary Member
Li Deren (LD), Honorary Member
Adriano José Camps Carmona (AJCC), GRSS
Paolo Ettore Gamba (PEG), GRSS
Krzysztof Bakula (KBa), Polish ODM Representative
Kostas Bischiniotis (KB), Elsevier
Martin Smye-Rumsby (MSR), RSPSoc Chair, UK ODM
Laxmi Thapa (LT), SC President
Nicolas Pucino (NiPu), SC Vice President

Minutes:

ISPRS Headquarters	Annette Radtke (AR)
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1 Opening Remarks

LH opened the meeting at 10:20 on April 6 and welcomed the participants.

2 Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved after item 10.4 regarding the term 2026-2030 was added.

3 Approval of Minutes from Belém and Telecons 2024 and 2025

The minutes from the following previous meetings were approved:

Council Telecon, 2024_10_01

Council Meeting, Belém

Joint Meeting Belém

Council Telecon, 2024_12_10

Council Telecon, 2025_01_16

Council Telecon, 2025_02_25

4 Review of Council Action Lists

The lists for both Council and Joint TCP and Council actions were revised and updated.

Action 25/1262: LH to draft a text to event organisers recommending using complementary videos to be included in the Media Library, and send to SW to revise for language, by 30 June 2025

Action 25/1263: SW to revise recommendation to event organisers on using complementary videos for the Media Library and send it to Cnl, by 31 July 2025

Action 25/1264: LH to forward final text on recommendation of using complementary videos for the Media Library to event organisers, by 30 August 2025

5 SWOT Survey

CT presented the results of the 2nd survey on ISPRS events which was discussed in detail.

CT and NP are to discuss questions for two versions of follow-up surveys, one directed at ISPRS members, and one for the ISPRS community.

Action 25/1265: CT to draft two versions of the 3rd SWOT survey, one for members and one for the ISPRS community, and send to Cnl, by 15 May 2025

Action 25/1266: LH, NP, JJ, CH, DL, SW to revise both versions of 3rd SWOT survey prior to 2 June Telecon, by 1 June 2025

Action 25/1267: CT to send both versions of 3rd SWOT surveys to two recipient groups (all members, and email list), by 15 June 2025

6 ISPRS Sustainability

The draft *Manual for Local Event Organizers*, a guide to help LOCs, is to be revised by Cnl and will be discussed at a virtual CM before the meeting in Foz do Iguaçu.

Action 25/1268: NP, CH, JJ, SW, DL are to revise and comment on the draft *Manual for Local Event Organizers*, by 31 May 2025

6.1 Improving ISPRS Events

The item was discussed. The idea of organizing a larger annual main meeting gained the endorsement of the majority, while all agree that the small-scale workshops organized by WGs should be kept. More detailed discussion will take place progressively in coming CMs.

6.2 Revision of Publication Policy related to ISPRS Events

The item was briefly discussed. All agree to keep Archives/Annals unchanged for event proceedings. The possibility of changing the Annals to a Journal was also mentioned. But further discussion is needed before any decision can be made.

7 ISPRS Journals

The ethics issue was discussed. It is agreed that all ISPRS journals should follow the commonly accepted ethics rules. One possibility is for the Journals to become a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), which is a non-governmental leading organisation that is focused on this issue.

The open peer review practices and transparency in journal publishing were discussed. It was noted that while open peer review has worked well in some fields, there are concerns about potential biases and how to handle withdrawn papers.

NP suggested recruiting additional AEs on ISPRS funds to help with the workload if necessary.

Action 25/1269: CM and QW are to write a paper on ethics and transparency in journal publishing. NP to follow up with QW and CM on ethics and transparency paper for journals, to discuss COPE and its rules with EiCs, and propose a plan for ethics, by 1 November 2025

Action 25/1270: NP to discuss open peer reviews with EiCs and journal managers of all journals and come out with ISPRS position papers shared by EiCs to be presented at the next GA in July 2026, by 1 November 2025

7.1 International Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

QW presented statistics on the Journal for 2024. The journal should be soon ranked no. 1 in its field based on real-time impact factor.

CM informed Cnl on special issues. They are cautious about special issue proposals and encourage ISPRS Cnl to recommend important topics.

CM introduced the current strategy for guest editors, emphasizing the need for a better balance between them.

CM discussed the journal's ethical considerations, including a generic severe policy, monitoring of excessive self-citations and reviews, and the establishment of a Committee on Publication Ethics to handle complex plagiarism cases.

CM mentioned the importance of transparency in the review process, while noted that this openness might lead to less commitment from reviewers. He also talked about open peer review, suggesting that it might be beneficial but also potentially negative.

7.2 International Open Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

GV reported on statistics for 2024. 23 articles were transferred from PHOTO to OPHOTO last year, a significant increase from 6 the previous year.

He reported to Cnl on two new special Issues, one on underwater photogrammetry led by Gottfried Mandelburger and one on Topographic Mapping from Space, led by Gurcan Büyüksalih.

The outcome of the request for an impact factor is still pending.

In the discussion on the possibility of implementing a more transparent reviewing process, GV expressed hesitation and would prefer to allow reviewers to decide if they would want their identities made public.

By January 2026, GV would like to have a new EiC take his place and will actively assist in the selection.

Action 25/1271: NP to contact GV to find a new EiC of OPHOTO from Jan 2026, by 30 June 2025

7.3 International Journal of GeoInformation

WK reported on IGJI. He informed Cnl that MDPI intends to create a new website for Scientific Societies where IGJI will be hosted in the future (see 7.5).

7.3.1 The IJGI Editorial Board Meeting

The Editorial Board meeting was held on 9 April in Dubai. NP reported that it was decided during the meeting to increase the number of Special Issues to one per month, led by an AE. There are currently 5 open Special Issues. More suggestions for hot topics were recommended by MDPI and supported by CM. WK to collect proposals from TCP IV and AEs.

MDPI has ethics rules in place and abides by COPE rules in the instructions for authors. WK implements some of his own rules. Open Peer Reviews are requested optionally by the **authors**.

Currently, Open Peer Reviews are available but not mandatory.

MDPI is developing a specific web site, with a weaker MDPI branding, for scientific journals published by MDPI but owned by scientific associations, where IJGI will soon be hosted to clearly highlight that the Journal is owned by ISPRS and not by MDPI.

Action 25/1272: NP to contact WK to propose important topics for special issues for IJGI in cooperation of TCP IV and AEs, by 30 June 2025

Action 25/1273: NP to contact WK to propose changes in the IJGI scope with help of TCP IV and AEs, by 30 June 2025

7.4 Contract Renewal Discussions with Publishers

The contracts with Elsevier for PHOTO and OPHOTO are valid until 31 December 2027. As stated in the contract, ISPRS will organise an open call to publish PHOTO and OPHOTO for the 2028-2031 period and inform Elsevier of the renewal or cancellation of contract by 30 June 2026.

Concerning IJGI, Cnl decided to renew the MDPI contract, currently ending 31 December 2025, for one more year.

Action 25/1274: LH to sign new contract with MDPI for IGJI for one year, till end of 2026, in due time

Action 25/1275: NP to contact other publishers to receive conditions for takeover of IJGI publishing as of 1 Jan 2027, by 1 October 2025

Action 25/1276: NP to inform MDPI that ISPRS has received attractive offers for IJGI publishing. Nevertheless, ISPRS will prolong its contract with MDPI for one more year, while collecting

additional offers for ISPRS to take a decision to serve the Society's and our community's interest, by 1 November 2025

8 Web Master Report

ME reported on website statistics and the different servers and technologies. He would like to make the following changes to the website names in the future:

From www.isprs.org/foundation to **foundation.isprs.org**

From www2.isprs.org to **commissions.isprs.org** (after next congress)

The name for the new server dealing with the member database etc.: **admin.isprs.org**

Council approved these suggestions.

8.1 New Database Structure and Status

The new member database is partly completed and ME intends to have a version ready for the SG to test in June/July 2025. He still requires information from the Treasury and will hold a telecon with SW and Dan Brooking-Coker soon.

Action 25/1277: SW to meet with DBC and ME to discuss database issues, by 31 May 2025

ME announced that his retirement date is November 2025, but he can continue working for ifp until August 2026. Beyond that, Uwe Sörgel would guarantee access to the Stuttgart servers as long as he is chair of ifp.

9 Cooperation with Standards Organizations

9.1 ISO Cooperation

LDi reported that ISO Technical Committee 211 (TC 211) is responsible for setting international standards on geographic information/geomatics. ISPRS is a class-A liaison of ISO TC 211. Although, according to him, all ISO WGs are relevant to ISPRS, the most directly related is ISO TC 211 WG 6 with the title of 'Imagery'. This ISO TC 211 WG 6 has been assigned to develop a series of remote sensing imagery standards that are specifically addressing ISPRS "information from imagery".

ISPRS involvement in ISO is minimal and LDi asked for an organisational commitment from ISPRS in the form of an MoU. JJ is the ISPRS contact person for ISO and will receive details on ISO from LDi to forward to TCs and WGs to seek the possible cooperation, and send LDi feedback from ISPRS.

Action 25/1278: JJ to coordinate the communication between LDi and ISPRS TCs and WGs, in due time

9.2 OGC Cooperation

SW reported that there is considerable cooperation between OGC and TC IV. Any communication should be sent to TC IV President in cc.

10 Congress

10.1 Congress Preparation

DL presented the preparation status of the Congress. The 2nd Announcement and Call for Papers will be published next week.

It was decided not to have a joint meeting with TCPs in 2026 as part of the Congress technical program development. The Congress scientific committee will prepare a draft program and provide it to TCPs for comment and discussion.

Papers not presented in person will not be published in the proceedings (no-shows).

10.2 Actions Pre-Congress

The pre-Congress action list and coming items requiring attention were discussed.

Action 25/1279: NP to prepare final draft for amendments to Statutes and Bylaws to be forwarded to OdMs along with documents for GA, by 1 November 2025

10.3 Brock Medal

There has only been one suggestion for the Brock Gold Medal to date.

Action 25/1280: JJ to send call for recommendations to members for the Brock Gold Medal per email, by 30 April 2025

10.4 ISPRS Term 2026-30

Interest has been signalled to host all commissions, although only one official notice of intention has been received to date.

A reminder Call for Nominations for Council members and Congress will be posted on the web, in the eBulletin and per email to members in September. A reminder on award nominations will be posted with the announcement of the new awards on the web in April 2025 and per email to members.

Action 25/1281: JJ to post reminder call for nominations for awards, by 30 April 2025

Action 25/1282: JJ to post reminder on call for nominations for Council and Congress 2030 in eBulletin, web and per email to members, by 30 September 2025

11 GSW

11.1 2025 Report

SAM informed Cnl of the results of the GSW 2025. Statistics will be ready at the end of the event.

The tutorials were well attended and well received.

No-shows were discussed. For future meetings, it was decided to inform authors that no-show papers will not be published in the ISPRS proceedings that will be published post-event.

11.2 2027 Preparation

Krzysztof Bakula (KBa) from Warsaw and his team submitted the sole bid to organise GSW 2027. Cnl welcomed the bid, appointed KBa as ISPRS GSW 2027 Director, and congratulated him and his team to the appointment.

KBa, who is also the Polish OdM president, then presented the initial preparations for the GSW 2027, which will take place in Warsaw on 19–24 September 2027.

12 Financial Affairs

The 2024 Financial Report has been accepted by the Financial Committee. They advise ISPRS to reduce its reserve funds.

SW suggested doubling the maximum amount allocated to each ISPRS Initiatives project to 20 k€ to increase the attractivity and to further enhance quality of proposals. Projects require better publicity and need to be continued after the initiative phase. No action was taken at this point, and further discussions will be held.

13 TIF – Present Situation

SW reported that TIF is facing several difficulties, requiring a younger long-term Chair, new trustees (as many have stayed on longer than possible with respect to the TIF statutes) and a new Financial Officer. TIF donations are few, the Fund-Raising Committee is moribund, and the Grants Evaluation Committee (GEC) does not function well.

Recommendation from Cnl: a task force should be set up to investigate and make recommendations also to find a new TIF chair. One of the possible solutions is to fold TIF into ISPRS, which is the principal donor, anyway.

Action 25/1283: SW to talk to related people for the position of chair of TIF, by 31 October 2025

14 Cooperation with ISC

CJ reported on the future emphasis of GeoUnions and the preparation of the post-2030 SDGs.

He suggests ISPRS strengthen cooperation through e.g., training courses, studies, multi-lateral projects under the ISPRS umbrella, an academic track at UN-GGIM, and work with the UN-GGIM centers of excellence.

The ISC Midterm Symposium 2026 will take place in Beijing, where ISPRS is asked to organise a satellite meeting, with the cooperation of some local organizations.

CJ thanked Cnl for his nomination as ISC Fellow and encouraged support for the new Governing Board member elections in 2025. ISPRS will support candidates to three committees proposed by several GeoUnions and agreed by all GeoUnions members.

Action 25/1284: JJ to follow the message from ISC-China for the ISC Midterm Symposium 2026, and report to Cnl to prepare the satellite meeting, in due time

15 Cooperation with IEEE-GRSS

AJCC and PEG suggested strengthening cooperation, for example by introducing a new IEEE-GRSS-ISPRS joint WG to stage joint events, joint attendance at other events, cooperation between the GRSS Student Chapter and the ISPRS SC, and regular collaboration exchange. CH and PEG will liaise to prepare the document for approval by both societies.

Action 25/1285: CH to propose two ISPRS members of IEEE-GRSS-ISPRS joint WG and inform Cnl, by 30 June 2025

16 New Awards

16.1 Li Deren Award

LH thanked LD for the new award and his donation. On behalf of TIF, SW thanked LD for the generous donation to TIF.

The regulations for the Li Deren Award were approved and the call will be published through the usual channels.

Action 25/1286: JJ to ask ME to post the Li Deren Award on the ISPRS web and in the next eBulletin, by 12 May 2025

16.2 Gottfried Konecny Award

Cnl thanked DGPF for setting up the new award. The regulations for the Gottfried Konecny Award were approved and the call will be published.

Action 25/1287: JJ to ask ME to post the Gottfried Konecny Award on the ISPRS web and in the next eBulletin, by 12 May 2025

17 Next Meetings

CM Telecon, 2nd June 2025, 15:00 CEST

CM 9, JM 10 & 11, CM 12, November 2025, LAGIRS, Iguaçu Falls, Brazil

18 Any Other Business

18.1 Waivers for the Members of Committees and SC

Action 25/1288: AR to prepare and distribute a table for potential recipients of waivers to events, by 20 May 2025

Action 25/1289: CM to complete table on waivers to event and distribute to Cnl, by 25 May 2025

18.2 Progress of Social Media

The new Media Manager, Pauline Kujawa is very active. She uses Hootsuite for Facebook, LinkedIn (which is the most successful), Instagram, YouTube and X. The information is sent to China regularly where JJ and her colleague, Lu, translate the input for WeChat. Pauline reports statistics monthly to SW. The number of readers is increasing.

18.3 RSPSoc, UK OdM

Martin Smye-Rumsby (MSR), RSPSoc Chair, informed Cnl of the new structure within the organisation. He suggested strengthening collaboration by e.g., facilitating learning exchanges for early, mid- and late-career professionals between ISPRS and RSPSoc. He asked if ISPRS could initiate first contacts to member organisations interested in an exchange programme, initially for young professionals, commencing September 2026.

18.4 ISPRS SC

LT and NiPu gave an overview of SC activities in 2024 as well as future ones, including Summer Schools and webinars in 2025.

The SC will soon have a new logo and name to include young professionals.

Cnl approved funding for Student Chapters (\$300 each for 15 Chapters annually).

Cnl approved that ISPRS covers:

- registration and all other travel and accommodation costs (limited to 1500 € each) for two SC board members including President and/or Vice-President to attend the major ISPRS event each year.
- registration costs and all other travel and accommodation costs (limited to 1000 € each), not covered by the employers or by other funding, for the other four board members to attend a major ISPRS event once in each four-year tenure (an additional checklist in the travel grant application form will be added),
- APCs of 10 papers per year for publications in the ISPRS open access journals at the hand of the SC for attribution and dissemination in the different student chapters.

Action 25/1290: SW to ensure travel grant application form be amended to include registration, travel and accommodation costs for SC board members, by 30 June 2025

Action 25/1291: NP to ask SC to inform student chapters on ACP waivers for 10 papers annually, by 30 June 2025

19 Closing

LH closed the meeting at 6 pm on 9 April.