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WELCOME

Dear Colleagues,

This newsletter focuses mostly on events that will be organised within the Commission framework in forthcoming years. Two main events for 2010 are workshop in Jerusalem/Beer Sheva and sessions within IGU Regional Conference in Tel Aviv. It is organised in a way that allows participation in both events. As it was decided earlier, the Commission 2011 meeting will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal. First brief information is included in this newsletter and more details will be available in this year autumn newsletter. Local organizer, Prof. Pushkar K. Pradhan already started all needed preparatory works. 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 programme. The last part of the newsletter includes information of Commission's publication project that should be completed during this summer.

I am looking forward to see many of you in Israel this summer

Ján Buček
Bratislava, May 2010



COMMISSION MEETINGS IN JERUSALEM AND TEL AVIV IN SUMMER 2010

The first event is workshop organised as preconference of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance. The workshop programme is already known and provides quite unique opportunity to share ideas concerning local government development throughout the world. Workshop will have its meetings and debates in fact on three inspiring places – Jerusalem, Dead Sea and Beer Sheva. This workshop will have more interdisciplinary character thanks to its organisation as joint meeting with IPSA Research Committee on Local Government and Politics.

More details:

Workshop title: **Local Government in a Changing World: Between hierarchies and networks, between global neo-liberalism and welfare state interventionism**

Locations: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva

Dates: 7 to 11 July 2010

Organizers:

Professor Eran Razin,

Head, Floersheimer Studies,

Institute of Urban and Regional Studies & Department of Geography

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

e-mail: msrazin@mscc.huji.ac.il

and

Prof. Fred A. Lazin,

Department of Politics and Government

Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva

The second part of the Commission activities this summer in Israel will be our sessions during main meeting of the IGU Regional Conference in Tel Aviv. According to preliminary registrations and abstracts submitted, we should have about three sessions during the main conference programme.

More details:

IGU / UGI Regional Conference

„Bridging Diversity in a Globalizing World“

July 12-16, 2010, Tel Aviv, Israel,

Venue: Dan Panorama Hotel

Web page: www.igu2010.com

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 Prof. 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 government and governance, to understand better existing opportunities and challenges, as well as prescriptions of public service delivery and their different impacts in different parts of the world. Planned conference subthemes will 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 of financial crisis measures adopted at the local level.

First circular will be distributed in early autumn this year and will be available for downloading on Commission web page.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Monday 24 October 2011 – Inauguration and Paper Sessions

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

Tuesday 25 – Wednesday 26 October 2011 – Paper Sessions and Cultural Tours

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

Thursday 27 – Sunday 30 October 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, special rates for participants will be available)

Local Organizer:

Prof 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

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES DURING IGU 2012 CONGRESS IN COLOGNE

The Commission already started to plan its activities during 32nd IGU 2012 Congress in Cologne (Köln, Germany). We would like to stay with our sessions within the main programme schedule and do not plan pre- or post-congress activities. The International Geographical Congress (IGC) 2012 core motto is “**Down to Earth**” and is organised around four major thematic complexes:

1. Global Change and Globalisation,
2. Society-Environment,
3. Risks and Conflicts
4. Urbanisation and Demographic Change.

It also would like to focus scientific interest on core topics of humanity. As it was already expressed by the organisers, the congress will be down to earth. The intention is, first of all, to have a cost-effective congress in Cologne without expensive representation, congress in which challenging scientific exchange in a stimulating and friendly atmosphere can take place. IGC in Cologne is returning back from conference centres into the university. We highly support such approach and will try to maximise our participation and attract commission members to return back to IGU congress.

Details:

32nd International Geographical Congress in Cologne

26 – 30 August 2012

e-mail: info@igc2012.org

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

PUBLICATION UNDER PREPARATION

The Commission from time to time prepare special publication output. The latest one is planned for this year. Within this publication we combine contributions based on papers delivered on previous commission meetings and some additional contributions provided by Commission members. This should put together chapters written by 15 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 in selected countries evaluations. It should be available in this summer.