

MINUTES, ISPRS Council and TCP Joint Meeting

Dec. 5- 6, 2012

Location: Chengdu, Southwest Jiaotong University

In Attendance:

President	Chen Jun (CJ),
Secretary General	Christian Heipke (CH)
First Vice President	Orhan Altan (OA)
Second Vice President	Marguerite Madden (MM)
Congress Director	Lena Halounova (LH)
Treasurer	Jon Philip Mills (JPM)

TCP Commision I	Charles Toth (CT)
TCP Commision II	Songnian Li (SL)
TCP Commision III	Konrad Schindler (KS)
TCP Commision IV	Jie Jiang (JJ)
TCP Commision V	Fabio Remondino (FR)
TCP Commision VI	Jiaya Gong (JG)
TCP Commision VII	Filiz Sunar (FS)
TCP Commision VIII	Vinay K. Dadhwal (VD)

In attendance as special advisor:

ISAC-Chair	Ian Dowman (ID)
Book Series Editor	Zhilin Li (ZL)
ISPRS Headquarters	Uwe Breilkopf (UB)
ISPRS Beijing Bureau	Chenchen (CC)
ISPRS Beijing Bureau	Hu Juhong (HJ)

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Minutes

1. Opening

CJ opened the Joint Meeting by welcoming all participants and thanking them for coming to this important event leading up to the coming four years. He introduced the participants as listed above and spent time to describe the roles in ISPRS of the invitees to the meeting.

2. Review of Minutes of JM in Melbourne

2.1 Approval of Melbourne JM minutes

The minutes of the last JM in Melbourne were approved.

2.2 Review of TCP action list

The action list was reviewed.

3. Science and Policy Matters

3.1 Results from CM on important Science and Policy matters

CJ presented the results of the CM, which had been held two days previously. The major science initiatives mentioned were:

- An ISPRS vision paper
- The ISPRS book series
- Excellent speakers programme
- ISPRS general slides

Cnl proposed the preparation of an ISPRS vision paper to be published in the *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*. The paper could be co-authored by TCPs and the ISAC chair.

The basic idea of the overall vision paper is to summarize the latest state of development, the major challenges and key issues to be addressed in the future in our field - all in the context of the overall relevance and role of geospatial information. In this way the vision paper could serve as a scientific roadmap for the next years and thus raise the visibility of ISPRS. At the same time such an exercise would have great value within ISPRS and could be seen as one step towards implementing the strategic plan. Also, gaps in the ISPRS coverage of our field would be visible. In this way the paper could also serve as a justification for scientific proposals to tackle the detected gaps, e.g. submitted by less experienced scientists and thus would be a benefit for ISPRS.

The paper should concentrate on the most important issues rather than trying to be complete and cover all topics related to photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information science. Also, while the resolutions of the recent congress and the terms of reference of the WG would certainly help, a rigid structure of the paper with respect to the ISPRS Commission structure would potentially lead to a number of duplications and should therefore be avoided.

Aiming at a journal paper (perhaps in two different parts) instead of a monograph would raise the author's motivation. In this way it would also help the journal, as such overview papers usually draw many citations.

CJ also presented a provisional schedule for completing the paper. With the help of CH and MM he will draft a first outline, defining the topics to be discussed in the paper, and then ask the other authors to contribute.

While the TCPs, scientific experts and leaders in their respective area, are invited to contribute from the very beginning, they of course are free to decline a role in the planned paper or to nominate somebody else, e.g., from one of the working groups, to write on their behalf.

Action 12/2010 CJ: to establish a first outline for the vision paper with the help of CH and MM by Jan 31, 2013.

The new Book Series editor, Zhilin Li, made a number of suggestions for improvements to the ISPRS book series. Originally the book series was established to have a means for publishing high quality double-blind reviewed conference papers. It was noted that since the establishment of the ISPRS Annals the role of the book series for conference proceedings was not clear, and that authored books are not necessarily in the focus of young scientists these days, since they are not adequately valued. Also the financial arrangements for the book series were questioned, as costs are relatively high. Nevertheless, Zhilin Li will try to establish the series in a better way. He asked for support from Cnl and TCPs (see also item 6.1 of the agenda).

Finally, CJ introduced the idea of an excellent speakers programme. Upon request, e.g. from ordinary or sustaining members, ISPRS could suggest speakers for scientific events. The programme will be publicized in the eBulletin and/or a future GIM page.

Action 12/2011 CH: to include an editorial about the excellent speakers programme into the list of editorials for eBulletin and/or the GIM page as soon as agreement has been reached about the format.

CH had distributed the general ISPRS slides to the TCPs. Further contributions by Cnl and TCPs are desirable. It was pointed out that the collection should be considered as a base for a presentation of the ISPRS structure, purpose, achievements, and goals. It is intended to be used by Council and TCPs. For different audiences different parts of the collection should be selected.

For more technical issues the TCPs are invited to contribute. It was agreed that the material which was presented at the Chengdu seminar can serve this purpose. The presented slides were distributed.

4. TC Composition and Work Plan

4.1 Proposed WGs, WG Officers, ToRs, WG activities

ID discussed the general ISAC comments, which he had forwarded to Cnl and TCPs. TC proposals were found to be well prepared with only one Commission needing significant attention.

The terms of reference for all TCs were voted on in the GA in Melbourne and are fixed for the next four years.

A few additional items were discussed, incl. overlap between working groups. Cnl holds the opinion that some overlap was not a problem as long as there is collaboration between groups which partly deal with the same topic. In some cases suggestions for changes of WG titles and/or terms of references were made.

It was also decided that TCPs should be strongly encouraged not to select a chair and co-chair for the same working group who are from the same institution. It is,

however, acceptable for the chair and secretary or co-chair and secretary to be from the same institution.

TCPs and WG officers should also be encouraged to conduct different activities in their working group such as benchmarking, and publication of special issues, rather than focussing solely on the organisation of workshops and other scientific meetings. In these activities, work carried out outside of ISPRS should be given a little more attention.

CH pointed out that in general workshops close to symposia (within four months before or after the TC Symposium) would not be approved in order to prevent weakening the symposium. Instead, any such activities should be integrated into the Symposium.

The different TCs then presented their material, which was discussed in detail. In some cases, suggestions were given to alter the current setup. The TCPs were asked to provide the updated material to CH.

Action 12/2012 TCPs: to provide updates of slides etc. presented in Chengdu on TC structure and WGs to CH by Dec. 14, 2012.

Summarizing the presentations, CH observed that since TC II was a relatively young commission, work was needed in order to better establish the commission, and thus ISPRS, in the field of GI. The same is partly valid for TC IV. CH asked SL and JJ to come up with ideas for how this goal could be achieved, incl. establishing better relations to other players such as GIScience, COSIT, ACM-Geospatial, IGU, SDH, AGILE and in particular ICA. For TC IV, also the GEOBIA group is relevant.

Action 12/2013 SL and JJ: to come up with ideas for improving the visibility of ISPRS, and in particular of TC II and IV, within the field of GI, by Jan 31, 2013.

4.2 Archives and Annals for symposia and workshops

CH explained the event options of ISPRS. An event can be an ISPRS event or can be an event sponsored by ISPRS. ISPRS events need to be approved by Cnl (for applications form see the web). A request for approval of a sponsored event can go directly to the SG or Markus English (webmaster) to be put on the calendar.

Publications of ISPRS events are the Archives and the Annals. The Archives are peer-reviewed based on abstracts, the Annals are double-blind reviewed based on full papers. Since 2011, Archives and Annals are managed by Copernicus Company and are published under the Creative Commons licence. Archives and Annals can take the form of softcopy or hardcopy, depending on the wish of the event organisers. In any case they are available on the web.

The intention of working with Copernicus is to raise the profile of ISPRS publications and get them indexed. Also, Copernicus can help in organising an event, thus reducing the load of the local organiser. The Copernicus contract is available upon request.

Concerns were expressed about the fact that Copernicus charges on the basis of submitted rather than accepted abstracts. CH agreed to take this issue up with Copernicus and to find a solution.

Action 12/2014 CH: to contact Copernicus in order to discuss the issue of submitted vs. accepted abstract (ongoing).

FS suggested the organisation of an Intercommission Conference in Turkey in autumn next year, incl. the next JM of Cnl and TCPs. The date was decided to be the week starting Monday Nov. 11, 2013. The conference will probably take place from Wednesday to Friday. Details will be communicated by FS.

The conference will be held as an umbrella event. In this way separate workshops can be part of the conference. The group organising the CRMT in the past has expressed such a desire in order to keep their identity, but to contribute to the larger event at the same time. In particular, the peer-review process and the programme should be in the hands of the CRMT people. The group organising the Laser Scanning workshop has similar ideas.

The idea of an umbrella event was accepted by all.

Action 12/2015 FS: to prepare organisation of the Intercommission Conference and to share details once they become available (ongoing)

4.3 TC Symposia: Dates, locations, themes

The group discussed the venues and dates for the Midterm Symposia. Final dates were agreed upon (see appendix A). SL mentioned that the TC II dates are not fixed yet and can be shifted by a few days if needed. FS mentioned the same for the TC VIII dates.

Every symposium should have central topic (theme) which is to be chosen by the TCP.

The JM in 2014 will be held together with the last Symposium of the year, which is the meeting of Com. VIII in Hyderabad.

4.4 Contract for Symposia

A model contract for the symposium is available on the web. TCPs should ask their OdM or local organising committee to sign a contract. All contracts should be signed before the next JM in November 2013 in Turkey.

Action 12/2016 TCPs: to sign and return Symposia contracts by Nov. 11, 2013

4.5 TC and WG Websites

CH presented website templates in *.doc for TC and WGs that were distributed prior to the meeting. Markus English (ME) will setup the initial web pages based on the completed *.doc-templates. These websites will be hosted by ME in Stuttgart.

Any further updates will then need to be made by the TC and WG officers. In order to be able to do so, ME will grant accounts and passwords to designated individuals of the TC and WGs.

Symposia pages can be included on the TC page or can be built independently and linked.

Action 12/2017 TCPs: to complete templates and send them to CH by Jan 31, 2013

5. Congress

5.1 Lesson learned from Melbourne Congress

As a regular exercise after a congress, Cnl members have collated views from different people about the preparation, organisation, scientific content, exhibition, social programme etc. of the Melbourne Congress. These comments were assembled by LH and were discussed. Based on these comments, LH then presented a first outline of her plans for the Prague Congress.

5.2 Plans for Czech Congress

LH reported that a congress contract has been signed with convention centre. The whole building will be exclusively available, including separate rooms for WGs, Council meeting and GA. Rooms will have to be allocated to sessions only shortly before congress.

Facilities of LH's University will be available for a summer school before the congress in Telč, a nice location in Bohemia. Topics shall be suggested by relevant TCPs and WGs.

Reservation of hotels will rather be focused on small hotels in the old city centre where the University building is also situated.

OA pointed out that Cnl needs to decide whether to produce a Congress Book for the Prague Congress. CJ explained that the congress book is meant to provide a selection of overview papers on ISPRS state of art in certain research areas, which will be good for young students to get an overview and lead them to further directions.

After some discussion about the goals of the book and the respective roles of the book vs. the journal, It was suggested publishing double features for the congress in the two ISPRS journals instead. In this way the recognition of the journals would be further increased. This suggestion received very positive support, a final decision will be taken after contacting the editors-in-chief of the journals and the publishers.

Action 12/2018 MM: to contact the editors-in-chief about the possibility to publish special issues with review papers for the next ISPRS Congress, by Apr 30, 2013.

5.3 TC Contributions to Congress

CJ explained the contributions TCs will need to offer to the programme of the next congress, incl. session moderation the review of papers. There is still time, and options for the session structure can be considered carefully. The number of parallel sessions should be reduced compared to previous congresses.

It was suggested to formally set up an international programme committee for the Congress. In the past, Cnl and TCPs have informally acted as the programme committee, with a local coordinator designated by the Congress Director as Head. While this set up worked well, it was observed that there was very little possibility for communication between the TCPs during the review process. A formal programme committee was seen by some to overcome this problem.

6. ISPRS Publications

6.1 Book Series plan and TC involvements

CJ reported on the status of the ISPRS book series, the new book editor is Zhilin Li (ZL). ZL presented several questions which need to be answered to move forward.

ID commented that the series is lacking visibility because there is not enough appropriate PR. OA suggested to contact the publisher Taylor & Francis for potential improvements. MM commented that writing books is not in the focus of young authors these days, as this work is not adequately recognized by peers. JPM asked about the aims of book series. Online / eBook possibilities should be evaluated by ZL. ID mentioned that the initial thought when establishing the series was to have a way to publish high quality proceedings. Some held the opinion that the Annals serve this goal now, and it is financially more attractive for event organisers.

After some further discussion on the pros and cons of an ISPRS Book series it was proposed to define a deadline for success. It was suggested to give full support to ZL

to get the series off the ground. This topic will be reviewed during the JM in Dec. 2014.

Action 12/2019 ZL: to contact the book series publisher with the help of MM concerning changes to the existing agreement by April 30, 2013.

6.2 Journal Special Issues and TC contribution

MM presented some general information about the ISPRS Journals.

The price difference between electronic and printed journal publication for individual members is small. Theme issues for the journal could be highlighted by TCs. KS suggested to make WG officers aware of the possibility to submit special issue topics for the journals through the TCP.

Action 12/2020 TCPs: to make WG officers aware of possibility to suggest topics for special issues for the ISPRS journals by Jan. 31, 2013.

6.3 ISPRS eBulletin, GIM page and TC Contribution (reports, announcements, calendar...)

CH reported on the eBulletin and the GIM page. TCPs and WG officers were invited to send relevant information, links, photos, reports on meetings and other content to CH to be put in the upcoming issues. Tables with editorial topics for both, eBulletin and GIM page has been prepared (see appendix B and C), TCPs are invited to contribute.

Action 12/2021 TCPs: to comment on and suggest contributions to the eBulletin and the GIM page editorials to CH by Jan. 31, 2013.

6.4 ISPRS Website

CH explained that any improvements/updates of the website should go directly to Markus English (with cc to CH). There are plans to set up a restricted area on the website for TCP / Council documents etc.

6.5 Annual Report

CJ asked the TCPs to write an annual report on their commission which can be discussed at CM. ID explained that the congress report is actually the annual report for the current year.

7. Relationships with International and other organisations

7.1 Council policies on Collaboration with other organisations

Cnl has prepared a table to define responsibilities for the relationship with other organisations (see appendix D). TCPs were invited to express their interest in this matter, and the table was updated accordingly.

8. Coming meetings

8.1 Meetings related to TCs

CJ pointed out the TCPs are advised to attend meetings of their WGs.

8.2 Next joint meeting

The date will be around Nov. 11, 2013 and the location is still to be defined.

9. Other Business

No remarks on this point.

10. Close

CJ declared the meeting to be successful and thanked the participants and especially the local organizers of Southwest Jiaotong University. The Joint Meeting was closed.

List of appendices

Appendix A: Planned timing and location for Mid-term Symposia in 2014

Appendix B: E-bulletin Foreword List

Appendix C: GIM Page responsibilities

Appendix D: Relationships with other organisations

Appendix A

Planned timing and location for Mid-term Symposia in 2014

as of Dec. 5, 2012

TC	Date	Location	Theme (to be done)	Cooperating org.
I	Nov. 17-20	Denver, USA		ASPRS Fall meetg.
II	Sept. 22-24	Toronto, Canada		CIG. SDH (?)
III	Sept. 5-7	Zurich, Switzerland		ECCV
IV	May 14-16	Suzhou, China		-
V	June 23-25	Riva del Garda, Italy		Ital. Soc. Ph
VI	May 19-21	Wuhan, China		-
VII	Sept. 16-19	Istanbul, Turkey		-
VIII	Dec. 9-12	Hyderabad, India		INCA Nat. Conf.

IV	May 14-16	Suzhou
VI	May 19-21	Wuhan
V	June 23-25	Riva
III	Sept. 5-7	Zürich
VII	Sept. 16-19	Istanbul
II	Sept. 22-24	Toronto
I	Nov. 17-20	Denver
VIII	Dec. 9-12	Hyderabad
Joint Meeting	2 days after	Hyderabad

E-bulletin Foreword List

as of Jan 14, 2013

Issue	Responsible Persons (Deadline)	Themes	Issue Date	Status
2012 - 4	OA, mid July	Melbourne Congress	Sep 21	Done
2012 - 5	CJ, mid October	ISPRS under new leadership	Oct 20	Done
2013 - 1	LH, mid November	Invitation to Congress 2016	Jan 1	Done
2013 - 2	CH, end Jan	Technical Commissions	Feb 15	
2013 - 3	MM, end March	Student Consortium	Apr 1	
	Suggestions for further topics: see list for GIM editorials			

GIM Page responsibilities

as of Dec 18, 2012

Month	Deadline	Responsible Persons and Themes	Status
2013			
January	1 December	LH, Prague Congress	Done
February	1 January	PG, Strasbourg CIPA meeting	Done
March	1 February	FS, Conference in Turkey (tbc)	
April	1 March	CH, new commissions	
May	1 April	Chair SC, Student consortium (tbc)	
June	1 May	MM, Outreach and capacity building	
July	1 June	JPM, Membership benefits	
August	1 July	Wolfgang Kainz, The new IJ-GI (tbc)	

300 - 400 words (max.:450) + photo

text and photos to be sent to CH by the mentioned deadline. He will then forward the material to GIM.

