

Editorial of Special Issue

The Austrian Geodetic Commission (ÖGK) is the national organisation in Austria related to the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) which in turn, is one of the eight associations of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG).

Every four years IUGG and its associations hold a General Assembly. The IAG uses these general assemblies to present the work performed, to review its own structure, to appoint new officers and to organise a suite of symposia. The XXIV General Assembly of IUGG will take place in Perugia, Italy, July 2 to July 13, 2007. It has been a tradition to expect that member countries of IAG prepare a National Report about the geodetic activities during the past four years for presentation at the general assemblies. However, the ÖGK has decided to prepare a collection of geodetic research papers by Austrian institutions and scientists on the occasion of the forthcoming General Assembly instead of providing a National Report.

The main task of this special issue of the *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Vermessung & Geoinformation (VGI)* is twofold: (i) to give the international geodetic community an idea about the various research topics to which Austrian geodesists are contributing currently, and (ii) to show to those Austrian colleagues, who are usually involved in practical work, the new developments Austrian scientists are involved in. The range of research topics indicates how closely geodesy is related to its neighbouring disciplines such as geophysics, metrology, meteorology, space science, and computer science. Joint efforts in different fields are needed to make contributions in solving problems currently faced by modern society, such as precise navigation on Earth or understanding of the – ‘System Earth’ – global changes.

The authors of this Special Issue of the VGI represent the two Austrian universities, which offer the full programme in geodesy, i.e., the Vienna University of Technology and the Graz University of Technology, the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV), the Department of Meteorology und Geophysics of the Vienna University, and the Space Research Institute (IWF) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The following 19 papers highlight major parts of the current geodetic research in Austria. The sequence of the papers in this Special Issue reflects the structure of the commissions of IAG.

On behalf of the ÖGK and all authors, the three guest-editors would like to thank the Austrian Society of Geodesy and Geoinformation (OVG) for providing this platform. In particular we are very grateful to the editor-in-chief of VGI, Stefan Klotz, and his two deputies, Ernst Zahn and Andreas Pammer, for taking care of the layout of the papers and solving all technical problems, often at short notice.

Finally, it should be mentioned that all papers of this issue were peer-reviewed to ensure a high quality of the published articles. The efforts of the reviewers are gratefully acknowledged.

*Fritz K. Brunner, Heribert Kahmen, Harald Schuh
(Guest-editors of this Special Issue)*