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At the time of writing it's already January, but I still have those hectic closing weeks of 2001 in my mind. It seems that all the work had to be finished before the end of the year. The Directorate was busy working on the final details of the Strategic Plan 2001-2004, which was then presented to the staff during the Dies Natalis celebration on 17 December. To bring you up to date, on pages 2-4 Sjaak Beerens reports on the main issues raised in the strategic plan.

ITC's Geo-information Management (GIM) programme has been fine-tuned to better respond to the changing needs of organisations providing large volumes of geo-information to customers. The GIM brochure was finalised in December and in this issue of *ITC News* you can read more about the new improved GIM programme starting in September 2002.

There was a lot to be "signed" during the last quarter of 2001: the so-called "penman" agreement between ITC and the University of Twente, the new articles of association, and the cooperation agreement between ISRIC and the University of Wageningen. You can read all about the whys and wherefores in this issue.

Also in the fourth quarter we welcomed visitors from all over the world to ITC. John Horn reports on the visit of a delegation from the Mexican Ministry of Agrarian Reform, and Mark Brussel on the visit of a Malaysian delegation.

In November ITC manned a booth at the AfricaGIS conference in Nairobi. During the conference the popular ITC tradition of organising a gathering for alumni during international conferences was continued - to the enjoyment of many.

Iris van Duren reports on this year's ACE fieldwork. Of course fieldwork is an important part of the educational programmes but it's not just hard work. Somewhere between the research there's time for fun - as you probably all remember! I've never personally been on fieldwork, but I've certainly heard the stories. And reading Iris's report, it must be quite an experience.

I'd also like to draw your attention to the winners of the ITC Education Award and the Henk Scholten Award, not forgetting the winner of the Plancius medal.

And now to *sign off*,

Janneke Kalf, Acting Managing Editor

colofon

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Strategic Plan 2001-2004

Sjaak Beerens

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Although changes have affected ITC in the years since 1950, it is likely that the developments we will face in the next five to 10 years will have implications far greater than all those of the first 50 years put together.

Recognition of this situation urged the ITC Directorate shortly after its appointment in March 2002 to prepare a Strategic Plan to prepare ITC for the future challenging conditions. During the course of 2001 in an interactive way with ITC staff, Board of Governors and client organisations a plan was drafted and presented at the Dies Natalis 2001.

Changes envisaged

The changes, which are being faced by ITC cover grossly three areas.

- First of all, the Dutch government has decreed that international education institutes should integrate with the university system in the Netherlands, thus creating new opportunities for collaboration.
- Under the influence of waning public support and changing political approaches to development cooperation, the funding of our operations will gradually move from lump-sum

funding to a more competitive and demand-driven system.

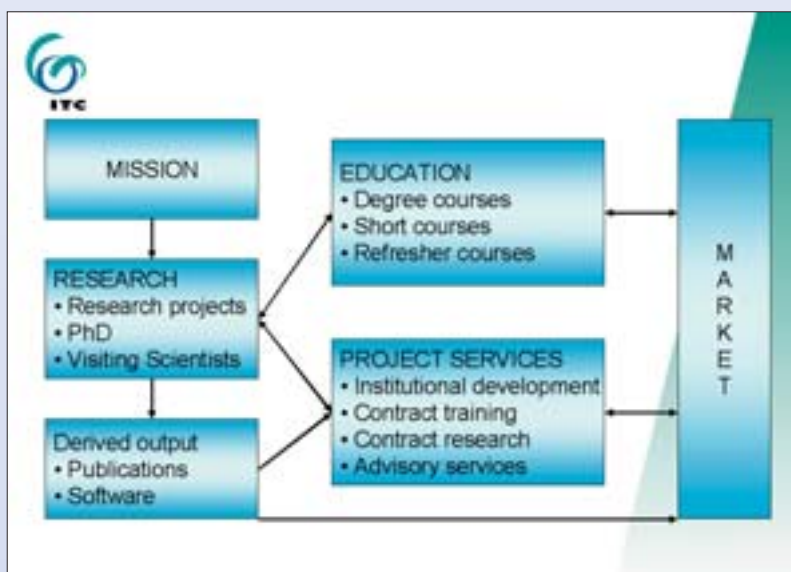
- Most important, though, are the changes in demand for our services. These changes call for a greater flexibility, particularly in our education (short), place (preference for "on-site"), method (e-learning) and themes (expertise and experience in solving problems observed in current Western civil society).

Mission statement

The political uncertainties and envisaged changes will undoubtedly affect our position and thus require a (re)definition of our mission.

Our aim is to provide international education through knowledge exchange directed primarily at capacity building and institutional development for and in countries that are economically and technologically less developed (LDCs). We will do so by operating as a) an *internationally recognized Centre of Excellence* and b) as a *node in an international knowledge network*, an approach implying a two-directional *gateway* function between developing and developed countries for knowledge and experience.

Our knowledge field will be centred on geo-information science and earth observation and consists of a combination of tools and methods for the collection, storage and processing of geo-spatial data, for the dissemination and use of these data and of services based on these data.



Position and relationships of core activities

Points of departure

Since its creation in 1950, ITC has developed a strong position, with an extensive international network of alumni and organisations, a good reputation and an exceptional critical mass of expertise. This puts us in a strong position to deal with the challenging opportunities of addressing increased and changing demand for geo-information science and earth observation services, as well as increased funding resources. Moreover, the integration with the universities provides opportunities for synergetic collaboration and the accreditation of our educational programme.

On the other hand, we face a poorly developed network within the Netherlands, a dispersion of expertise over too many fields and an organisational structure characterised by opaque responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities. Moreover, our services warrant improved cost efficiency and effectiveness (in terms of subsidy requirements). Finally, while addressing a vulnerable solvency position, we should become less dependent on a limited number of funding sources.

Strategic goal

Our long-term strategic goal is to create a sustainable scientific and market-

oriented position from an institutional, financial and organisational point of view. This goal can be elaborated as follows:

- scientific position: strong and recognised national and international position as a centre of excellence in our knowledge field
- market-orientation: demand- and client-oriented approach to delivering our research, education and project services.

General approach

The approach envisaged to achieve this goal comprises a number of institutional, scientific and financial components:

- To comply with the requirement to integrate with the Dutch higher education system, the University of Twente will be our administrative "penman" as from 1 January 2002.
- Besides administrative cooperation, we will pursue close academic collaboration in research, education and institutional development projects with Dutch scientific and professional institutes, in particular with our four partner universities in Twente, Utrecht, Wageningen and Delft and the Netherlands Kadaster. Scientific collaboration will also be pursued with acknowledged research organisations elsewhere in both the western and the developing world. The Indian Space Research Organisations is one of the organisations that has expressed interest in scientific collaboration.
- To enhance our expertise base, we have initiated a centrally guided coherent research programme, directed at geo-information science and earth observation in five specific problem fields (spearheads) recognised in civil society in both the Western and the developing world. The research programme will be "mission-driven" with clear coherent links to education and project services.



Position of the client in a challenging environment

- To address our over-dependence on a limited number of funding sources, we will redirect our marketing efforts, aiming to diversify our funding sources while taking into account changing funding conditions.
- To address the changes in demand for our services, we will decentralise (part of) our educational programme to a number of countries of origin of our course participants. Decentralisation will be carried out by means of joint, double logo, educational programmes, which will be supported by distance education and also allow part-time enrolment.
- To address organisational shortcomings, additional streamlining in the organisation and management structure will be pursued, among others by reducing the number of scientific divisions and by setting in place a transparent and unambiguous set of responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities.

Implementation schedule

The Strategic Plan 2001-2004 is an outline plan presenting general goals, objectives, conditions and action programmes. Our aim is to lay the foundation for realising long-term strategic goals in the period 2001-2004. Some actions are being implemented already, others will be elaborated into Strategy Implementation Documents during the course of 2002. An Executive Summary will be prepared and distributed to external relations early 2002



Geo-information Management (GIM) Programme 2002: A Programme with a Rich Tradition Gets a Facelift

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The Geo-information Management (GIM) programme is one of the six ITC educational programmes. It is unique worldwide in its emphasis on the management of geo-information.

GIM evolved into its present shape thanks to the sustained effort of a group of ITC educational innovators over a period of several years. We are now fine-tuning the GIM programme to better respond to the changing needs of organisations providing large volumes of geo-information to customers. In September 2002, GIM will start with a new and improved design.

Who are the target groups?

The new Geo-information Management programme now focuses specifically on professionals working in *organisations* - or a complex of organisations - dealing with large-volume geo-information production, provision,

use, maintenance, exchange and sharing. Such activities take place for purposes where geo-information is needed systematically, where transactions are intensive, and where data maintenance is of paramount importance.

The GIM programme is targeted at middle- and senior-level managers in organisations actively pursuing improved performance in the ICT environment within a reasonably well defined strategic context. Examples include cadastres, national mapping agencies, geological surveys, soil surveys, ministries (agriculture, environment, public works) and land use planning institutes that aspire to become nodes in a national or regional geospatial data infrastructure.

In addition to well-educated technical specialists, these organisations need geo-information managers who can match appropriate information and communication technology to the business of large-volume geo-information provision within a specific institutional setting. This issue is at the core of the new GIM programme.

What are the building blocks of the new Geo-information Management (GIM) programme?

The new GIM starts off with a set of educational modules that are common



Photo: Gerard Kuster



- the business of large-volume geo-information providers
- the administration of the business of large-volume geo-information providers
- institutional setting(s) of large-volume geo-information providers.

MSc and PM courses

The programme offers two types of courses: Master of Science (MSc) course (18 months) and Professional Master (PM) course (12 months). No specialisations are foreseen for the GIM programme.

How to obtain information for the new GIM programme?

ITC Website:
<http://www.itc.nl/education>

GIM Programme Director
 P.O. Box 6
 7500 AA Enschede, The Netherlands

to all six ITC programmes and include Principles of Geographical Information Systems, Principles of Remote Sensing and Principles of Databases. This common part will be followed by the main body of the programme, which includes modules elaborating on:

- geospatial data infrastructure technology
- geospatial data infrastructure design, implementation and maintenance

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Photo: Gerard Kuster

Dies Natalis 2001

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On 17 December ITC celebrated its 51st birthday - an important occasion as the Institute was also celebrating its change of name to the International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation (ITC).



A panel of ITC staff and PhD researchers was asked to vigorously debate the pros and cons of decentralisation

Moreover, the official presentation of the Strategic Plan 2001-2004 was also on the programme and the rector duly elaborated on the visions this invoked for the future. Part of the strategy will be to decentralise education, which means that ITC will realise its educational mission increasingly within a network structure of universities and other institutes both at home and abroad.

Dr Ali Abkar explained the modalities of the current cooperation with JIK (Iran), as an example of a decentralised MSc programme. A presentation by Mr Rens Brinkman on "Blackboard", a software package using Internet as a means of interaction between staff and students working in different parts of the globe, gave an idea of the tools and techniques available for decentralised education. A panel of ITC staff and PhD researchers was asked to vigorously debate the pros and cons of the following propositions:

- Mid-career clients do not want decentralisation.
- Decentralisation causes loss of quality.
- Staff cannot handle research and decentralised education at the same time.

Certain bold declarations provoked lively reactions from the audience, stimulated by Mr Johan de Meijere. Definitely a good start, and no doubt the first of many future discussions on ways of implementing the new visions.

To make sure that from January onwards everyone will be using the new name of the Institute, the old name was quite literally consumed to produce the necessary energy to embark on the next phase in ITC's life-cycle.



Dr Ali Abkar explained the modalities of the current cooperation with JIK (Iran), as an example of a decentralised MSc programme



Certain bold declarations provoked lively reactions from the audience, stimulated by Mr Johan de Meijere



ITC's old name was quite literally consumed

ITC at the AFRICAGIS 2001 Conference

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The Africagis conference took place at Gigiri, the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, from 5 to 9 November.

The October-November period is a short-rains season in Nairobi and true to weather forecasts Monday was a rather unpleasant day, being mainly rainy and chilly. Despite the hostile weather, the UNEP halls soon became a beehive of activity after the first plenary session. Participants streamed to the expo area to see the wide variety of tools and products on display.

The ITC booth was soon discovered and people flocked to help themselves to the colourful brochures, course guidelines and posters on offer. Particularly interesting was a group that was very keen on getting hold of ITC pens and key rings! The Geoinformatics programme drew a lot of attention and in no time we were out of brochures. A recent graduate of the course myself, I couldn't help feeling elated! Many of

the local training institutions were so enthusiastic about the Geoinformatics programme given that they were at various stages of developing similar programmes. Several visitors sought information on scholarship opportunities and application procedures. It was amazing the number of participants who had had previous dealings with ITC. Tuesday and Wednesday took a more serious turn, with those visiting the booth being more specific in their inquiries. Still, even these visitors couldn't resist the urge to get a pen or key ring.

Meanwhile the Kenyan ITC alumni were gearing up for the reception ITC had promised. Come Wednesday and all were at the Panafric Hotel, the venue of the reception. What a surprise it was! For weeks on end we'd



The ITC booth was soon discovered and people flocked to help themselves to the colourful brochures, course guidelines and posters on offer. On the right Mr. Onchaga Moses



During AfricaGIS the popular ITC tradition of organising a gathering for alumni during international conferences was upheld

had meetings to arrange the reception and were lucky if a dozen or so turned up, but now over a hundred people at the reception! Some lucky hands won a variety of prizes - T-shirts, models of Dutch houses, that sort of thing - but the real winner of the day received an ILWIS system. Not being so lucky myself, I got none of these, but had lots of fun. The alumni discussed and partied, and as usual some were a little too happy for the comfort of others ... very much like other parties. And to ITC the kudos for an evening well planned!

Thursday it was business as usual, but by then many of the brochures and presents were long gone. However, participants kept coming to inquire about the courses offered, scholarship opportunities and ILWIS. Thursday evening was ESRI night and everyone headed for TUSKS, the venue of the ESRI dinner. It was another thrilling evening.

The conference was mainly well organised and provided exposure to the latest technologies and evolutions in spatial thinking. It was followed by a series of workshops focusing on global spatial data infrastructures and meta-data, courtesy of ESRI, UNEP and others from the Kenya Polytechnic and Kenya Institute of Surveying and Mapping. Meanwhile, ITC was starting its two-week refresher course on database management for natural resources at the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, a facility that is under the management of a recent ITC graduate.



Mr. Hesbon Mwenda, director dept. of Remote Sensing and Resource Surveys: "The importance and impact of ITC's training programme in technical development"



Mr. H. Nyapola, director of surveys Min. of Land and Settlement, talking about "At ITC they train people who know to deliver"



Closing of AfricaGIS 2001. From left to right: Mr. André Bassolé, chairman EIS Africa (and ITC alumnus from Burkina Faso). Mr. Timothy W. Foresman, director division of Early Warning and Assessment UNEP. Mr. H. Nyapola, (and ITC alumnus from Kenya). Mr. Patrick Kimeu, chairman Local Organising Committee AfricaGIS (and ITC alumnus from Kenya)

“Sun and fun in Southern Africa”

A report on the ACE MSc fieldwork 2001

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On my first day back in the office after six and a half weeks on MSc fieldwork in three different countries, I was asked to write a short fieldwork report for ITC News.

With all the stories still fresh in my mind and all my slides framed and sorted, this was not a very difficult task and a good one to start with.

The original idea was that I would supervise the MSc students going to Sesfontein in the northwest of Namibia and the Santa Lucia Wetland Park in South Africa. However, in the interests of efficient staff allocation and to make the trip even more challenging, it was decided that I would stop off first at Serowe in Botswana. After a hectic period of preparation - discussing various research topics, booking flights, applying for visas, collecting lists of fieldwork material, and a vaccination party in an MSc room to boot - I arrived at the camp about 20 km west of Serowe.

The camp was quite OK and the cook was fantastic, but the climatic circumstances were tough. On some days we were roasted, giving me the opportunity to discover that Kalahari sand sticks to your skin much better when you use sun block. Two days later, I was about to join the Botswana skating team and, with the idea of keeping myself warm, was more than willing to join Lemmy in his job cutting shrubs in the bush. In the meantime, the other students and staff were trying their best not to end up with frost bite while decorating trees with sensors, recording vegetation composition or interviewing farmers. At breakfast, we ate so many scrambled eggs that I was afraid we'd start growing feathers. I was very much impressed by the subtle wake-up call at 5 am - the activated car alarm of a big truck in the middle of the camp. Though, according to Gabriel, that was still much better than the rooster that started to screech at three in the morning because he'd confused an arriving car with sunrise.

My next destination was Namibia. After a somewhat difficult start, we finally reached our fieldwork area close to Sesfontein - extremely scenic landscape but very remote and very hot. Here too it was a major challenge to develop an efficient life style and arrange for such basic needs as food, drink, transport and accommodation, as well as to collect the appropriate data for the various research topics. I spent some days with each of the students, discussing sampling strategies, driving them to wherever they wanted



Harvesting shrubs in a representative 5 x 5 m plot for above-ground biomass measurement



Testing to see if all sensors for sap flow measurements are properly connected

to go and observing how quickly they adapted to their new temporary environment. Again I found myself lucky to be accompanied by motivated and enthusiastic students who worked hard and had a great sense of humour too. There's not enough room here to elaborate in detail on the specific research tasks, but there are plenty of other stories worth telling. Hein van Gils introduced us around the area and generously offered to buy the drinks in

the evening. The next day he was somewhat surprised that the bottle of wine he had not finished the evening before did not appear on the table again as usually happened. Fortunately, he was very satisfied with my explanation that it was in safe hands because one of the students had confiscated it after he had left. What more? One of the tents was nicknamed "the palace" because of the lock to protect the crown jewels (laptop). And we unanimously elected Wendessen to be head of the newly founded "Ministry of Goats"; as the goat had great entertainment value I duly declared it to be fieldwork material.

The last fieldwork area was the Futulu Forest Reserve, part of the Santa Lucia Wetland Park in South Africa. The three J's, John, Joseph and Joseph, were linked to the project "Working for Water", a multi-organisational initiative employing local people in an attempt to eradicate invasive alien plant species. They definitely had the most beautiful accommodation of the three fieldwork areas that I'd seen, occupying a holiday house with a veranda overlooking the swimming pool. But as they were always busy with laptops, papers and maps, the lady in charge of the caravan park became a bit worried



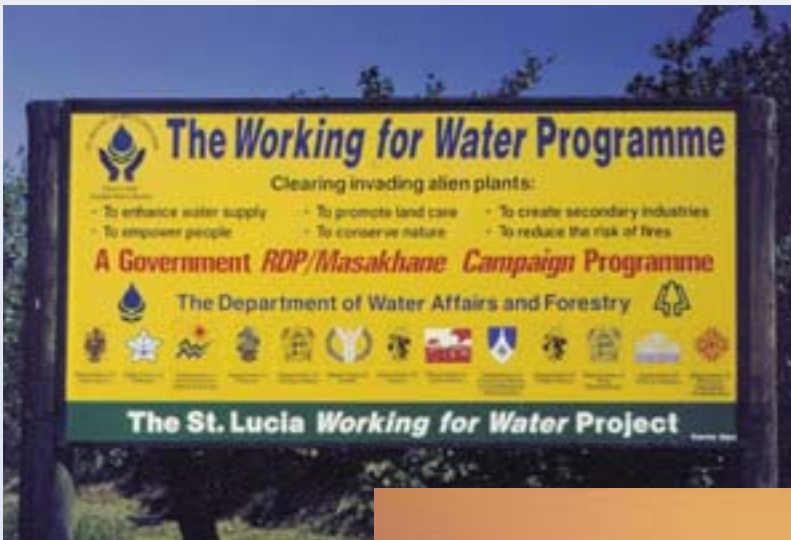
Breakfast time in the camp at Sesfontein

and came to make sure they were not members of the KGB.

The forest was so dense that to speed up the sampling we had to employ extra local people to help the students chop their way through the jungle. We left Futululu for Pietermaritzburg, armed with the good advice of Sam (a very helpful lady in charge of the "Working for Water" office): "Be good, otherwise be good at it." And so

we were. Our presentations at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg were very well received, while thanks to a waitress's small slip of the tongue at our bed & breakfast two of the J's were promoted to "two chickens in room 20". Another highlight of our visit was of course the "braai" organised by Denis. Thanks Denis, it was great!

After this long period of camping in the bush, driving on the wrong side of the road, discovering new environments, meeting new people and diving into various different research topics, I can definitely say it's no easy job to keep things running and improvise when original plans have to be adjusted. But we all learned a lot, the spirit was good and a great deal of work was accomplished.



Objectives of the project "Working for Water"

Sunset on the way back to Sesfontein



visiting ITC

Delegation from the Mexican Ministry of Agrarian Reform Visits ITC

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On Monday 29th October, as part of an official visit arranged by the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture and the Netherlands Kadaster, ITC was pleased to welcome a delegation from the Mexican Ministry of Agrarian Reform.

The delegation was officially welcomed by, Sjaak Beerens MSc, Director External Affairs.

In order to familiarise the group with ITC activities, three official presentations were provided by ITC staff. These included a general overview of ITC activities (Ir. Mark Noort, Head Bureau Project Services), Issues in Land Reform (Prof. Paul vd Molen), and ITC's training contribution to the Peruvian PEGUP project, (by Lorena Montoya, MSc).

The State Secretary indicated that a number of major steps are currently being taken in the sphere of Phoeing Sackona Agrarian Reform in Mexico, foremost amongst these being the modernisation of the National Cadastre and the introduction of Geographic Information Systems for land registration.

Over the last 15 years, a total of 37 Mexican students have attended various training programmes in ITC, and following the formal presentations, the delegation took the opportunity to meet the six Mexican students and researchers presently in-house.

On behalf of the ITC, Mr. Narciso Barrera Bassols, (who is currently completing his PhD at ITC on Meso-american ethnopedology: indigenous knowledge, soil classification systems and land management in México), presented the State Secretary with a copy of the book (Ethnopedology in a worldwide perspective: an annotated bibliography) which he and ITC's Prof. Alfred Zinck have recently published on this topic.



The delegation from Mexico with the ITC staff and the Mexican students

The delegation was led by Lic. María Teresa Herrera Tello, (State Secretary for Agrarian Reform), who was accompanied by Lic. Joaquín Contreras Cantú, (Chief Director of the National Agrarian Register), Dr. Manuel Díaz Pineda, (Director General Research Department, Agrarian Attorneyship) and Mr. Santiago Oñate Laborde, (The Ambassador of México to the Netherlands). Mr. Jan de Jong from Kadaster International also accompanied the visitors



Lorena Montoya describing ITC's activities in the Peruvian PEGUP project



Director External Affairs Sjaak Beerens presents State Secretary Tello with a small gift on the occasion of her visit to ITC



The delegation took the opportunity to meet the six Mexican students and researchers presently in-house

Visit of Malaysian Delegation

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The ITC approach to education was explained not only by staff of the Institute, but also by five Malaysian students currently studying at ITC

On 30 November 2001, a delegation led by the Honourable Datuk Pandikar Amin Haji Mulia, minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia, visited ITC. The 11-strong delegation consisted of officials from the Prime Minister's Department (particularly the Federal Territory Development and Klang Valley Planning Division), the Kuala Lumpur City Council, the Kuala Lumpur Urban Development Authority and the Labuan Corporation. The purpose of the visit was to gather information on the activities of ITC and to see whether cooperation could be established in the areas of training and research in metropolitan planning and management, as well as in GIS development and application. Since 1995, the Klang Valley Authority has been operating an advanced and well established GIS system called AGISwlk, with the prime objective of assisting plan-

ning and decision support in the metropolitan region of Kuala Lumpur, the most industrialised and densely populated region of Malaysia (approximately three million inhabitants). The current GIS covers the entire Klang Valley region, with its five districts and eight local authorities, and features 10 application areas, ranging from land use inventories to environmental quality. Further information on this GIS project can be obtained via the Internet (<http://www.bkwplk.gov.my/>).

Against this background, the discussions focused on the further elaboration of the delegation's requirements and assessing available ITC expertise in respect to these requirements. It was recognised that, although AGISwlk was a well established and efficiently maintained GIS system, this important resource was being insufficiently used at present. Additional training in areas specific to Klang Valley Authority staff could build expertise, and thus stimulate further use and actual implementation of planning and decision support tools. Moreover, as the GIS system is going to be increasingly used in the future by local authorities throughout Malaysia, there is scope for more elaborate training programmes. The ITC approach to education was explained not only by staff of the Institute, but also by five Malaysian students currently studying at ITC, who presented their work and took the delegation on a tour of the building.



The delegation on a tour of the building



Honourable Datuk Pandikar Amin Haji Mulia, minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia

In the afternoon session, potential joint activities were discussed in greater detail and the unanimous conclusion was reached that there was considerable scope for cooperation between ITC and Klang Valley. Early in 2002, ITC will field a mission to Malaysia to further elaborate future cooperation.

project news

Refresher Course in Geo-information for Disaster Management

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Squatter settlements at risk from flash flood



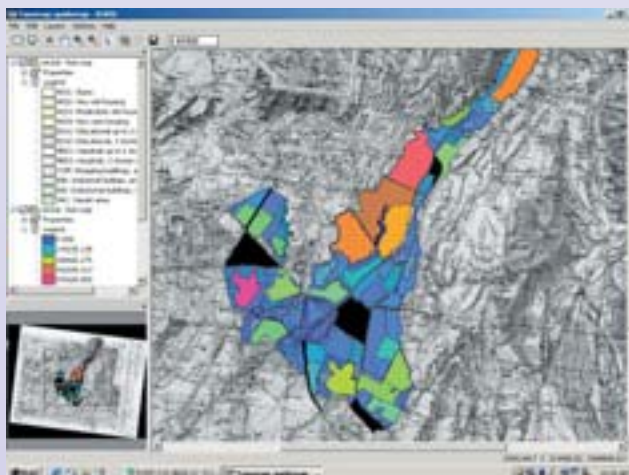
Participants conducting a building types survey

December 2001 saw the end of a two-week refresher course in Geo-information for Disaster Management held in Dehra Dun, India. The course, funded by SAIL and carried out at the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), was organised by ITC's Cees van Westen and IIRS's P.K. Champati Ray. Among the lecturers were staff members from the ITC divisions Applied Geomorphological Survey, Social Sciences, and Urban Planning and Management, and the IIRS divisions Geosciences, Human Settlement Analysis, and Water Resources. Guest lecturers from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, the Mussoorie-Dehra Dun Development Authority (MDDA) and the Town and Country Planning Department (TCP) also provided input to the course.

A total of 31 participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Japan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended the course (14 ITC alumni, three IIRS staff members and 14 regular students following the IIRS postgraduate programme in disaster management).

Among these participants were geographers, geomorphologists, geologists and urban planners - the wide range of backgrounds illustrating the multidisciplinary nature of disaster management.

The course focused on the estimation of risk and the subsequent decision-making process. Related topics included building types surveying, geo-database generation and cost-benefit analysis. The course included lectures, field data collection and GIS application exercises, culminating in a practical assignment taking the city of Dehra Dun as a case study. The building types survey carried out during the fieldwork, together with existing data related to earthquake scenarios, allowed the generation of scenario risk maps that culminated in a single annual earthquake risk map. This annualised risk map is a key element in urban planning as it represents the type of information product necessary for conducting cost-benefit analysis of disaster mitigation measures.



GIS map on risk assessment for Dehra Dun



Course participants

In recent years ITC has run a series of refresher courses on different topics at various locations around the world in order to keep its alumni abreast of current technological trends.

announcements

New Name, New Associations

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INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AEROSPACE SURVEY AND EARTH SCIENCES

In 2000 the Minister of Education, Culture and Science issued a directive that all institutes for international education (IO institutes) in the Netherlands, including ITC, should become associated/allied to a Dutch university within one year.

One of the reasons behind such a decision was to simplify the consultative structures and money flow. The Minister was also convinced that a stronger alliance between Dutch universities and the IO institutes would stimulate the export of Dutch higher education through internationalisation.

After extensive internal discussion and after consulting the universities of Utrecht, Wageningen, Delft and Twente, ITC decided to sign this so-called "penman" agreement with the University of Twente. This association will initially be limited to administrative (subsidy) matters, but will gradually come to include logistic and enhanced scientific collaboration. On the basis of this association, further mutually beneficial collaboration will be investigated.

Prof. Van Vught, Rector Magnificus of the University of Twente and Prof. Molenaar, Rector of ITC, signing the penman agreement



The penman agreement will not affect ITC's educational and managerial tasks, and ITC will remain an autonomous IO institute, with its own unique educational programme for mid-career professionals.

The development of our knowledge field since our foundation in 1950 as the *International Training Centre for Aerial Survey* has necessitated changes in name. The incorporation of earth science applications resulted in 1968 in the name *International Institute for Aerial Survey and Earth Sciences*, while the use of data derived from satellites led in 1985 to the name *International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences*. In recognition of the changing demands for our products and services and the developments in our knowledge field, as of January 2002 the official name of our Institute will be

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR GEO-INFORMATION SCIENCE AND EARTH OBSERVATION

As always, the initialism ITC will remain our brand name, as determined by our founder, Prof. Schermerhorn.

As of 1 January 2002 a Supervisory Board will replace the Board of Governors and the rector of ITC will act as governor in cooperation with the Directorate (the director external affairs and the director internal affairs). The Supervisory Board is to consist of nine members. Six have already been appointed: four members on behalf of the universities (Prof. Wakker, Delft; Prof. Ottens, Utrecht; Prof. Speelman, Wageningen; and Prof. Wallinga, Twente) and two non-university mem-

bers from the defunct Board of Governors (Mr Heddema, consultant, and Mr Besemer from Cadastre).

New name, new governing body and the penman agreement, all leading to new articles of association, and these were signed by Prof. Molenaar at the notary's office on 11 December 2001. On 19 December 2001 Prof. Van Vught, Rector Magnificus of the University of Twente and Prof. Molenaar, Rector of ITC, officially signed the penman agreement at the University of Twente.



Champagne after the official signing of the penman agreement

Cooperation between ISRIC and Wageningen University

Roel Oldeman

oldeman@isric.nl

The cooperation agreement between the International Soil Reference and Information Centre (ISRIC) and Wageningen University was signed on Thursday, 22 November 2001. This cooperation is the result of a directive from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OC&W) that the institutes for interna-

tional education should integrate with universities. ISRIC, currently linked with ITC, has opted to be affiliated with Wageningen University, while ITC is negotiating a relationship with the University of Twente. As of 1 January 2002, the ISRIC Foundation will be linked with the Department of Environmental Sciences of Wageningen University within the "Green Space and Environmental Sciences Expert Group" of the Wageningen University and Research Centre.



During the ceremony at ISRIC on 22 November, setting the stamp to the cooperative link with Wageningen University, the cooperative agreement with ITC was formally terminated.

ISRIC in Wageningen - formerly the International Soil Museum - was founded in 1966 at the request of the UN organisations Unesco and FAO. The institute is the world centre for soil information, its main objective being to increase knowledge and the sustainable use of natural resources. Training and information in soil science are given to scientists, students, schoolchildren and various institutions. In addition, ISRIC has developed computer databases that are used, for example, for global and regional studies of climate change, food provision and soil degradation. The institute has com-

piled a huge collection of 950 soil profiles from some 70 countries, with accompanying data, and a library of 15,000 reports, 6,000 maps and 16,000 slides. Eighty profiles are on display in the world soil museum. ISRIC is the World Data Centre for soils from the International Council for Sciences (ICSU).

The cooperation between Wageningen University and ISRIC will focus on international soil science education and research. ISRIC is well equipped both for teaching soil science subjects at BSc and MSc levels and for studies of global problems in the area of natural resources. A core group of soil scientists and geoinformatics experts from Wageningen UR and ISRIC are currently investigating the practicalities of the cooperation. This cooperation with ISRIC fits within Wageningen University's long-term strategy to raise its status as a world knowledge centre.

During the ceremony at ISRIC on 22 November, setting the stamp to the cooperative link with Wageningen University, the cooperative agreement with ITC was formally terminated. In their short speeches, both Roel Oldeman, director of ISRIC, and Martien Molenaar, rector of ITC, emphasised that this did not mean an end to substantive cooperation with ITC. Both ISRIC and ITC see good opportunities for collaboration in future project activities.

In closing, Roel Oldeman expressed his appreciation of the pleasant cooperation with the ITC Directorate and the departments P&O and FEZ, which had characterised the past 35 years.

ITC Education Award 2001

Niek Rengers

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Background

In 1997 the "Stichting ITC Fonds" established an education award at the request of the Directorate. This award, which consists of a diploma and a cheque for €910, aims to stimulate the quality of education and to reward creativity and innovation in this sphere. Once every two years, alternating with the research award, the education award is presented to the ITC staff member who best meets the criteria specified.

These criteria have been defined as follows. Candidates should have

- 1 provided high-level education over a number of years
- 2 been remarkably innovative and creative in the design and implementa-

tion of educational programmes

- 3 been stimulating in their contacts with both students and fellow staff members in educational matters
- 4 been rated (consistently) high in course evaluations by participants.

In 2001 submissions were received for six candidates. The nomination committee, consisting of student members Yvonne Moreno and Henry Deen and staff members Sherif Amer and Menno-Jan Kraak and under my chairmanship, concluded that one nominee best meets all the criteria.

Judicium

The winner has a proven record of excellent performance in education. He or she - but from now on I will use



Rolf de By "a well-respected staff member and a stimulating and inspiring colleague"

"he" - is considered to be an expert in his field and is often consulted by his fellow staff members. He is able to explain often complex and difficult topics in a systematic and simple manner.

So far this judgement applies to all ITC staff, as not doubt you will have noticed.

The winner has been involved in a number of new developments in education at ITC. He was one of the driving forces behind the group that developed the core curriculum in GIS and Remote Sensing. He was heavily

involved in drafting the first edition of the textbooks, and was the editor of the second edition. Both publications have had an institute-wide impact, and have contributed to the international status of ITC as a high-level education institute.

He has also been instrumental in setting up multidisciplinary programmes in which various divisions are participating. The refresher course in Kenya is a good example.

The winner is a well-respected staff member and a stimulating and inspiring colleague. He is always available to answer students' questions. And his involvement with students does not stop at the classroom door - he is active in familiarising ITC students with Dutch society and culture, as well as being extremely interested in their own background.

Finally, as indicated in course evaluations, the winner is highly regarded by ITC students, especially for his supervision of MSc studies.

The committee has come to the overall conclusion that the nominee who most deserves the 2001 Education Award is Rolf de By.



Rolf de By receives the Education Award from professor Molenaar. This award aims to stimulate the quality of education and to reward creativity and innovation in this sphere

Wan Bakx Wins Henk Scholten Award 2001

Corné van Elzaker

elzaker@itc.nl

ITC's core activities in knowledge exchange are executed not just by individuals on their own small computer islands. A lot of our work is teamwork - and we all know, from soccer for instance, that good teams are more productive and effective than groups of individuals. For good teams you need not only strikers who are good in research, teaching or examinations, for example, but also solid team players

like midfielders who take care of the lines of communication and wingers who promote and stimulate the "we" feeling in the Institute.

Named after someone who is a good example of a team-builder, the Henk Scholten Award has been presented at the Institute every year since 1997 to remind us all of the importance of working in teams of staff and students alike.

On 20 December, at the start of the end-of-year party, the award for the year 2001 was jointly presented by Henk Scholten and Gerard van Dorp, ITC's new director internal affairs, to Wan Bakx.

Wan Bakx runs the user-friendly Geo-Technical Support Unit at ITC. As one of those who nominated him put it: "Any visitor, no matter from which division or course, gets rapid and professional attention with a smile and with humour. His personal attitude is always helpful. There are very few among us who can approach everybody with the same professional and social openness."

But the main justification for presenting the Henk Scholten Award to Wan Bakx is that he is the initiator and constant driving force behind an activity that is perhaps the best example of bringing students and staff together in a team, an activity that, while unrelated to our usual work, definitely has positive effects on it. It is the famous Run4Fun activity that brings together students and administrative and scientific staff at least once a week - and sometimes more when the Batavierenrace or Singelloop is approaching (for more infor-



Together with one of the Run4Fun participants Wan Bakx gave a short demonstration of one of his famous running exercises ("hakken-billen")



After receiving the Henk Scholten Award 2001 from Gerard van Dorp and Henk Scholten, Wan Bakx (standing next to Santa Claus) took the opportunity to advertise Run4Fun and present an ITC Run4Fun T-shirt

mation, see <http://cwis.itc.nl/run4fun/>). Wan is an excellent runner himself but as coach he stimulates, advises and stays with those who have less experience as active sportsmen/women - and all on a voluntary basis.

The winner of the Henk Scholten Award was selected from a list of 12 candidates nominated by staff and students. Staff and students were invited to submit nominations to a committee, who then selected the winner on the basis of the following criteria.

To qualify for the Henk Scholten Award a person should:

- be an ITC staff member/student or a former ITC staff member/student
- have stimulated the "we-feeling" or demonstrated team-building capacities at the Institute for a considerable period of time (teams usually consist of both staff and students)
- have fostered and promoted social and working relationships within the Institute as a whole for a considerable period of time
- have done this voluntarily, over and above the usual tasks resulting from their function or participation in a course programme.

The members of the Henk Scholten Award Committee represent the SAB (this year Ivonne Astrid Moreno Horta), the PhD students (Javier Morales), the Directorate (Marja Verburg), ITC staff (Corné van Elzaker) and the personnel association InTerContact (Monique Romarck). This committee itself is a good example of the importance of teamwork in all of our activities.

Medal for ITC Honorary Fellow

Janneke Kalf

kalf@itc.nl

During the Geography Congress 2000 Prof. F.J. Ormeling was presented with the Plancius Medal. This medal - the highest award bestowed by the "Koninklijk Nederlands Aardrijkskundig Genootschap" (KNAG) - is named after Pieter Platvoet or Petrus Plancius, a renowned cartographer and one of the Netherlands' greatest geographers, who played a prominent role in Dutch cartography towards the end of the 16th century. In his speech of congratu-

lation, Prof. Joost Terwindt, chairman of KNAG, reflected on Prof. Ormeling's considerable contribution to the field of geography as a whole and to cartography in particular.

Prof. Ormeling, who founded the Cartography Division, retired in 1982 and was appointed Honorary Fellow of ITC in 1986.



HRH Crown Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands meeting Prof. Ormeling during the Geography Congress

Traditional Celebration

Janneke Kalf

kalf@itc.nl

On 16 November 2001, a reception was held in the restaurant of ITC to celebrate the 25th anniversary of seven staff members. Harry Homrighausen, Marion Pierik, Gerard Leppink, Michael Weir, Dick van der Zee, Janny Perik-Bathoorn and Edith Howard all joined ITC in 1976 and, in line with tradition,

were each presented with an exclusive ITC watch.

In his speech the rector pointed out that the Institute was dealing with an ever-changing environment. A dynamic and open organisation that is capable of functioning under constantly chang-

ing conditions places high demands on its staff. Hence ITC needs new professionals who are able to continuously re-position the Institute in this ever-changing environment. Within this volatile setting, however, it is particularly important that there are staff members who can ensure continuity and uphold the long tradition of the Institute, staff members who, true to the spirit of the founding fathers, ensure that we do not lose sight of our original mission.



Gerard Leppink, Harry Homrighausen,
Michael Weir and Dick van der Zee
(from left to right)

Transfer of the Journal to Elsevier Science

Sjaak Beerens

beerens@itc.nl

ITC has published the *International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation* (JAG) and its predecessor, the *ITC Journal*, for almost 40 years. Over the years this publication has earned a position and name amongst scientists in earth observation and geo-information the world over.

The conditions confronting us in the execution of our mission are rapidly changing, from both the political financial-economic perspective and the technological point of view. This has compelled us to reconsider our policy and strategy in order to fulfil our mission efficiently and effectively. As part of these reconsiderations, we have concluded that publishing a scientific journal does not command the priority it once did. Consequently we have decided to divest ourselves of JAG and consider alternative ways of remaining abreast of scientific developments.

The decision to terminate publication was not an easy one and was reached only after carefully considering all the aspects and implications. At the same time we decided to approach commercial publishers of scientific journals with a view to assessing their interest in acquiring JAG as a going concern.

We are very pleased that we have reached an agreement with Elsevier Science BV. As from 2002, Elsevier Science will become the owner of JAG and assume full and exclusive responsibility for its publication, promotion, sale and distribution. Being a commercial enterprise implies, that Elsevier Science will not be able to provide JAG free of charge to staff, students and alumni (as has been the case up to now). Elsevier Science has already indicated a willingness to make JAG available to ITC alumni at a discount and will approach them shortly.



life after ITC

I was in ITC in 1989/90 following a Technologists Course in Cartography. This was a One Year Programme Course, very intensive but interesting, always being reminded of "Don't worry be happy".

On coming back to my country I had a short period in the production unit making use of the map making technique I learned in the conventional environment. A need arose in the Department of Surveys in the Ministry of Lands & Settlement to start an Institute at Tertiary Level to train students in the areas of Surveying and Mapping and amongst the trainers to carry out the exercise was mainly ex-ITC students.

Today the Institute known as Kenya Institute of Surveying and Mapping is one of the few of its kind in the Eastern Region of Africa to hold training at

both Diploma and Higher Diploma levels in the disciplines of Surveying and Mapping in Land Surveys, Cartography, Photogrammetry & RS and Printing.

One quarter of the entire teaching staff are products of ITC using the bulk of the teaching information from ITC.

I would at this point also mention worthy materials gained from Dr Harding during the Exit Course especially of a good manager. This material increased my input as a member of the Local Organising Committee for the recently concluded 5th AfricaGIS Conference and Exhibition held in Nairobi, Kenya. Long live ITC!

By E.J. Awino
e-mail: kism@iconnect.co.ke



At the AfricaGIS conference with Sjaak Beerens, director External Affairs



Alumni associations

listing of all Netherlands and ITC alumni associations.

Alumni who would like to set-up similar associations in their own country can contact ITC.

ARGENTINA

Asociación Cultural Argentino-Neerlandesa de Ex-Becarios (ACANEB)
C/o Royal Netherlands Embassy
Avda. de Mayo 701, Piso 19
1084 Buenos Aires, Argentina
Phone: +54.1.3343474
Fax: +54.1.3342717

BANGLADESH

Netherlands Alumni Association of Bangladesh
42/7 Block F, Babar Road Mohammadpur
Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh
Phone: +880.2.323855

BULGARIA

Bulgarian-Dutch Alumni Association
P.O. Box 1196
Sofia - 1000, Bulgaria
Phone: +359.2.769230
Fax: +359.2.518601

ECUADOR

Asociación Ecuatoriana de ex-Becarios y Amigos del Reino de los Países Bajos
Avenida 10 de Agosto 3815 y Mariana de Jesús Tercer piso,
Oficina 302 Edificio Villacís Pazos
Quito, Ecuador
Phone: +593.2.552124

EGYPT

Netherlands Alumni Association
54, Ahmed El Sawy Street
Makram Abide, Nasr City
Cairo, Egypt
Phone: +20.12.2137004 / 2746513

GHANA

Ghana Netherlands Alumni Association (GNAA)
P.O. Box 8148
Accra-North, Ghana
Phone (Netherlands Embassy): +233.21.773664
Fax (Netherlands Embassy): +233.21.773655

INDIA

Netherlands Alumni Association of India
C-3/3004 Vasant Kunj
New Delhi 110 070, India
Phone: +91.11.6897773

INDONESIA

IKANED C/o Royal Netherlands Embassy
Jalan H.R. Rasuna Said, Kavel S 3
Kuniga
Jakarta 12950, Indonesia
Phone: +62.21.511515
Fax: +62.21.5700734

KOREA

Korea Netherlands Alumni Association (KNAA)
C.P.O Box 7173
Seoul, Korea
Phone: +82.2.2524597 (office)

MALAYSIA

Alumni Association of Malaysia
C/o Royal Netherlands Embassy
4 Jalan Mesra
55000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
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MEXICO

Asociación Mexicano-Holandesa de Ex-alumnos de Instituciones Académicas
A.C. Embajada del Reino de los Países Bajos
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NEPAL

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NIGERIA

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PAKISTAN

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PERU

Asociación de Ex-Becarios
Los Abedules 261 Urb. Camacho
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PHILIPPINES

Netherlands Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines Inc. (NFFPI)
Land Geology Division Mines and Geoscience Bureau
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SINGAPORE

The Netherlands Alumni Association of Singapore (NAAS)
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Fax: +65.7382979

SRI LANKA

Netherlands Alumni Association of Lanka (NAAL)
Department of Labour
Labour Secretariat
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Netherlands Alumni Association of Taiwan
c/o Prof.dr.ir. Daniel Jiang
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THAILAND

Netherlands Alumni Association of Thailand (NAAT)
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UGANDA

ITC Alumni Association of Uganda
Dept. of Forest Products Engineering
Fac. of Forestry and Nature Conservation
Makerere University
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Kampala, Uganda
Phone: +256.41.543647/8
Fax: +256.41.533574

VIETNAM

Vietnam-Netherlands Alumni Club (VNAC)
105A Quan Thanh Street
Hanoi, Vietnam
Phone: +84.4.8454547
Fax: +84.4.8432756

CALENDAR 2001-4

South Carolina GIS Conference

6 – 8 February 2002
Greenville, SC, USA

Information: Mark Perry
(tel/fax 1-803-896-7695;
e-mail markp@scgs.state.sc.us; web-site
www.scgs.state.sc.us/smac/default.htm)

Geomatica 2002

18 – 23 February 2002
La Habana, Cuba

Information: Geomatica 2002,
Ing. Tatiana Delgado Fernandez,
Calle 6 No 301 Esq. 3ra, Miramar, La
Habana, 11300 Cuba
(tel 53-7-22-1794; fax 53-7-24-2869;
e-mail geomatica@mic.cu)

GIS 2002

11 – 13 March 2002
Bahrain

Information: BSE(tel 973-()-727-100;
fax 973-()-729-819;
e-mail mohandis@batelco.com.bh;
web-site www.mohandis.org)

M.Sc. in Airborne Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

18 – 22 March 2002
Barcelona, Spain

Information: Institute of Geomatics,
Parc de Montjuïc, E-08038 Barcelona,
Spain (tel 34-93-567-1500,
fax 34-93-567-1569;
e-mail info@IdeG.es;
web-site www.IdeG.es)

ISPRS WG VI/I Workshop in Co- operation with WG VI/3

25 – 27 March 2002
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Information: Jana Visnovcova
(tel 41-1-633-6808; fax 41-1-633-
1101; e-mail jana@geod.baug.ethz.ch)

GEOTec Event

8 – 11 April 2002
Toronto, Canada

Information: Matt Ball, TEOTec Media,
USA (tel 1-303-544-0594;
e-mail mball@aip.com)

29th International Symposium on RS of Environment

8 – 12 April 2002
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Information: Chiyo Yamashita-Gill,
University of Arizona, Office of Arid
Lands Studies, 1955 E Sixth St, Suite
205, Tucson, AZ 85719, USA
(tel 1-520-621-8567;
fax 1-520-621-3816;
e-mail chiyo@ag.arizona.edu;
web-site www.ag.arizona.edu/OALS)

14th European Geo Informatic Encounter

9 – 11 April 2002
Paris, France

Information: Jean-Paul Gillet, Ortech,
11 Rue Bergère, F-75009 Paris, France
(tel 33-1-4523-0816;
fax 33-1-4824-0181;
e-mail info@ortech.fr;
web-site www.geo-evenement.com)

First International Conference on the State of Remote Sensing Law

18 - 19 April 2002
Oxford, MS, USA

Information: Ms Edie King
(tel 1-662-915-6951;
e-mail eking@olemiss.edu)

World of Geomatics

8 – 9 May 2002
Donington, United Kingdom

Information: Stephen Booth,
PV Publications, Suite L, 17 Park Place,
Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 1DU, UK
(tel 44-1438-352-617;
fax 44-1438-351-989; e-mail
steve@pvpubs.demon.co.uk)

GISDECO 2002

15 – 18 May 2002
Enschede, The Netherlands

Information: Mireille Meester,
International Institute for Geo-informa-
tion Science and Earth Observation
(ITC),
P.O. Box 6, 7500 AA Enschede, The
Netherlands
(fax 31-53-487 45 54;
e-mail GISDECO2002@itc.nl;
web-site www.itc.nl)

2nd Symposium on Geodesy for Geotechnical and Structural Engineering

21 – 24 May 2002
Berlin, Germany

Information: Dr Günther Retscher,
Institute of Geodesy and Geophysics,

Department of Applied and
Engineering Geodesy, Vienna University
of Technology, Gusshausstrasse 27-29
(E 128/3) A 1040 Vienna, Austria
(tel 43-1-58-801-128-47;
fax 43-1-58-801-128-94;
e-mail gretsch@pop.tuwien.ac.at;
web-site www.retscher.de.vu)

22nd EARSeL Annual Symposium

4 - 6 June 2002
Prague, Czech Republic

Information: EARSeL,
2 avenue Rapp, F 75340 Paris, Cedex
07, France
(tel 33-1-4556 7360;
fax 33-1-4556-7361;
e-mail EARSeL@meteo.fr;
web-site www.earsel.org)

GeoSpatial World 2002

10 – 12 June 2002
Atlanta, GA, USA

Information: Arlen Reimnitz
(tel 1-256-730-2510;
fax 1-256-730-2080;
e-mail iguc@intergraph.com; web-site
www.intergraph.com/geospatialworld)

3rd International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Urban Areas

11 – 13 June 2002
Istanbul, Turkey

Information: Associate Professor Filiz
Sunar Erbek,
Symposium Secretariat, Istanbul
Technical University, Civil Engineering
Faculty, Remote Sensing Division,
Maslak, 80626 Istanbul, Turkey
(tel 90-212-285-3801;
fax 90-212-573-7027;
e-mail fsunar@ins.itu.edu.tr;
web-site www.ins.itu.edu.tr/rsurban3)

IEEE/IGARSS 2002

24 – 28 June 2002
Toronto, Canada

Information: Tammy Stein
(tel 1-281-251-6067;
fax 1-281-251-6068;
e-mail tstein@phoenix.net)