

# ISPRS 2016 Prague Congress

*Newsletter - Autumn 2014*



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## 1. Editorial: Christmas in the Czech Republic

### **Christmas in the Czech Republic and few words about Czechs**

Christmas are holy days in many countries in the world. I saw Christmas decorations also in Chengdu two years ago during the ISPRS Council meeting. It seems that Christmas is famous also in countries with non-Christian origin. Therefore I would like to describe how Czechs celebrate it since the celebrations differ in individual even neighboring countries.

Christmas is a religious festival, which can be derived also from the celebration of the transition from autumn to winter period with a prolongation of daylight.

There are generally three tasks to be fulfilled before Christmas in my country.

People, better to say, housewives want to tidy up their flat or house. That is why they wash windows, doors, clean all cupboards, wardrobes, etc. It is a terrible period for most men even in case when they are not included in these activities. The result is usually a clean house, tired housewife and angry husband.

The second task is to bake Christmas confectionaries. These are small sweet pieces from nuts, cacao, coconut, sugar and many other ingredients of various colors, shapes and sweet tastes. These sweets are also sent and/or brought to friends with a wish of Merry Christmas and served usually on Christmas Eve. I have crafted twelve sorts with around 100 pieces every year since I got married. It takes me around three full days to do them.



*Charles bridge in the winter morning.*

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The last task are gifts. It is the same as in many countries. What is our originality is a donor. The gifts are given by Ježíšek (Yezheeshkek), Jesus Christ in his baby age. Father or mother, mostly with their children, decorate the Christmas tree (spruce, pine or fir tree).

The most typical dish for the Christmas Eve dinner (after a whole day of fasting) is fish soup, fried carp and potato salad. This catholic tradition is not respected in all families and thus some people eat Wiener schnitzel (pork fillet coated in flour, egg and breadcrumbs).

After the dinner, a small bell ringing announces that Ježíšek has already brought all the gifts and family gathers around the tree. Unwrapping is a long procedure when all admire their own gifts and those of the others. Two following days 25 and 26 December are usually dedicated to the visits of broader family members, friends, exhibitions, concerts, theaters.

Even though the Congress is in summer, it is good to know that the Czech Republic has a very low number of people who believe in God but who celebrate the catholic holy day focused on children and their happiness. Czechs do not take serious things too seriously and do like humor and getting along with each other.



*Old Town Square with a christmas tree.*

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## 2. Congress Sessions

During the ISPRS Congress there will be an opportunity to visit many different sessions. Every Working Group (WG) will have a session (Technical Session) and therefore there will be as many Technical Sessions as there are Working Groups. Beside Technical Sessions, Theme Sessions will be set up on the basis of decision of Technical Commission Presidents, WG Chairs and accepted papers. Papers that cover several topics from different WGs will be presented during the Theme Sessions.

A series of Special Sessions will be arranged by ISPRS and international organizations who have close link to ISPRS. These sessions will concentrate on issues which are expected to dominate our profession for years to come. The purpose of these sessions is to discuss the latest developments in the fields of Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences and related fields.

## 3. National Mapping Agencies Forum

At the Prague Congress, a new event will be launched, the National Mapping Agencies Forum. The idea of such a forum is to create a place where national mapping agencies will discuss with National and European Space Agencies, and companies involved in the Earth Observation (EO) satellites concerning optimization of the link between data providers and data users. The Forum will be organized as one of parallel sessions open to all Congress participants. The date of the Forum is 14-15 July 2016. Papers from both groups mentioned above are welcome to present achievements and results which can be useful and inspiration for all their colleagues & clients and the other Congress participants.



*View from the Petřín tower, Prague*

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### 4. InterGEO 2014, Berlin

Two months ago InterGEO took place in Berlin and it provided, as always, a great opportunity to meet a lot of organizations not only from Europe. ISPRS was represented by Congress Director, Lena Halounová and Secretary General, Christian Heipke. ISPRS stand was a part of larger exhibition, where was exhibited also a gyrocopter. Congress organizers had a lot of warm and pleasant meetings with eventual exhibitors and sponsors. At the ISPRS Afternoon Cocktail, second day of the event, were presented recent efforts and development concerning ISPRS (Christian Heipke, SG) and the Congress (Lena Halounová, CD, Jarmila Škorčíková, Congress COO). It was also fortunate to meet some of the sustaining members such as representatives of Applanix, Hansa Luftbild, Geomares, Racurs, Vexcel and others.

As a result of these activities we have the pleasure to announce that Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs from Saudi Arabia will become a Bronze Sponsor of the XXIII ISPRS Congress. Organizers would like to express their gratitude to the new Bronze Sponsor.



Congress organizers and ISPRS SG with Muhamad Alrajhi - the Assistant Deputy Minister for Land & Surveying, Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs of Saudi Arabia.



MundoGeo representative, Bruno de Abreu Born at the ISPRS stand.



Congress Director in a gyrocopter.

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### 5. Congress Director Travels

The Congress Director, Lena Halounová, has attended several meetings:

- ISPRS Technical Commission III Symposium in Zurich, Switzerland - 5.9 - 7.9 2014.
- ISPRS Technical Commission VII Symposium in Istanbul, Turkey - 29.9. - 2.10 2014



*Congress director Lena Halounova during her speech at ISPRS Technical Commission III Midterm Symposium in Zurich.*



*Congress director with Secretary General of ISPRS Christian Heipke and Prof Emeritus John Trinder in Istanbul before the ISPRS TC VII Symposium began (photo by ISPRS First Vice President Orhan Altan).*

- The 35th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing. Sensing for Reintegration of Societies in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar - 27.10 - 31.10. 2014



*With Congress Director Lena Halounova, there are Haruhisa Shimoda (Japan), Kohei Cho (Japan), Chen Jun (China), Shunji Murai (Japan), Armin Gruen (Switzerland), Deren Li (China) and Christian Heipke (Germany).*

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- GEO-XI Plenary, Geneva, Switzerland, 13.11 - 14.11.2014
- ISPRS Technical Commission I Symposium , Denver, USA - 17.11. - 20. 11. 2014



*Stan Morain, Amy Budge, Marguerite Madden, Orhan Altan, Christian Heipke during the dinner in Denver.*



*Congress Director Lena Halounova and representatives of Natural Centre for Remote Sensing, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology of Nigeria.*