

ISPRS Society

Minutes ISPRS Council Meeting

Beijing, 30th March to 4th April 2004

Attendees

President	John Trinder (JT)
Secretary General	Ian Dowman (ID)
First Vice President	Lawrence Fritz (LF)
Congress Director	Orhan Altan (OA)
Treasurer	Ammatzia Peled (AP)

In attendance for some items:

Editor of ISPRS Journal Manos Baltasvias (EB)

Apologies were received from Gerard Begni

1. Opening

JT welcomed Council to the meeting and thanked them for coming. He noted that the Congress and the establishment of the ISPRS Foundation were the most important issues.

Apologies had been received from Gerard Begni who had been detained on company business at the last moment.

2. Approval of Agenda

The draft agenda was approved and it was noted that the first meeting of the Board of Trustees on the ISPRS Foundation would be held at 14.00 on the first day.

3. Review of minutes of last meeting in Istanbul

ID reviewed the minutes of the last meeting and the following matters arising were noted:

Item 3. Discussions with FAO had not progressed.

A letter had been received from the International Geodetic Students group thanking ISPRS for support for the meeting in Dresden.

Item 4.3 There had still been no action on the Geospatial Workforce Development, this would be discussed at the Joint Meeting.

Item 12.8 LF had attended the US Commercial Remote Sensing Conference and reported that this had been a useful meeting and that ISPRS had received some exposure. It was agreed to support this event in the future.

4. Policy Matters

4.1 Foundation

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday 30th March, [see separate minutes].

The fund raising drive was discussed. It was agreed that regional centres were needed as post boxes and that initially these should be in Europe, Asia and the USA. The following actions were agreed:

The Foundation would be promoted at the Congress in the following manner:

- A Display and Booth
- Stick on labels reading 'I gave to the ISPRS Foundation' to be sold.
- An inaugural event on Tuesday 20th 17.30 – 18.00, with snacks for about 200 people. Invitations to go to delegates, members, donors, exhibitors.

4.2 Registration of ISPRS

LF tabled a note on the 'Legal status of ISPRS' which had been provided by ICSU in 1998.

LF summarised the situation regarding registration if Austria is successful in requiring ISPRS to register in Vienna:

- ISPRS will have to de-register in the USA and follow a path which is described by the lawyer as 'a nightmare'.
- If ISPRS has to deregister from USA, the Foundation would also have to deregister because it cannot transfer from one country to another.
- A new Foundation entity would need to be developed according to the laws of the country in which it is founded.
- Someone who is familiar with Austrian law, accounting, etc. must be found to prepare to set up a new Foundation.
- Both of these actions would require a significant amount of work and expense.

4.3 Contracts - wording in Contracts re applicable law.

LF reported on a meeting with the lawyer to review the contract with members to host Technical Commissions and run the Congress. We need to keep contracts as 'crisp' as possible. Suggested changes were tabled and these need to be incorporated into contract. It was noted that the letter of 11.12.03 from R Kovelant is useful for informing people of the legal position of ISPRS arising from registration in Maryland, and should be used as the basis for a note on the ISPRS website to explain this.

LF proposed that R Kovelant becomes the ISPRS lawyer and that his address becomes the legal address of the Society. Council agreed on this and also that the SG would be the normal point of contact. The lawyer then becomes the Resident Agent.

A letter of agreement has already been signed with accountant.

4.4 Marketing and publicity

It was agreed that press releases from the Congress to be handled by the Congress Director and/or the newsletter publisher.

5. Congress

5.1 Preparations for Istanbul Congress

OA reported on activities since the last meeting. No major problems were reported. The record number of abstracts received was noted as a good indicator of attendance. Council discussed a number of items:

Council needed to carefully plan its activities during the Congress period and a schedule was necessary.

TCPs had ranked the submissions for the Young Authors Award and Council would select the final winners. JT to inform the winners and make sure they would be attending, AP to arrange payment.

There was space available in the exhibition and members should be reminded of the of the discount available for members.

Council reviewed the allocation of rooms for administration, technical sessions, posters and the exhibition, and agreed to the proposals.

OA provided a list of applications for travel grants and described the policy for allocating these. ITC would also be supporting travel from funds made available from the Amsterdam Congress.

The Opening and Closing ceremonies and the Gala Dinner were discussed in detail. It was emphasised that TCPs must stick to time in their summaries.

The Awards would be presented according to the schedule agreed at CMIst. Citations would not be read in full but would be given in a single book. This would be in A5 format, 12 pages + cover, on good quality paper with 1 page per citation. JT would compile this by 10th May. OA would print it.

OA circulated a list of people eligible for free registrations. This included Council, Honorary Members, members of the Joint Board and Plenary Speakers. TCPs would also be given free registration.

5.3 Agenda for GA

5.3.1 Strategy for managing the issue of registration in the general Assembly.

Council discussed how to cover the whole issue of registration of ISPRS. This included the ratification of Council's decision to register in USA and the proposal from Austria to change the Statutes and Bylaws to enable registration in Vienna. It was decided to cover registration as a separate agenda item. JT would make an initial presentation on the background and invite discussion on a motion to ratify registration in Maryland and the approve the proposed changes in the Bylaws to facilitate this.

After the conclusion of this item the motion to rescind the Bylaw change to allow Registration in Switzerland would be put.

5.3.2 Registering delegates.

ID would do this at the times agreed. He required information on the issue of badges and voting slips.

5.4 Programme of business meetings (Joint Board, etc)

Business meetings were discussed at various points in the agenda. ID would compile the information for Council. And would also prepare a schedule for Council.

5.5 Additional responsibilities of Council

JT noted the following responsibilities to be noted:

1. Votes of thanks to hosts at Social Functions.
2. Presentation of young author awards at sessions.
3. Presents to Council and TCPs, JT and ID handle this.
4. Attendance at Youth technical Session and at Panel.

6. Review of Commission activities

Council reviewed the reports of the TCPs at the Joint Meeting.

It was agreed that there is a need to monitor appointment of chairs of sessions to make sure that they are present at Congress. (See JMIst)

7. Statutes and Bylaws

7.1 It was noted that ID had distributed the

changes proposed by Council and by Austria to Members.

7.2 Numbering of Commissions

Council discussed whether to change the numbering of Commissions at the GA. LF noted if changes were made that they should be significant so that there would be no need to change them again. LF also noted that ideally commissions should be referred to by topic rather than by number. After some discussion Council decided that the numbers of commissions should not change at present.

7.3 Journal

Council considered a proposal from EB that the Bylaws should be revised to restrict transfer to third parties of ownership and title of publications of the Society to decisions by the General Assembly. Council decided that this was not a matter for inclusion in the Bylaws. It should however be included in the Green Book.

7.4 AP proposed that Bylaws be changed to make members pay for Congress year before giving voting rights. Council agreed to this change.

7.5 It was proposed that CIPA be added as a permanent committee in Bylaw VII. It should be entered as: CIPA – Heritage Documentation. Council agreed.

8. ISPRS Membership

8.1 Ordinary Members

8.2 Associate Members

8.3 Regional Members

ID reported that CRTEAN had been admitted by Ballot.

8.4 Sustaining Members

ID reported applications for membership from ScanEx and Geoinformatics, these were approved.

A resignation had been received from Storage Tek.

The National Hydraulics research Institute of Malaysia (NHRIM) had never paid and were deleted.

8.5 Action on overdue members.

Following extensive discussion at previous meetings, and intensive efforts by the Treasurer, including letters to embassies, which had drawn some response, it was decided that a number of members would be deleted at the General Assembly if their subscriptions had not been paid up to date.

9. ISPRS Publications

9.1 ISPRS Bulletin

ID presented the proposals received in response to the request for proposals and these were discussed by Council. Council agreed that GITC should be offered a 4 year contract with a 2 year review.

It was agreed that the distribution policy should be reviewed – LF put forward proposals for distribution and ID would prepare a new distribution policy document. In addition a change of address card would be placed in Highlights once a year. It was also agreed that an email to be sent out to non subscribers when Highlights was placed on web site.

It was agreed that a reader survey questionnaire be prepared and circulated with copies of Highlights distributed at the Congress. OA would organize the analysis of the responses. A prize would be offered for the winner of a draw of all completed questionnaires.

It was agreed to hold an open meeting at the Congress on Publications. This would be held on Tuesday 20th July 13.30 – 14.30.

It was noted that the Congress contract should contain a clause that the Congress Director should provide a booth at Congress for Highlights publisher.

9.2 Journal

9.2.1 Report from Editor in Chief

EB tabled a report on the Journal.

EB confirmed his intention to conclude his appointment as editor at the end of 2004. Council discussed the appointment of a new editor and the transfer from EB. A new editor should be appointed by September in order have a hand over period,

EB reported that there is a delay in the theme issue on GIS but that this and other issues would be produced before the Congress.

Helava Award. EB reported that due to various delays the 2nd phase of the last (4th) year, was entered on March 27th. EB estimated that a final decision would be made by the end of April. Council should decide on the composition of the 2nd jury to make the final decision. EB proposes that the 1st jury should do this, with Council ratifying its decision. Council agreed to this. The ToRs would need to be changed.

The Silver plaque for Istanbul is ready, but the name and year are still to be engraved. Certificates would be arranged by EB.

A letter of appreciation to jury members should be sent by JT in May. The election of new jury should be made by the new Council after Istanbul. There was the possibility that existing jury members could continue.

EB introduced a number of additional topics for discussion.

- Archives - EB suggested that workshop proceedings be compulsorily produced in the Archives and that all electronic archives should be held at ETHZ. This would require a change of culture so that softcopy is the major output. A large database of papers could be set up – with a proper search engine. It was agreed to adopt this policy and to produce new guidelines for TCPs and WG chairs.
- EB also suggested a common electronic depository including material from Regional and other ISPRS members.

JT thanks EB for very good job as Journal editor.

9.2.2 Renewal of contract

JT reported on negotiations to date and noted that Article 6.2 still needs clarification. JT will follow up. Article 9.4 also requires clarification. Council agreed to signing the contract after these issues had been settled to the satisfaction of JT.

Council thanked EB for his efforts in renegotiations of the contract, especially the rights to retain the title and the subscription list.

9.2.3 Marketing policy

It was agreed that publicity for the Journal be carried out at the Congress, and that a marketing policy should be discussed by the new Council.

9.3 Home Page

ID reported that EB and Fabio Remondino (FR) had introduced changes to web pages to help navigation. It was noted that FR will be finishing soon at ETH and that Council needs a situation report from FR and names of a possible replacement. Council felt that it was desirable to continue the web site at ETH.

Council thanked FR for his excellent work as webmaster.

9.4 Archives

ID introduced list of Archives, and noted that not all volumes approved had been produced.

Following the discussion recorded at 9.2.1 it was agreed that it is strongly recommended that in future all workshop proceedings should be published on web. The guidelines in the Orange book must emphasise that authors must be informed of this early in the process.

9.5 Book series

The Book Series editor, Maxim Shoshany, had provided a report on the Book Series which was approved by Council. It was desirable that all of council be kept in touch with developments of the Book Series. See also the discussion at the Joint Meeting with TCPs.

9.6 Green Book

No action was reported except for a few additional items.

9.7 Database and Blue Book

This was still being updated and revised. The software needs to be placed on web for access by Council only.

10. Financial Affairs

10.1 Report on status

LF tabled the Annual Tax Exemption return prepared by Cheryl McMurray for the IRS. AP has a softcopy which can be made available to Council.

AP introduced the Financial Report for 2003, which was a 9 month report, following the change in Fiscal year.

Council approved the report to be sent to Finance Commission.

In order to make it clear that ISPRS Council members were not solely supported by ISPRS funds, AP would include other income in his report.

10.2 Scientific initiatives

AP reported that he had circulated all WG chairs but had received no applications. The fund stood at SwFr30,000 and Council agreed that it should remain at that level for the time being.

10.3 Unit of subscription

JT proposed that unit of subscription remain at SwFr100. Council agreed.

11. Awards

- 11.1 Status of terms of reference and finance
LF reviewed proposed changes to the awards policy. These reflected efforts to obtain consistency and changes in practice. Council agreed to these changes.

LF also reviewed changes to terms of reference for awards. Council approved the changes and made changes to the draft for the new Wang Zhizhuo Award.

LF reviewed tasks to be done before and at Congress relating to awards.

- 11.2 Status of nominations
JT reviewed the table of awards and Council approved those awards already decided by juries.

12. Relations with International and other Organisations

- 12.1 Joint Board
AP raised the question of whether the membership of this group was correct. It was agreed to keep status quo.

- 12.2 ICSU
ID introduced a report on the ICSU Unions meeting which he had attended. It was agreed that ISPRS continues to contribute to the Health and Wellbeing initiative, and that we also join the GeoUnions group. ID would attend the next meeting of this group to be held in Boulder Co, at the beginning of September.
The new TCPVIII should be encouraged to participate in the International Polar year.

- 12.3 United Nations
All NGOs had been asked to contribute to the operating fund of the UN NGO/DPI (Development of Public Information) Executive Committee. Council decided not to make a contribution on the grounds that the committee had little relevance to ISPRS.

- 12.4 COSPAR
ID reported that ISPRS is now a member of COSPAR. We are able to attend the COSPAR Council meetings but would be unable to attend the next meeting as it clashed with the Istanbul Congress. We will collaborate on the dates of Congresses in future. Council decided that a representative should attend COSPAR Council meetings to assess the relevance to ISPRS and how we should be represented in future.

- 12.5 CRTEAN
Should contribute to the meeting in Algiers in May through ID, and to the meeting on High Resolution Satellite Data in 2005. This could be done through a 'new' WG if this was set up.

- 12.6 CIPA
Revised draft Statutes and Bylaws had been received, JT would review these.
OA reported on the Antalya Symposium which was successful and good experience for the Istanbul Congress.

- 12.7 Others
ID had received a request for Digital Earth agreed to have a special session at the Congress. They had also requested an opportunity to show a presentation at the Congress, it was decided that they could do this at the special session or could hire a booth.

LF reported that he had been in contact with the Co-ordinate Measurement Systems Committee, and that they were not able to sign a MoU with ISPRS.

13. Review of Strategic Plan and future priorities

ID introduced a paper setting out priorities for Council in the next quadrennial. Council discussed this and ID would revise it for discussion by the new Council

14. Reports from Council

Reports on the activities of Council members were received.

15. Nominations for Council and TCPs

The current status of nominations was reviewed. Council was disappointed that more nominations had not been received for Commissions. Possible candidates for Commissions II and V had been discussed at the Joint Meeting with TCPs and it was noted that TCPs and Council would contact potential candidates.

It was noted that not all applications fulfilled the requirements set out in the guidelines and that more details were required. Council reaffirmed the possibility of interviewing candidates if insufficient information was provided.

The candidates for Congress could have access to members through the web-site, but ID would provide an up to date list of member contacts.

All bids for Commissions and Council nominations will be put on the web-site immediately with links to local urls. It should be noted that bids are still open for Commissions.

16. Review of Actions

- 16.1 ID reviewed the actions items from previous Council meetings.
- 16.2 ID reviewed new actions from this meeting.

17. Other Business

There was no other business.

18. Next Council Meetings

The next meeting of Council would be at Bursa, Turkey from 8th to 12th July.

ID reported that Shunji Murai had invited Council and TCPs to Chang Mai for a Joint meeting on 22 – 26th November 2004. Council considered that it would be preferable to hold this meeting earlier but that if no alternative was available, the meeting should be held in Chang Mai, but with working groups already formed.

19. Close



Notes from the Congress Director

*By M. Orhan Altan, Congress Director ISPRS Council
2000 - 2004*



As from the 13th of July to the 23rd, Istanbul will be playing host to the XXth ISPRS Congress. The initials stand for "International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing" which holds its international congress every four years in a different city. To have Istanbul named as the venue for this important congress, where we expect to have over 2500 attendants, the organising committee started its preparations over 5 years ago.

One of our first aims was to find a memorable slogan for our presentation, one that would in two or three words indelibly imprint on people's minds the physical location of the venue and associate it with a scientific aura. Not an easy brief but we think we found it when we decided on "Geo-Imagery Bridging Continents". It certainly appeared to

impress the delegates at the XIXth Congress in Amsterdam who faced the difficult task of choosing between three world famous cities, each with its unique characteristics. Istanbul finally won, not only due to the quality of its presentation, but also because of the favourable physical aspects of the available facilities both as a congress hall and exhibition venue as well as the proximity of its numerous first class hotel facilities.



Old map of Istanbul (1422 - Christopher de Bondelmonte Florentine Monk. 1711 Edition).



The Organising Committee.

Congress tourism is a rapidly expanding market segment and as such requires specialised expertise on the service side. Here we relied on the facilities provided by an experienced travel agent, Magister, who were prepared to invest both time and money in their faith that we, as the local branch of ISPRS would be successful in our bid for the congress.

Planning for the congress started 18 months before we were due to make our presentation. A nucleus staff, mainly dedicated volunteers, started working together, closely co-operating with the scientists and university members who gave the planning committee and overview of this highly technical subject, explaining what would be required of them in technical and logistic facilities. It was



The Congress Director, M. Orhan Altan.

a cross-fertilisation of ideas for a common aim, as at the start both sides were unaware of the mindset and requirements of the other.

Amsterdam was the final phase and following an all too short period of celebration, the preliminary committee was expanded to include new expertise to plan for the congress only four years ahead. To some, this interim period may seem a long time ahead, but when one gets down to the details of such a large gathering of world famous scientists, all leaders in their field, one becomes aware of the complexity of the problem.

One of the first problems encountered was the technical facilities on offer as well as the level of sophistication of the hotel accommodation. To get to the venue, we had to ensure that our national carrier, Turkish Airlines had a young, up to date, reliable and friendly fleet of modern comfortable planes with a satisfactorily high level of service and catering. This did not offer to be a problem.

The second major area investigated was the venue of the congress together with its facilities and exhibition area. The newly built Istanbul Congress Centre was duly inspected both by ourselves and members of the international board, who agreed that both the congress halls and the planned exhibition centre would meet the high standards expected. However, in view of the fact that the congress would take place four years after the first inspection, they wanted to be reassured that the management of the centre would keep abreast of new technologies. We were duly reassured that they were prepared to invest in such technologies thus maintaining their position at the forefront of available conference facilities.

The next area of inspection was, quite naturally the availability and proximity of hotels. Istanbul is fortunate in having so many five or four star hotels within walking distance to the congress centre, a fact which the international board greatly appreciated. However, looking well ahead to 2004, members of the board wished to be

assured about the various hotels renovation programs, so as to ensure that fixtures and furnishings would be at an acceptable level. It was reassuring that all the hotels contacted had ongoing plans for the renovation both of the public areas and the various floors. Needless to say, the availability of a variety of national and international cuisine of a high standard impressed the inspectors.

Delegates attending international gatherings usually take the opportunity to visit various parts of the country according to their various interests. To this end, a range of pre and post congress tours had to be planned. In conjunction with this a stable and realistic pricing policy had to be decided upon.

The technical aspects of the congress had of course to be worked upon and this meant constant communication and co-operation with the society's board. Apart from the more common forms of present day modes of communication, frequent face to face contact had to be made, entailing visits to such locations as Beijing and Barcelona. Overall, during the four years prior to the congress over 50 trips have been made to 40 different locations worldwide.

As one can see from the foregoing, selecting Istanbul as a congress location encompasses a great variety of expertise and facilities. You may have noticed that we have put the human element embodied in the term "expertise" before the physical aspect in "facilities". This is particular-



Press conference with Prof. Ayhan Alkis, Prof. Dr M. Orhan Altan and Prof. Armin Grün.

ly important as money can obtain eye-catching facilities and equipment. To make full use of them, to meet the expectations and requirements of a sophisticated body of end users requires a combination of a variety of human attributes and experiences.

In Turkey, we are fortunate to have been blessed with human resources and facilities to meet all these requirements at a high international level.



The U.V. Helava Award - Best Paper 2002

By Emmanuel P. Baltsavias, Editor-in-Chief, *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*, E-mail: manos@geod.baug.ethz.ch

The U.V. Helava Award, sponsored by Elsevier B.V. and LGGM, LLC, is a prestigious ISPRS Award, which was established in 1998 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. The Award consists of a monetary grant

of Sfr. 10,000 and a plaque. A five-member jury, comprising experts of high scientific standing, whose expertise covers the main topics included in the scope of the Journal, evaluates 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 second U.V. Helava Award will be presented at the 20th ISPRS Congress, Istanbul, 12-23 July 2004. The five-member jury appointed by the ISPRS Council evaluated the 32 papers of Vol. 57 (2002) and announced its decision for the Best Paper. The winner of the 2002 Best Paper is:

The shuttle radar topography mission - a new class of digital elevation models acquired by spaceborne radar

Bernhard Rabus, Michael Eineder, Achim Roth, Richard Bamler
German Aerospace Center (DLR), Oberpfaffenhofen, D-82234, Wessling, Germany



Bernhard Rabus



Michael Eineder



Achim Roth



Richard Bamler

Jury's Rationale for the Paper Selection

This paper provides a comprehensive and compact overview and thorough evaluation of the SRTM mission and products, and especially high-resolution, high-accuracy global DEMs by SAR interferometry, an actual and important topic. The article provides a clear explanation of the principles of InSAR, the SRTM instruments and mission, interferometric SAR data processing and evaluation of DEM quality, and gives a detailed error analysis and examples. It is well written and understandable, informative and innovative, broad and detailed, and includes excellent fig-

ures. This paper, by members of the competent DLR team which was the main responsible group for the X-SAR SRTM instrument, documents an important advancement in remote sensing, the first single-pass interferometric SAR spaceborne mission.

On behalf of the ISPRS and the U.V. Helava Award jury, I would like to congratulate the authors for this distinction and thank them for their contribution. I would also like to thank the sponsors of the Award, and the jury members for their hard work and thorough evaluations.



The U.V. Helava Award - Best Paper 2003

By Emmanuel P. Baltsavias, Editor-in-Chief, *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*, E-mail: manos@geod.baug.ethz.ch

The U.V. Helava Award, sponsored by Elsevier B.V. and LGGM, LLC, is a prestigious ISPRS Award, which was established in 1998 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.

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Congress. The Award consists of a monetary grant of SFr. 10,000 and a plaque. A five-member jury, comprising experts of high scientific standing, whose expertise covers the main topics included in the scope of the Journal, evaluates 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 second U.V. Helava Award will be presented at the 20th ISPRS Congress, Istanbul, 12-23 July 2004. The five-member jury appointed by the ISPRS Council evaluated the 25 papers of Vol. 58 (2003) and announced its decision for the Best Paper. The winner of the 2003 Best Paper is:



Changno Lee



James S. Bethel

Extraction, modelling, and use of linear features for restitution of airborne hyperspectral imagery

Changno Lee Spatial Imagery Information Research Team, ETRI, 161 Gajeong-dong, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon, 305-350, South Korea
 James S. Bethel Geomatic Engineering, 1284 Civil Engineering Building, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA

Jury's Rationale for the Paper Selection

This paper deals with the semi-automated line extraction and incorporation into the orientation process for linear array CCD cameras, an interesting, important and very relevant topic, considering the current development of digital aerial cameras. The authors use up-to-date techniques for trajectory modelling, line feature extraction and integration into the geometric sensor model and provide convincing experimental tests and a transparent analysis of the results. The practical value of this research

increases by the use of GPS/INS and reduction of the needed control line features. The paper is clearly written and both instructive and informative.

On behalf of the ISPRS and the U.V. Helava Award jury, I would like to congratulate the authors for this distinction and thank them for their contribution. I would also like to thank the sponsors of the Award, and the jury members for their hard work and thorough evaluations.



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Report on the Next Generation Geospatial Information 2003

Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA from 19 - 21 October 2003

By Prof. Dr. Peggy Agouris, ISPRS WG IV/5 Chair, Dept. of Spatial Information Science and Engineering, University of Maine, E-mail: peggy@spatial.maine.edu

The international workshop on "Next Generation Geospatial Information 2003" (NG2I'03) was held in Boston (Cambridge), Massachusetts, on October 19-21, 2003. The workshop was organised by ISPRS WG IV/5 (Image-Based Geospatial Databases) and was sponsored by the U.S. National Science Foundation.



Its scope was to address research advancements in Digital Image Processing & Analysis, Geographic Information Systems, and SpatioTemporal Databases that are relevant to geospatial information. It managed to bring together specialists from these overlapping but not necessarily interacting scientific communities and provide a high-quality forum for the presentation and discussion of related research activities.

The workshop included 23 presentations and concluded with 6 demos. Workshop presentations reflected the wide



Dr. Costas Armenakis (Commission IV President) together with Prof. Peggy Agouris (Workshop Chair and Organiser) and Prof. Monika Sester (Workshop Program Committee Member and Presenter) next to a poster advertising the upcoming XXth Congress in Istanbul.

spectrum of geospatial research, ranging from satellite imagery and topography, mobile GIS and location based services, georeferencing and VR modeling, ontology and process modelling, spatio-temporal applications and event-oriented approaches, geospatial Internet applications and grids, and geospatial databases. The demonstrations echoed the variety of current research directions as well as the diversity of real world applications and user needs, and reinforced the necessity for tighter co-operation and integration between them.



Photographs taken during sessions.



Dr. Costas Armenakis (Commission IV President), Prof. Peggy Agouris (Workshop Chair and Organiser), Prof. Doug Flewelling (Workshop Presenter) and members of the Workshop Organising Committee from the University of Maine.

Organiser

Prof. Dr Peggy Agouris
ISPRS WG IV/5 Chair
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E-mail: peggy@spatial.maine.edu
<http://www.spatial.maine.edu/~peggy>

Further Information

The workshop web page, including an electronic version of the pre-workshop proceedings, can be found at <http://dipa.spatial.maine.edu/NG2103>. The fully refereed post-workshop proceedings will be published during the second half of 2004 as part of ISPRS Book Series. Information on obtaining a copy of the book will be posted on the NG21'03 web-site (please see link above).

Report on ISPRS Workshop on Spatial Analysis and Decision Making

Hong Kong from 3-5 December 2003

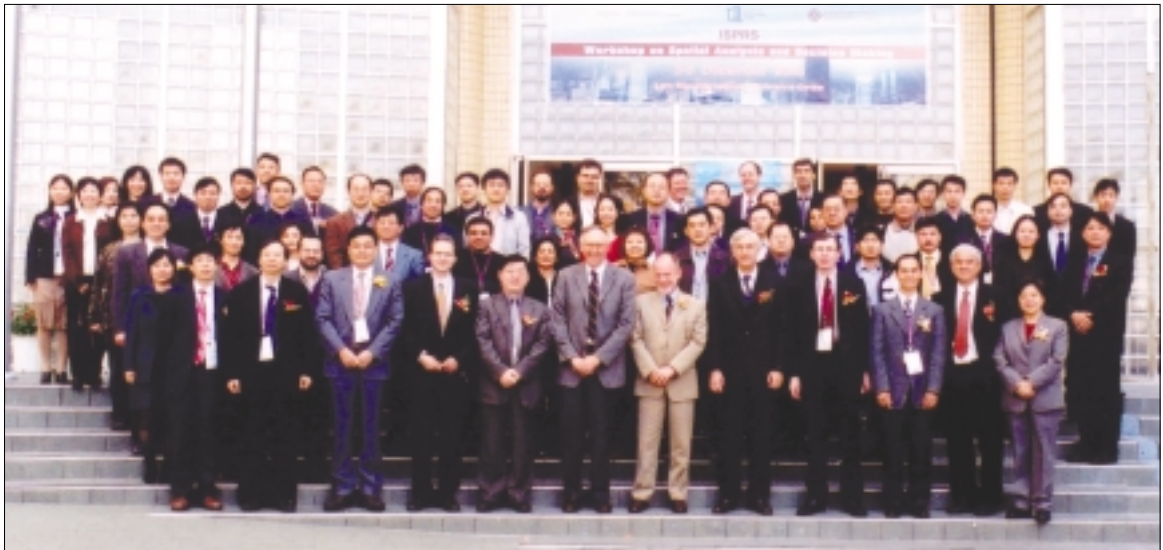
Joint Working Group Meeting (WG II/5 and WG II/6)

By Qiming Zhou, E-mail: qiming@hkbu.edu.hk

The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) Workshop on Spatial Analysis and Decision Making was held on 3-5 December at Hong Kong Baptist University. The workshop is one of the high-profile working group meetings of ISPRS and was jointly organised by ISPRS Working Group II/5 "Design and Operation of Spatial Decision Support Systems", Working Group II/6 "Spatial Analysis and Visualisation Systems", Hong Kong Baptist University and Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The workshop was sponsored by the Croucher Foundation and co-sponsored by ESRI China (HK) Limited. About 50 scholars from 11 countries and regions participated in the workshop and presented 35 papers. Thirty selected manuscripts were peer-reviewed, revised, edited and included in a monograph edited by Li, Z., Zhou, Q. and W. Kainz, 2004, *Advances in Spatial Analysis and Decision Making*, and published by Swets & Zeitlinger B.V.,

Lisse, The Netherlands. The book is also the first of ISPRS Book Series initiated in 2003.

The workshop has been very successful and highly appreciated by all participants. The workshop was officially opened by Prof John Trinder, the president of ISPRS. Dr Jack Dangermond, the founder and president of Environmental System Research Institute (ESRI), USA, who has been recognised as 'the most influential person in the development of GIS', presented the keynote speech on "Emerging Technologies for Enterprise GIS". Three invited papers have also been delivered by distinguished scholars, namely, Dr Brian Lees of Australian National University ("The spatial analysis of spectral data – extracting the neglected data"), Prof Yee Leung of the Chinese University of Hong Kong ("Intelligent systems for spatial analysis and decision support – concepts, systems and applica-



ISPRS Workshop on Spatial Analysis and Decision Making was held in Hong Kong on 3-5 December 2003.



Dr Jack Dangermond delivering his keynote speech.

tions") and Prof Jun Chen of National Geomatics Centre of China and the president of ISPRS Technical Commission II ("Development of operational geo-information systems"). The social program of the workshop has also been well received and was enjoyable.

Spatial decision-making based on a combination of image-based and vector data is an important activity in many application domains. The underlying paradigm of field versus object-based models has become an extensively researched area in many disciplines ranging from theoretical to application oriented. The support of decision making with knowledge-based techniques (rule-based systems) and artificial neural networks has found many useful applications reported in the literature. We observe an increased interest in combining standard GIS functionality with novel approaches taken from fuzzy logic and artificial neural network technology. The ultimate goal of acquiring spatial data is for value-added applications. One means to such applications is spatial analysis. It has been pointed out by many GIS experts that current GIS lack of spatial analysis functionality. Spatial analysis can be carried out through either numeric analysis or visual analysis (i.e. visualisation). These two means together form exploratory data analysis.



The opening ceremony.



Panel discussion on future aims of spatial analysis and decision support system research.

During the three-day workshop program, 9 technical sessions were held covering broad topics related to spatial analysis and spatial decision making systems. These include:

- Image-based spatial analysis,
- Terrain and 3-D modelling and analysis,
- Integrated systems,
- Application-oriented modelling,
- Spatial analysis methodology,
- Web- and mobile-based spatial analysis,
- Multi-scale and visual analysis,
- Spatio-temporal analysis and systems, and
- Spatial decision support systems.

A panel discussion session was also held to discuss the future aims of spatial analysis and decision support system research. The discussion session was led by 9 panellists and attempted to identify issues and key fields in spatial analysis and decision making support systems. Some of the issues identified were:

- Professionalism versus academic research interest,
- Education demand for promoting spatial analysis and decision making systems to applications, and
- International collaboration and information exchange.



Reception on an outer island of Hong Kong.

This workshop significantly contributed to the promotion of spatial analysis and decision making systems as response to ISPRS' recognition on the need for efficient processing and presentation of spatial data in a value added form. The participants have taken the opportunity to exchange the newest research results, to make new contacts and to initiate new research topics. A large number of research students from the host – Hong Kong Baptist

University and Hong Kong Polytechnic University – as well as from other universities in Hong Kong and China, served for the workshop and also used the opportunity to learn from the experienced researchers and gain useful feedback about their own research.

More details about this workshop can be found on the web site: <http://kartoweb.itc.nl/SADM2003>.



Report on ISPRS Panoramic Photogrammetry Workshop

Dresden, Germany from 19-22 February 2004

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Panoramic cameras have found a growing interest in photogrammetry in the last few years. They were originally used for web-based animation purposes, but nowadays they have reached performances, which makes them an interesting data acquisition tool for a wide range of appli-

cations in photogrammetry. On the other hand, terrestrial laser scanners are continuously used in close range applications and the combination of range data and image data is becoming very prominent application.

In this context, an ISPRS Workshop was held in Dresden, Germany, from 19 to 22 February 2004. The aims of the workshop were to bring together system manufacturers, algorithm and software developers, data providers and users of panoramic devices in photogrammetry as well as to report on recent developments in sensor and system design, mathematical modelling, data acquisition, processing and visualisation schemes.

It was organised by the Institute of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing of the TU Dresden (Hans-Gerd Maas), the Institute of Photogrammetry of the University of Stuttgart (Ralf Reulke) and the ISPRS WG V/1 'Automation for Vision Metrology Systems and Industrial Applications' (Thomas Luhmann and Stuart Robson).

The keynote address was delivered by Thomas Luhmann (University of Applied Sciences Oldenburg): his interesting



H.G. Maas during a technical session's discussion.



T. Luhmann during the keynote address.



Some participants of the hiking tour.



Panoramic image of the participants attending the workshop.

presentation was a review of panoramic imagery with special emphasis on photogrammetric applications.

A total of 54 participants, from 10 different countries, attended the event, which consisted of 22 oral presentations and several demos.

In particular, SpheronVR and KST, companies manufacturing panoramic cameras, presented their recent developments in the panoramic field.

The workshop ended with an interesting presentation of the Zurich Police: they use the most actual software and

technologies to study cars accident and for murders or other forensic applications.

The proceedings of the workshop (ISSN 1682-1750, Vol. XXXIV, part 5/W16) are available under: <http://www.tu-dresden.de/fghgipf/photo/PanoramicPhotogrammetry-Workshop2004/Proceedings.htm>

After the workshop, a hiking tour took place in the surrounding areas of Dresden.

Obituary Zarko Jaksic

With the passing of ZARKO JAKSIC on 20 March 2003, the international photogrammetric community lost one of its prominent members and an outstanding scientist. Zarko was born in Cantavir, Serbia in 1925, the only child of Sima and Milica Jaksic. Zarko excelled academically, but after completing high school he was at loose ends due to the German occupation. He joined the partisans and subsequently the fledging Yugoslav Army.

After World War II, Zarko enrolled in the University of Belgrade, graduating as a Geodetic Engineer. He was a superb student and was groomed to become member of the faculty. He specialized in photogrammetry, gained his master's degree and became an Assistant Professor of photogrammetry at the University under Prof. Drazic. While teaching there, he met and married in 1954 his first wife, Marta Barany.

In 1961 Zarko was awarded a post doctorate fellowship at the National Research Council of Canada in the Photogrammetric Research Section, Division of Applied Physics. Although his original intention was to return to Belgrade after a year, he decided to settle in Canada and brought his wife Marta and his son Tom to Ottawa. Zarko became soon a prominent member of the Photogrammetric Research Section, under the direction of Dr Ted Blachut and a highly respected scientist, nationally and internationally. He participated in a cadastral pilot project

in Columbia using stereo-orthophotos. After U. Helava left NRC, Zarko played a key role in the development of the analytical plotter, Anaplot, being responsible for the internal architecture of the system.

From 1980 to 1984 he was President of Commission II of ISPRS. In this role he encouraged young photogrammetrists to become involved in ISPRS and so had significant influence on the way in which ISPRS developed. He authored numerous technical and scientific papers and was active in the Canadian Institute of Geomatics. Upon Ted Blachut's retirement in 1980, Zarko succeeded him as head of the Section. In 1986 the Section was disbanded and Zarko transferred to the Canadian Space Agency where he pursued his scientific work until retirement in 1990.

Marta, his first wife, died in 1995. In 1998 Zarko married Marta Pivonka and moved from Ottawa to Toronto.

Zarko leaves his widow, Marta in Toronto, his son Dr Tom Jaksic, who is an Associate Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School and an Attending Surgeon at Children's Hospital, Boston, Tom's wife Loretta and three grandchildren: Alexander (age 10), David (age 11) and Kathryn (age 13).

George Zarzycki