

Nikos Ionas

President of the Hellenic Association of Rural and Surveying Engineers

Associations and Members of the International Union of Surveying Engineers, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen:

As a president of the Hellenic Association of Rural and Surveying Engineers, I welcome you at this commission meeting. Since 1995, association has been a co-ordinate member of the International Union of Surveying Engineers, in which the Technical Chamber of Greece has already participated. The strong activity of the Pan- Hellenic Association at Com 3 of the International Union results from the special importance of the Geographic Information Systems for the Rural Surveying Engineering profession. The Surveying Engineers were the pioneer developers and users of this specific tool for supporting studies and contracts.

GIS have become necessary in Greece, to a great number of studies and public works, such as land-planning, urban planning implementations, environmental studies, road construction, circulatory studies and of course, the program for the Hellenic Cadastre, which the last years is under development in our country.

Nowadays, public sector, local authority and prefectural authority follow this technology for planning and supporting their projects.

What we would like to make clear is that the long-term experience and the scientific fullness of knowledge on Spatial Information Management is retained through the surveying engineer's participation in the International Union and makes his/her presence necessary for the rational use of the GIS.

Concluding, this short greeting, I would like to congratulate the members of the organizing committee who worked intensively for the realization of this meeting in our country, as well as the members of the Technical Chamber of Greece, KTIMATOLOGIO SA, The Departments of Rural & Surveying Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens and the Aristotele University of Thessaloniki, who have also worked in order to realize this international meeting.

Mostly, I would like to thank the members and colleagues of the foreign delegations who came to our country to share with us their precious experience. We are honored by their presence. I wish every success for this workshop meeting.