



## The XIX ISPRS Congress "Geoinformation For All"



### How the Scientific Programme of the XIXth ISPRS Congress Came to Be

*By Martien Molenaar, Chairman of the Scientific Programme Committee*

At the time that this contribution to the Highlights is written the set up of the final technical and scientific programme of the XIXth ISPRS Congress has almost been completed. The development of this programme took more than one and a half year. It started in September 1998 at the Joint Meeting of the ISPRS Council with the Technical Commission Presidents (TCP). The Congress Director Klaas Jan Beek and myself as the Chairmen of the Scientific Programme Committee decided to run the Congress somewhat different from previous congresses. We wanted to put more emphasis on actual topics in Scientific and professional field of ISPRS and explore the different interpretations of the congress theme "Geoinformation for all". In the past the programme depended mainly on the output of the working groups of the Technical Commissions. So instead of waiting for the topics to be presented to the Congress in papers produced by the participants we announced the topics on which the ISPRS community was invited to present papers.

The ISPRS officials present at the Joint Meeting in 1998 were asked to produce a list of topics of which they thought that they should be highlighted in the programme of the Congress. The themes that were identified by more than two TCP's were taken as subjects for Inter Commission sessions. For the other themes Technical Commission sessions were defined. Convenors were assigned for all themes; these are in most cases Chairs of the Working Groups of the Technical Committees, but also other experts were invited. The TCP's and the Convenors were asked to produce short descriptions of all these themes which were then collected and edited by the Scientific Programme Committee and published in the Second Announcement of the Congress by the end of April 1999.

The reaction to this Announcement consisted of more than 1300 extended abstracts of proposed papers; these were

available by the end of October 1999. They have been subjected to a review process in which all the TCP's, Working Group Chairs and Convenors have been involved. As a result of this process a preliminary programme has been designed where the proposed papers were assigned to 80 oral sessions and 36 poster sessions; for about 20% of the papers this a second review cycle was required. The authors were notified about these results in January 2000 and were asked to submit their full papers.

At the moment that this article is written, end of April 2000, the Congress Bureau received more than 900 full papers. This means that the preliminary programme had to be modified. This has been done by now and a final programme has been designed which consists of 73 oral sessions, 30 poster sessions. In addition to these the members of the Council took the initiative to organise 6 special sessions related to the Congress Theme "Geoinformation for all". A few more special sessions have been proposed by other organisations.

So that is where we are now, prepared to start the XIXth ISPRS Congress where the participants can spend a full week with visits to a large technical exhibition and listening to high level presentations and discussing scientific, technical, and practical issues about earth observation, geo-information handling, image processing and many related topics. So those who will participate will find out that in the seven days from Monday 17 July to Sunday 23 July they will be able to upgrade their knowledge and learn what is the state of the art in our profession and exchange ideas with colleagues and experts.

But you should, of course, keep in mind that, although the scientific programme is compact and full of interesting issues, there will also be ample time to meet everybody you always wanted to meet. Because every body will be there.

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## The Congress Website

now includes full programme and all abstracts

[www.itc.nl/~isprs](http://www.itc.nl/~isprs)

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## The U. V. HELAVA Award Nominees

By Emmanuel P. Baltsavias, Editor-in-Chief,  
*ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*

The U.V. Helava Award is a new, prestigious **ISPRS award**, which was proposed by the Editor-in-Chief of the ISPRS Journal in 1997 and approved by the ISPRS Council in 1998. The award is sponsored by **Elsevier Science B.V.** and **LH Systems, LLC**. Its aims are to encourage and stimulate submission of high quality scientific papers by individual authors or groups to the **ISPRS Journal**, to promote and advertise the Journal, and to honour the outstanding contributions of Dr. Uuno V. Helava to research and development in Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

The Award is presented to authors of the best paper, written in English and published exclusively in the ISPRS Journal during the four-year period from January of a Congress year, to December of the year prior to the next Congress. It consists of a monetary grant of SFr. 10,000 and a plaque. Two five-member juries, appointed by the ISPRS Council and comprising experts of high scientific standing, whose expertise covers the main topics included in the scope of the Journal, evaluate the papers. For each year of the four-year evaluation period, the best paper is selected, and among these four papers, the one to receive the U.V. Helava Award. The detailed Terms of Reference of the award can be found at 'www.isprs.org/documents/awards/helava.html'.

The first five-member jury evaluated all papers of the 1996-99 period and selected the **Best Paper** of each year, which have been already published in the ISPRS Highlights and on the ISPRS WEB page and are summarised below:

**1996: 3D City Models for CAAD-Supported Analysis and Design of Urban Areas**  
M. Sinning-Meister, A. Gruen, H. Dan (Vol./Issue: 51/4)

**1997: Automatic Aerotriangulation - Concept, Realisation and Results**

L. Tang, J. Braun, R. Debitsch (Vol./Issue: 52/3)

**1998: Errors and Accuracy Estimates of Laser Data Acquired by Various Laser Scanning Systems for Topographic Applications**

E. J. Huising, L. M. Gomes Pereira (Vol./Issue: 53/5)

**1999: Automated reconstruction of 3D models from real environments**

V. Sequeira, K. Ng, E. Wolfart, J.G.M. Goncalves, D. Hogg (Vol./Issue: 54/1)

The second five-member jury has selected among these 4 Best Papers the best one for the 1996-99 period, and the recipients of the Award will be publicly made known and receive the award at the **19th ISPRS Congress, Amsterdam, 16-23 July 2000**.

At the end of the evaluation procedure for the first U.V. Helava Award, I would like to congratulate the above authors for the 'Best Paper' distinction and express my sincere thanks to:

- The sponsors, who made this award possible and with a high monetary grant indeed.
- The members of the first jury who did a tremendous job in thoroughly and objectively evaluating 119 papers in the record time of 15 months, on top of other significant services that they have provided for the Journal and other ISPRS activities.
- All authors that contributed good quality papers to the Journal, independently of whether they are among the winners or not.

The work for the Helava Award for the period 2000-2003 has already started and I hope that the award will contribute to a higher quality of future submitted papers.

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## Announcement on CATCON2 at ISPRS Amsterdam Congress 2000

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CATCON is the name of a software contest organised by the ISPRS Commission VI working group 2: Computer Assisted Teaching (CAT). The first CATCON was organised at the ISPRS Vienna Congress in 1996, and now the CATON 2 is scheduled to be organised at the ISPRS Amsterdam Congress 2000 to be held in July 2000. CATCON 2 is sponsored by CCS (Central Computer Service) of Japan, and total of 500,000 yen (about 4,500 US dollar) will be awarded to the winners of the contest.

The main objective of the contest is to promote the development and dissemination of good/user-friendly software packages, videos as well as data sets for computer assisted teaching. In general, the software or dataset is preferred to be non-commercial and preferred to be provided to the users on free of charge. Since many people come to see this contest, this will be a very good opportunity to show attendees of ISPRS the usefulness of your software/dataset.

**How Was the First CATCON?**

The first CATCON took place on July 12, 1996 at the ISPRS Congress in Vienna. Total of eleven software/dataset were nominated. Following the demonstration of each software/dataset, selection of winners were performed by the CATCON jury consists of the Council members, Commission VI President, WG VI/2 chairman and some professional people from other Commissions. The contest was sponsored by PASCO International of Japan, and the awards were given to the winners as follows:

- Gold Award (2500SF). Dr. Joachim Hohle, Denmark, for the development of computer assisted teaching software LDIP and ORTO for photogrammetry. (<http://www.i4.auc.dk/jh>)
- Silver Award (2000SF). Dr. Nguyen Dinh Duong, Vietnam, for the development of the remote sensing software WinASEAN. (<ftp://ftp.tric.u-tokai.ac.jp/outgoing/catbin/WinASEAN>)
- Bronze Award (1500SF). Dr. Gong Jianya, China, for the development of the GIS software GeoStar.
- Bronze Award. RADARSAT International, Canada, for the development of the RADARSAT Sample Images CD-ROM

**Who Can Nominate to CATCON 2?**

Anyone who has registered to ISPRS Amsterdam congress has the right to nominate one's software or dataset to the contest on free of charge. Please fill the nomination form and send back to the contact point. Each nominator will be given five to ten minutes of presentation for explaining his or her software/dataset in advance to one or two hours of demonstration. The contest committee consists of the council of ISPRS and Commission VI chairpersons will select the winners of the contest and prizes will be given to the winners. We look forward to you participation.

**Contact Point:**

Kohei Cho  
Chairperson  
ISPRS Working Group VI/2  
Research & Information Center  
Tokai University  
2-28-4, Tomigaya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151 Japan  
Tel: +81-3-3481-0611  
Fax: +81-3-3481-0610  
E-mail: [kcho@keyaki.cc.u-tokai.ac.jp](mailto:kcho@keyaki.cc.u-tokai.ac.jp)  
<http://www.tric.u-tokai.ac.jp/research1/cat/cat.html>



## Announcing Desktop Digital Photogrammetric System (DDPS) Version 2

**DDPS Advantages**

- ✓ Runs on standard PC without expensive extras;
- ✓ Separates the complex photogrammetric procedures into three modules;
- ✓ Modular packaging for different users, now includes StereoMapper for MicroStation;
- ✓ Stereo models can be delivered to your clients who can now enjoy the power of digital photogrammetric tool on their desk top;
- ✓ Ideal for high end system expansion;
- ✓ Ideal for softcopy entry level users;
- ✓ Ideal for educational institutions;
- ✓ Ideal for map revision and 3D data capture.

**StereoMaker Highlights**

- Directly works on very large TIFF, JPEG or BMP digital images without importing;
- Imports orientation data from high-end systems or aerial triangulation outputs;
- Use photos scanned in ANY direction
- Supports unlimited number of fiducial marks
- Re-sample epipolar images in TIFF with or without JPEG compression;
- Choice of one step EO with tie-points or Relative only orientation.

**StereoMapper Highlights**

- Choice of stand alone or work within your MicroStation environment;
- Viewing 3-D stereo images and digitising (vector data) on standard PC;
- Import/export mapped features in AutoCAD DXF/DWG formats;
- Construct TIN which can be used for orthophoto generation, and extract contours, calculate volume, profiles based on TIN;
- Perform absolute orientation for stereo model created with relative orientation.

**OrthoMaker Highlights**

- Construct DEM (TIN or GRID) from ASCII XYZ co-ordinates file or DXF/DWG data;
- Choice of either Direct Linear Transformation or Interior/Exterior Orientation;
- Generates any size/rotation orthoimages in GeoTIFF or BMP format;
- Overlay AutoCAD DXF/DWG data for verification of generated orthoimage.

**Dealer inquiries welcome  
Free Demo CD available on request**

**3D Mapper Pty Ltd  
[www.3dmapper.com](http://www.3dmapper.com)**

8 Poseidon Way  
PARKWOOD WA 6147  
AUSTRALIA

Tel: +61-8-9478-4948  
Fax: +61-8-9354-9847  
[info@3dmapper.com](mailto:info@3dmapper.com)