

It is a great honor for me as president of the Hellenic Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing to stand up here and welcome all of you to this symposium.

To begin with I would like to emphasize that really is a great honor for Greece and especially for the Hellenic society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing that we have the presidency of Commission VI of ISPRS and due to this fact we had distinguished opportunity to organize the symposium in this beautiful island of Greece.

I would like to thank all the organizers that helped financially, to the artists who offered pieces of their art contributing with their means to this symposium, after all Photogrammetry it is a combination of science and art, is it not?

Thanks also to all sponsors and congratulations to the organizing committee which despite all difficulties came to a very satisfactory result.

It is known that Greece lacks continuing programs for providing maps, does not have a cadastral map as well. It seems that the demand for cadastral maps has become recently more urgent and speaking from a professional point of view I think that photogrammetry must be promoted as rapid and economically acceptable method. Especially now that the development of new techniques through the new technology increases the photogrammetric accuracies, gives us the possibility to integrate the collected data into G.I.S. systems, and brings up photogrammetry as an attractive method to use.

On the other hand Greece as member of the European Community should take advantage of the joint programs and promote Remote Sensing for thematic mapping, as well as for small and medium scale mapping facing the fact that has to solve urgent problems arising, from the increasing pollution of Environment the rapid growth of cities and the destruction of forest from fires, and other problems.

I hope that the works of this symposium conclude positively in these aspects.

I would like to express my pleasant feelings that we have too many important participants from all over the world and I'm very happy to realize that even though the Symposium is of the Commission VI many of Greek participants are from the "production line".

Hoping that the works of the Symposium come up with positive messages for Greek professional and educational matters, I wish you pleasant staying in Rhodes.