

Editorial

This issue of ISPRS Highlights will be distributed just prior to the Congress in Istanbul, and hence it will concentrate on the Congress. The mission of ISPRS is devoted to the development of international co-operation for the advancement of knowledge, research, development, education and training in the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences, their integration and applications, to contribute to the well-being of humanity and the sustainability of the environment international. The Congress is the most important event in the ISPRS conference calendar contributing to this mission.

I am sure that the Congress will be very interesting and rewarding. The largest number of 1853 abstracts ever received for an ISPRS Congress were submitted to the organisers by potential speakers. This means that a record number of attendees can be expected to attend and present papers. The attendees will come from ISPRS Ordinary, Associate, Regional and Sustaining Members, representing more than 120 countries. Activities at the Congress comprise: meetings of the General Assembly, the decision making body of the Society; technical plenary and parallel sessions, with oral and poster presentations of papers on new developments in a broad range of topics in the photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences; a large commercial technical exhibition displaying the latest equipment and services that are related to the topics covered by ISPRS; a scientific exhibition displaying the many achievements of ISPRS Members; technical tours; and a very full program of social functions. The Congress is the culmination of four years of work by many researchers, scientists, practitioners and administrators working in the fields of photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences, which are covered by ISPRS. It will give attendees an opportunity to share their knowledge with other experts, learn about developments of other scientists, and view the latest technological developments by the private and scientific organisations. As well, decisions affecting the future of the Society will be made at the four meetings of the General Assembly planned during the Congress. These include: changes to the Statutes and Bylaws; the location of the next Congress in 2008; election of the Council which will manage the affairs of the Society during the next four years; the election of the eight Technical Commission

Presidents who will manage the scientific work of the Society; and approval of Resolutions of the Society which will guide the activities of the Technical Commission Presidents until 2008. Though there has been news about the changes in the terms of reference of the Technical Commissions in earlier issues of ISPRS Highlights, it is worth emphasising that the terms of reference of the Technical Commissions were redefined in 2003 and approved by Ordinary Members in a postal vote in September 2003. Therefore, the eight Technical Commissions will be operating with the new terms of reference from the end of the Istanbul Congress.

Many additional meetings will be held at the Congress with individuals and organisations with which ISPRS is associated. These include the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, and the Board of Trustees of the ISPRS Foundation. While the establishment of the ISPRS Foundation has been announced previously in ISPRS Highlights, the Congress will be the first opportunity for the full Board of Trustees to meet and develop policies for raising funds and distributing them amongst worthy recipients. A function to advertise the Foundation and solicit donations will also be held. The ISPRS Foundation is a significant new development in ISPRS.

To ensure that the Congress is a success in all its aspects, the Turkish organising committee has devoted a great deal of thought, time and energy into its planning, not only in deciding on the excellent facilities, the technical program and the scientific and technical exhibit, but also in the social activities. The social activities sightseeing tours should give all participants an opportunity to relax and learn more about Turkey and its people. On behalf of Council and Members of ISPRS, I want to express our sincere gratitude to our Turkish colleagues for organising such a high quality Congress. The dedication of Professor Orhan Altan and his team of workers have ensured that preparations for the Congress have taken care of all essential aspects. I am sure that the Congress will be a great success.

John Trinder, President, ISPRS

