

Editorial

I would like to start this editorial, my first as your Secretary General by thanking all those who showed their confidence in my person and my ability by proposing and voting for me to become your Secretary General for the next four years. As the Convenor and Director of the XXth ISPRS Congress held in Istanbul, I have had the opportunity of working closely with the members of the outgoing board and I am fully aware of the responsibilities you have placed on my shoulders. Please rest assured that I shall do all in my power and to the best of my ability to ensure the smooth running of our Society, while at the same time taking it a few steps further on the path of excellence.

Since our XXth Congress, both the Council and the Technical Commission Presidents have convened to finalise their Working Groups. Further information regarding their projected activities will be found in this issue. However, since the ISPRS has now become a registered legal entity, the legal responsibilities of the Secretary General have increased substantially, calling for greater care and attention to the legal parameters of decision making. Thus legal advice increasingly becomes of more importance to the office of the Secretary General.

With the coming of the new century, the vision of the ISPRS has expanded. Of the many paths to explore and follow, your board has highlighted seven avenues for us to follow during the coming four years.

1. To actively encourage and facilitate ongoing and new fields of Research and Development
2. To advance and disseminate knowledge in the field of Photogrammetry and allied sciences by scientific networking
3. Promote international cooperation in our specialist field
4. Pursue inter-disciplinary integration
5. Encourage and promote education and training, particularly among the younger members of our Society
6. Enhance and explore new applications for our science
7. Develop public awareness and recognition of P&RS&SIS

To sum up, our main objective for the coming four years is to be the ears and voice of P&RS&SIS in the worldwide community.

One of the basic functions of our scientific society is effective communication. Though this is an ongoing discipline in the scientific field, we aim to enhance and expand our contacts with all our member associations, whether they be Ordinary, Associate, Regional or Sustaining Members.

We are greatly indebted to the excellent and comprehensive database set up by our colleague Rachel Peled, a database which has become an important and solid base for our future endeavours in the field of effective communication. Once again, this gives me the opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Rachel Peled whom I would like to ensure that we shall do our best to maintain and expand the database she has created.

One of the basic tenets of Ottoman and Turkish Culture is the dictum 'Tradition is all important, providing the basis for continuity.' Both in my private and professional life, I have always adhered to this basic belief. As your Secretary General, I shall continue to act according, yet reviewing traditions by contemporising them when necessary. Change for change's sake is not one of my principles. Hence, I shall continue to consult and take advice from those who have given long and loyal service to the administration of ISPRS.

I would like to remind you that at the XIXth ISPRS Congress in Amsterdam, a clear plan of action and development for our Society, entitled 'ISPRS – a Strategic Plan for the 21st Century' was accepted. During the coming four years, we shall be adhering to this overall plan of action, effecting only minor changes as and when necessary due to prevailing circumstances.

Finally, may I ask you for your continued support and co-operation during the coming four years. 'Highlights' is your magazine and is one way of making your voice heard.

M. Orhan Altan, Secretary General, ISPRS

