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INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues,
the Commission had quite busy summer in Israel this year. Our two main events for 2010 were workshop in Jerusalem/Beer Sheva and sessions within IGU Regional Conference in Tel Aviv. It was prepared in a way that allowed participation in both events. Both were very successful and I have to express great thanks primarily to Professor Eran Razin and Professor Fred Lazin for organising them.

In relation to IGU activities and for your long term planning, I would like to express the intention of the Commission to have its sessions in IGU Congress in Cologne only during main congress period. I also feel obliged to inform you on important changes in IGU Executive Committee. I am very pleased to congratulate Michael Meadows (RSA, University of Cape Town), for his election as the new IGU Secretary General and Treasurer, and Professor Yukio Himiyama (Japan, Hokkaido University of Education) as new IGU Vice-President.

This newsletter presents details concerning events that will be organised within the Commission framework in forthcoming years. The Commission 2011 meeting will be in Kathmandu, Nepal. I enjoyed opportunity to discuss conference details during Professor Pushkar K. Pradhan visit in Bratislava in May 2010. You already obtained brief information, but more extended information is included in this newsletter. Complete information is in

First Circular, which is, as well as separate Application Form, distributed as attached separate files to this Newsletter. There are planned two events for 2012 – conference in Lisbon and sessions during IGU Congress in Cologne.

The web page of the Commission now contains new “photo-gallery” section. I follow the idea to have this web page as a form of Commission activities archive. I believe that photos are for sure good part of this. There are already displayed some photos from Commission conferences and workshops. I will be very grateful for sending me some photos taken in earlier Commission events you have in your personal photo archives. I highly appreciate those that already contributed by photos.

With best wishes

Ján Buček

COMMISSION MEETINGS IN JERUSALEM AND TEL AVIV IN SUMMER 2010

The Commission organised two events in Israel this summer. Both were to certain extent related to IGU Regional Conference in Tel Aviv.

First event was workshop *“Local Government in a Changing World: Between hierarchies and networks, between global neo-liberalism and welfare state interventionism”* organised as the pre-conference activity of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance. This workshop had more interdisciplinary character thanks to its organisation as joint meeting with IPSA Research Committee on Local Government and Politics. This was really great and successful workshop. I would like to thank our member of the steering committee Professor Eran Razin and Professor Fred Lazin, as well as their colleagues, for all their organisational effort. We are also grateful for support provided by sponsors and organisational support provided by hosting universities in Jerusalem (The Hebrew University) and Beer Sheva (Ben Gurion University of the Negev). All participants enjoyed meeting at Mt. Scopus Campus of the Hebrew University over Jerusalem, very professional excursion in Jerusalem, late evening session after swimming in Dead Sea, as well as excursion in Beer Sheva, followed by meeting with Mayor of Beer Sheva and his staff, altogether enthusiastically working on spectacular development of this city. Participants were pleased by valuable contributions, vital discussions, as well as opportunity for informal debates during all sessions. An excellent organisation confirms the fact the there were no changes in workshop programme, as well as no abstentions among announced participants.

List of presented papers:

HELLMUT WOLLMANN, Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, Germany

Two “logics” and “types” of local level actor cooperation: The cases of France and Germany

JASON WINFREE and **MARK S. ROSENTRAU**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
Regions and the public funding of professional sports facilities: The surprising levels of intergovernmental cooperation and the progressive shifting of tax burdens

ŁUKASZ MIKUŁA, Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland
Cooperation of local governments in Poznań metropolitan area: political and socio-economic dimension

MARTA LACKOWSKA, Darmstadt University of Technology, Darmstadt, Germany
Polish cities rescaled?

ILONA PÁLNÉ KOVÁCS, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Pecs, Hungary
Rescaling of local governance in Hungary

YANKEL FIJALKOW, National School of architecture, LOUEST/CNRS, Paris, France
Expectation of the changes connected to the project of Grand Paris: Political strategies and urban narratives of an upper middle class municipality

ITAI BEERI, University of Haifa, Israel and Fany Yuval, Ben Gurion University
From the bottom up in local government: Are local social capital and the residents' satisfaction and trust linked with the effectiveness of local democracy and municipal reforms?

MATT EVANS, Penn State University, USA
Electoral politics in local government in Israel

KAREN HARLOW-ROSENTRAU, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, **DAVID SWINDELL**, University of North Carolina, Charlotte and **L. WILSON**, University of Maryland, Baltimore, USA
Civic engagement and community problem solving: older volunteers as natural resources in comparative US and EU Populations

NAHUM BEN ELIA, NB – Policy Analysis, Strategic Planning & Management
Fluid neoliberalism: the corporatization of local water and sewage services in Israel

JEFFEREY SELLERS, University of Southern California, USA and **ERAN RAZIN**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
Neoliberalism or welfare state interventionism? Governance and Metropolitan Inequality

TOMÁŠ KOSTELECÝ and **YVONA KOSTELECÁ**, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic
Elementary education in Prague metropolitan area: new trends and their consequences for local government

ZOLTÁN HAJDÚ, Centre for Regional Studies of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Pécs, Hungary
Hungarian Public Administration, 1990-2010: new governments, new radical reform plans

JÁN BUČEK, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia
Decentralization, local finances and economic crisis: The case study of Slovakia

ÁGNES PÁL, Szeged Faculty of Teacher's Training College, Szeged, Hungary and **NAGY GÁBOR**, Budapest, Hungary
The effect of the borders on the spatiality of the commerce in Szeged and the structural changes in Hungarian retail

STEFAN OBKIRCHER, University of Innsbruck, Austria
Cross-border cooperation at the EU-border Austria-Switzerland – A case study for governance processes.

HUBERT HEINELT, Darmstadt University of Technology, Darmstadt, Germany
Councilors as members of a representative within the ‘three worlds of democratic action’

LARISSA PLÜSS, University of Zurich, Switzerland
Urban network governance and role perceptions of the Swiss city councillors

SHLOMO HASSON, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
Democratic transformation and the city

TOMASZ KACZMAREK, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland
Problems of metropolitan government in Poland – between ‘top-down’ and ‘bottom-up’ approach

ZOLTÁN DÉNES, Hungary
Fraternal settlements in the Carpathian Basin as example: Bihardioszeg Romania – Gyomaendrod Hungary.

ANNAMARIA KURILLA, NORBERT PAP, University of Pécs, Hungary
The international possibilities of local governments – the role of international factors in the development of middle-sized towns in the Carpathian Basin

SHARON PERLMAN KREFETZ, Department of Government and International Relations, Clark University, MA, USA
The U.S. housing crisis: challenges and opportunities for local governments

ERAN RAZIN, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel and **ANNA HAZAN**, Jerusalem, Israel
Municipal-private partnerships: from local development to budgetary bypass



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Locations: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Dead Sea (Ein Bokek) and Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beer Sheva

Dates: 7 to 11 July 2010

Organizers:

Professor Eran Razin,

Institute of Urban and Regional Studies & Department of Geography
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Prof. Fred A. Lazin,

Department of Politics and Government
Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva

Our sessions during main meeting of the IGU Regional Conference in Tel Aviv were the second Commission activity during this summer. We were very satisfied that outside small number of those that participated in Jerusalem/Beer Sheva workshop, we had mostly other participants. We could organize three sessions with sufficient time for discussions. All papers focused on actual issues in various perspectives. I would like to thank Professor Eran Razin and local staff for all organizational work done in preparation of these sessions.

List of presented papers:

Y. FIJALKOW, LOUEST/CNRS, Paris, France

Expectation of the changes connected to the project of Grand Paris: Political strategies and Urban narratives of a upper middle class municipality

V. MEISTER, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany

Visualizing the creative city – local images of a global policy

E. RAZIN, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Metropolitan governance in Tel Aviv and Haifa: An emerging new mode of regulation

J. BUČEK, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia

Strengthening of governance in Slovak cities by strategic planning procedures

O. YIFTACHEL, Ben-Gurion University, Beer Sheva, Israel and **E. TZFADIA**, Sapir College, Sderot, Israel

Gray spacing – towards urban apartheid?

I. WIESEL, University of New South Wales, Kensington, Australia

A social justice perspective on housing affordability

Y. REINGEWERTZ, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel

Do municipal amalgamation work? Evidence from municipalities in Israel

I. SULI-ZAKAR and **M. TÖMÖRI**, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary

The chances of multilevel governance in the countries of the eastern peripheries of the EU

F. HARVEY, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

Access to land: An analysis of land tenure and land cadastre as boundary objects in rural Poland

A. BAR-COHEN, Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection, Givatayim, Israel

A strategic tool for Israeli government during formative years: The continuous use of town planning ordinance and its spatial implications

O. RAZ, Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel

The creation of a GIS landmark point layer as a completing geographical infrastructure for orientation in rural localities without a distinct address array and for telephone pole data anchoring

E. GRAMMATIKOGIANNIS and **M. GIAOUTZI**, National Technical University of Athens, Greece

Web based multicriteria methods in spatial planning

Sessions were held during IGU/UGI Regional Conference „**Bridging Diversity in a Globalizing World**“, on Tuesday July 13th, Tel Aviv, Israel, in one of meeting rooms in Dan Panorama Hotel.

2011 COMMISSION CONFERENCE IN KATHMANDU, NEPAL

The Commission main event in 2011 will be hosted by Central Department of Geography at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal. Main organiser will be Steering Committee member Professor Pushkar K. Pradhan. Main conference theme will be “**Geography of Governance - Dynamics for Local Development**”. We suppose that it is important to share the experiences of dynamics of local governance and local government, opportunities and challenges, and prescriptions of public service delivery and their differential impacts in different parts of the world. The conference subthemes include – local government structure, process and functions; infrastructure, institutions, service delivery systems and management; challenges and measures in local development. Reflecting previous Commission conference in Kathmandu, we expect nice participation not only from Asia and Pacific regions, but from other parts of the globe as well. We suppose that this is the right place to put together experiences of more and less developed countries, experiences of countries after post-socialist transitions, as well as sharing evaluations on financial crisis measures adopted by local level in some countries.

First circular and Application Form are distributed as attachments with this Newsletter. They also are available on the Commission web page.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Monday 31 October 2011 – Inauguration and Paper Sessions

- Registration
- Conference Inauguration, Welcome and Session Introduction
- Paper Sessions and Reception Dinner

Tuesday, November 1 – Wednesday November 2, 2011 – Paper Sessions and Cultural Tours

- Paper Sessions, Local Excursions and Dinner with Cultural Show
- Paper Sessions and Closing

Thursday, November 3 – Sunday, November 6, 2011 – Excursion

- exciting bus tour and trekking programme focusing on local development and culture, in touch to Himalayas range – Pokhara, Ghalegaun, Besishahar etc.

*Conference venue and accommodation: Park Village Resort Hotel*****

(7 km from downtown Kathmandu, not far from Kathmandu international airport, special accommodation rates for participants will be available, participants are requested to book rooms as early as possible, indication „IGU conference 2011“ when making reservation)

Pre-registration and abstract: Please submit pre-registration form and abstract (up to 200 words) until August 30, 2011.

Local Organizer:

Professor Pushkar K Pradhan, PhD

Head of the Department

Central Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University

GPO Box 5488 Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 977 1 4330 329 (O); 977 1 4410 268 (R); Cell: 9841 328072; Fax: 977 1 4331 319

Email: pushkar@reachpuba.org; pushkar.pr@gmail.com; cdg@wlink.com.np

IGU 2011 REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN CHILE

Main IGU event in 2011 will be Regional Conference in Chile. The conference will be held from 14th to 18th November 2011 in Santiago. The venue of the conference will be the Institute of Military Geography. The conference fee is set at affordable level (app. 500 USD). Cheaper accommodation for students, as well as grants programme planned to facilitate participation from younger and developing world delegates will be provided. The official language of the conference, besides English, is also Spanish.

The Commission until this moment do not plan special sessions in Santiago. It has been due to absention indication of Commission members that intend to participate, as well as very poor presence of Commission member within Latin American countries. Nevertheless, all those that plan to participate are welcomed. If such interest will expand, the Steering Committee altogether with local organizers will develop all needed effort to develop suitable conditions for well-organised sessions.

For more details on IGU Regional Conference in Chile visit its web: www.ugi2011.cl

FORTHCOMING COMMISSION CONFERENCE ON CITIZEN E-PARTICIPATION IN LISBON IN 2012

The Commission regularly organise more narrow focused scientific meetings reflecting latest developments in our fields of interest. From this reason, I am pleased to announce plan to organize conference, proposed by our long-term colleague and former Commission Steering Committee member Professor Carlos Nunes Silva, with working title - "**Citizen e-Participation in Local Government**". Citizen participation in local government policy making, has been influenced, in different ways and with different outcomes, by the extensive use of information and communication technologies. This process have been empirically described and interpreted from different perspectives.

The planned conference on "Citizen e-Participation in Local Government" aims to enhance discussion on this rapidly moving issue and research field. It should offer an updated account of those different perspectives, as well as of new methods and tools that have been experimented to advance citizen engagement in local government activities, through the use of new information and communication technologies, namely in the field of local planning and development. The conference also aims to address and discuss different methodologies for researching e-participation in local government. More details will be available in next newsletters.

Date: Spring 2012

Location: Lisbon, Portugal

Local organizer:

Professor Carlos Nunes Silva

Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning

University of Lisbon,

Lisbon, PORTUGAL,

E-mail: cs@campus.ul.pt

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES DURING IGU 2010 CONGRESS IN COLOGNE

The Commission is considering its activities during 32nd IGU 2012 Congress in Cologne (Köln, Germany). As it was mention in earlier newsletter, we will stay with our sessions within the main programme schedule and we do not plan pre- or post-congress activities. The Commissions has to register their sessions until April 2011. We suppose that our sessions will not be restricted only to Commission members and we will welcome all submissions related to profile of the Commission. The Commission will be responsible for selection of papers, speakers, as well as session chairs. Our initial idea is to have standard paper sessions and poster presentations. We have to follow well-elaborated organisational procedures prepared by the IGC 2012 Local Organisational Committee. Until beginning of April 2011, we have to register our sessions and meetings. We have to decide on timeslots we need,



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sessions' topics and titles, as well as to provide congress organisers short abstracts concerning our sessions. We also have to propose session chairs and co-chairs. In respect to these rules, all commission members (as well as those interested) are kindly invited to provide us own *opinions, sessions proposals until March 2011*. The IGU CGOG Steering Committee afterwards will ask IGC 2012 organisers to provide us needed time and space for our activities.

Please send any comments and your proposal by e-mail to Commission Chair (bucek@fns.uniba.sk).

For more details:

32nd International Geographical Congress Cologne

26 – 30 August 2012

e-mail: info@igc2012.org

Web page: <http://www.igc2012.org>.

THE COMMISSION PUBLICATION UNDER PREPARATION

The Commission special publication planned for this year will be out of print in January-February 2011. As announced earlier, this publication combine contributions based on papers delivered on previous commission meetings and some additional contributions provided by Commission members. This volume will include chapters written by 14 authors from about ten countries. The editors will be Ján Buček and Andrew Ryder and publisher will be Geografika (Bratislava). The book will cover chapters focusing on governing of large cities, international and cross-border co-operation and development, as well as administrative and financial reforms.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Kay Choe and Pushkar K. Pradhan, 2010. *Unleashing economic growth: region-based urban development strategy for Nepal*. 2010 Asian Development Bank

Carlos Nunes Silva, 2010. *Handbook of Research on E-Planning: ICTs for Urban Development and Monitoring*. Hershey, New York: Information Science Reference.