

Professor Ian J Dowman, University College London

Citation - For Services to Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry



Prof Ian Dowman BSc, PhD, FRICS is an eminent remote sensing scientist and land surveyor who has, over the course of his career, made a major and sustained contribution to furthering scientific knowledge in photogrammetry and remote sensing in the UK and overseas.

He graduated in Geography at University College London (UCL) in 1963, with a Diploma in Photogrammetry in 1964. He worked as a photogrammetrist in Australia for six years before returning to the UK to embark on a highly influential academic career at UCL. He made significant inputs to the successful and internationally recognised MSc course in Photogrammetry and in 1983 assisted the development of a pioneering intercollegiate University of London MSc in Remote Sensing, the first postgraduate course of its kind in the UK, which he has coordinated since 1985. He served as Reader in Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, University of London (1983-91) during which time he was also Dean of Engineering at UCL (1989-91). He was promoted in 1991 to the position of Professor of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

Ian has worked as a photogrammetrist for 40 years in the field of applying photogrammetric techniques to a wide range of image sensors for surface and feature extraction. His work has been instrumental to developing better, and increasingly automated, geometric models for accurate 3-dimensional modelling and topographic mapping from satellite data. These techniques are now enabling greatly improved flood risk assessment, building and land cover identification, city and earthquake models and "Landmap", a geocoded seamless mosaic of the whole of the United Kingdom.

Since 1972, Ian has been closely involved with the UK Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society and its predecessors in furthering the development, teaching and promotion of photogrammetry and remote sensing. He has achieved an international profile as one of the UK's most eminent experts in this field through his long-standing contributions to the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS). This was recognised in 1992 when he received the ISPRS Schermerhorn award. He is currently ISPRS President Elect for 2004-2008 after serving four years as Secretary General.