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INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing this newsletter still being full of impressions concerning our November annual conference hold in Kathmandu, Nepal. It was very successful conference, with large number of participants, numerous interesting and inspiring papers. All participants enjoyed very friendly atmosphere and hospitality of our Nepali colleagues. Nice group of participants spent exciting four days excursion in Annapurna region. I would like to express great thanks to Professor Pushkar K. Pradhan and his team from Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu for organising this event.

Two forthcoming Commission activities are based in Europe. We decided to have more narrowly focused, actual, knowledge edge breaking, specialised (and more affordable) conference in April 2012 in Lisbon. We respect opinions of the Commission members that from more reasons prefer to participate on this type of conferences. It is also good for the Commission, when conference participants spent more time together, being not so dispersed, as it sometimes happens within large scientific events. It is fine for the Commission cohesion and network building among its members.

You are also invited to participate on IGC congress in Cologne (Germany) in late August 2012. As usual, it is the biggest event of the IGU that offers manifold opportunities not only to present own results, but also to be in contact with whole range of ideas and actual research trends. Our Commission obtained quite acceptable number of time slots for joint activities, so successful sessions are expected.

With best wishes

Ján Buček



COMMISSION 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE “NEW CHALLENGES FOR LOCAL GOVERNANCE” IN LISBON

The first Commission scientific event organised in 2012 will be its annual conference “**NEW CHALLENGES FOR LOCAL GOVERNANCE**” held in Lisbon, Portugal in April 12-14, 2012. It will more narrowly focused meetings reflecting selected latest developments in the field of governance at the local level.

Conference organiser will welcome submissions on any aspect of the broad area of local governance, but particularly encourage papers on two main conference themes:

A/ The Impact of Financial Crisis on Local Governance

- oriented on impact of the present economic and financial crisis, in particular the public finance debt crisis, on local governance,

B/ Citizen e-Participation in Urban Governance

- reflecting the influence of extensive use of information and communication technologies on citizen participation in local government policy-making.

Papers may consider these or other issues in local governance by addressing theoretical, empirical and/or methodological issues.

The intention is to have university based conference at affordable costs (acceptable conference fee), focusing on the latest achievements in the field. We strongly encourage PhD student to participate and establish personal links to the Commission. As usual, also this conference will welcome participants based in neighbouring scientific disciplines (political science, planning, economics, sociology etc.). Conference organisers will offer some publication opportunities.

Conference participants are invited to submit abstracts by e-mail (approximately 200 words) by 15 December 2011, to conference main organiser *Professor Carlos Nunes Silva*.

For more details see enclosed conference call for papers, commission web page, or go directly to conference web page (see link below).

Date: **April 12-14, 2012**

Location: Lisbon, Portugal (University Campus)

Local organizer:

Professor Carlos Nunes Silva

Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning

University of Lisbon,

Lisbon, PORTUGAL,

E-mail: cs@campus.ul.pt

Conference web page: <https://sites.google.com/site/nc4lglisbon2012/>

THE COMMISSION SESSIONS DURING IGU 2012 CONGRESS IN COLOGNE

The International Geographical Congress is always big celebration of geography. It is a forum of geographers from all over the world reflecting huge variety of topics, lot of new discoveries in a form of theories, empirical results, comparisons etc. It is good place to listen and meet colleagues, or discuss future plans. The Steering Committee kindly invites you to participate in this top geographical event.

The Commission obtained quite nice number of time slots. They should provide us enough space for standard presentations and discussions. As usual, our sessions are not restricted to Commission members and we will welcome all submissions related to profile of the Commission. Young researchers and PhD students also obtain fair placement within standard sessions. We believe in large number of participants and attendance during our sessions in Cologne.

All tasks related to your participation, as abstract submission, booking a place in field trips, or making a payment is only possible via the IGC 2012 congress online management system (<http://www.igc2012.org>).

In this moment, the key date is **deadline for abstract submission - 15 December 2011**. Our sessions you can find on IGC web-page under the headline "Abstract submission – Commissions and Task Forces". You can find our Commission within the list, including more detailed abstract of sessions' main aims and topics, after clicking on commission name. There are also other instructions concerning abstract submission. We are organising following three main sessions containing up to 13 time slots altogether:

C08.13 Geography of Governance

Session: ***Governance - key theoretical and methodological issues, main research directions***

Session: ***Innovations in public sector - public administration reforms, public sector reorganizations, local finance and progress in planning***

Session: ***Governing development in regions, cities and rural communities***

To submit an abstract for any session at the IGC 2012 it is necessary to create a personal account at the Congress web page. This personal user account will also be required for the submission of papers or posters. To create a user account, please click on the button "Create a new account" in the menu bar on the left-hand site on IGC web-page.

For more details:

32nd International Geographical Congress Cologne

26 – 30 August 2012

e-mail: info@igc2012.org

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

2011 COMMISSION CONFERENCE IN KATHMANDU, NEPAL

Commission 2011 annual conference hosted Central Department of Geography at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal. Main conference theme was “**Geography of Governance - Dynamics for Local Development**”. As we expected, this was the right place to put together experiences of more and less developed countries, countries facing various social transitions. Numerous contributions organised around key themes of governance and local development induced lot of fruitful discussions. As a result of the conference, book based on presented papers will be prepared (edited by P.K. Pradhan, E. Razin and J. Buček).

There were 49 abstracts submitted and 20 participants came from seven countries. Besides nice presence of Nepali scientists, we highly appreciate presentation of larger groups of scholars coming from India, Japan and Poland. Other participants came from Czech Republic, Israel, Norway and Slovakia. List of all presented papers is at the end this section.

This event had been based on extensive voluntary work of many local organizers and supporters. On behalf of all conference participants we would like to express great thank to all of them. We are grateful to Professor Pushkar K. Pradhan, Head of the Central Department of Geography at Tribhuvan University and all department members for all effort spent in planning and managing this conference. Special thanks we would like to express to Ms Puspa Sharma, Mr Gyanu Maharjan, Mr. Dhurba Bogati & Ms Tara Chidi of the Central Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University for administrative support, as well as for guiding participants to the historic and cultural city of Bhaktapur. Prof. Dr. Soorya L Amatya, Rector of Tribhuvan University, delivered welcome speech and hosted welcome dinner on behalf of the university. We also are grateful many other supporters. It concerns Himalayan Research Expeditions Pvt. Ltd, and its Chairperson Dr. Dhananjay Regmi for hosting dinner-cum-culture show. In Pokhara region, we enjoyed support provided by Mr Gehendra Koirala, Campus Chief of Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara and its Department of Geography faculty members including Prof. Dr. Bishwo Shrestha and Dr. Krishna K.C., and Mr. Purna Adhikari of Trekking Association of Pokhara for the welcome programme and dinner cum cultural show at the Lakeside, Pokhara. Our thanks also address Mr. Balkrishna Baral and Mr. Haribabu Thapa of Besisahar, Lamjung for escorting the excursion participants to Ghalegaun Home Stay Tourism Programme, and to Lamjung Committee for Commerce and Industry (CCI) for organizing an interaction programme on Tourism and Local Development together with dinner in Besisahar, Lamjung.

We highly appreciate support provided by Prof Dr Doris Wastl-Walter (Bern University, Switzerland) covering registration fee to few women participants in the conference.

Programme Summary

Monday 31 October 2011 – Opening Session, Paper Sessions, Reception Dinner

Tuesday, November 1 – Paper Sessions, Excursion, Dinner with Cultural Show

Wednesday November 2, 2011 – Paper Sessions and Closing Session

Thursday, November 3 to Sunday, November 6, 2011 – Excursion (exciting bus tour and trekking programme focusing on local governance, local development, tourism and culture, in touch to Himalayas range in local centres Pokhara, Ghalegaun, Besisahar.

List of participants and contributions:

Tor Halfdan Aase - *Can Himalayan Farming Systems Adapt to Climate Change?*

Chikako Aoki and Pushkar K Pradhan - *Impact of Microfinance Services on Socio-Economic Empowerment of the Mahila Samuha in Nepal*

Neelam Bageshwari - *Environmental Challenges and Management in the Process of Urbanization and Development in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India*

Balkrishna Baral - *Governance and Local Development: Roles of ACAP in Lamjung District, Nepal*

Madhab P Bhusal - *Gendered Nature of Urban Land Property: a Case of Newly Growing Areas in Kathmandu Valley*

Jiří Blažek and Marie Macešková - *Regional Impacts of Sectoral Policies: The Case of the Czech Republic*

Ján Buček and Pavol Korec - *Large Cities Mayors during Transition – Success or Disaster?*

Prem S Chapagain - *Role of Traditional Institution in Natural Resource Management: Study from the Upper Manang Valley in Nepal Himalaya*

Dharmender S Chauhan - *Decreasing Natural Vegetation as a Geo-Environmental Natural Hazard in Shekhawati Region, Rajasthan*

Chhabi L. Chidi - *The Bheja: An Indigenous Governance System of the Magar Ethnic of Nepal*

Sher B Gurung - *Landslides Hazard Analysis of Upper Madi Basin, Nepal*

Bhoj R Kareriya - *Issues in Governance of Urban-Rural Relations in Nepal*

Krishna Karkee - *Citizen Participation in Local Governance: an Approach to Sustainable Development in Yemen*

Nozomi Kaminaga and Sachiko Ohashi - *What Sense of Values Do Migrants From Urban Area to Countryside Have? Japan's Case*

Shambhu P Khatiwada - *A Comparative Study of Governance and Accountability in the Indigenous Communities, Eastern Nepal*

Kiyoshi Kobayashi et al. - *Regional Learning and Trust Formation*

Tomáš Kostelecký - *Mechanisms Leading to the Development of Socio-Spatial Inequalities in Cities and their Spatial Pattern: The Case of Prague*

Marta Lackowska-Madurowicz - *Political Rescaling of Post-Socialist Cities: the Case of Poland*

Gyanu R Maharjan - *Managing Drinking Water Resource in Kirtipur Municipality Kathmandu Valley, Nepal*

Umesh K Mandal - *Urban Land use Pattern in Butwal Municipal Area, Nepal*

Pashupati Nepal - *Contributions of Non-Government Local Organizations to Local Development in Palpa District, West Nepal*

Kenshiro Ogi et al. - *Participatory Approach to Community Based Water Supply System*

Ram S Pathak - *Assessing Adoption of Innovations in Agriculture Development in Dhading District, Nepal*

Devi P Poudel - *The Magar Managed Community Forest in Arkhala Village of Nawalparasi District, Nepal*

Dilli P Poudel - *Disjunction and Conjunction between Formal and Indigenous Institutions to Access Forest Resource in the Trans-Himalayan Mustang*

Krishna Poudel - *Application of Geographic Information Systems in Village Development Plan*

- Rama Prasad et al. - *Managing Wasteland Problems in Dhaulpur District, Rajasthan, India*
- Dhyanendra B Rai - *Problem and Prospect of Tourism Development in Bhedetar, Dhankuta District, Nepal*
- Ashok Rajbanshi - *Assessing Accessibility of Poor and Marginal Community to Forest Resource: Cases of Bhulbhu and Ghumarchok Villages in Kathmandu District, Nepal*
- Deepika Rana - *Climate Change Impacts on Freed Bonded Women Labourers: Case Study of Rajapur Village, Nepal*
- Sharmila Ranabhat - *Delivering School Education from Gender Perspective: Case from Mugu District of Nepal*
- Eran Razin – *Municipal-Private Partnerships: From Local Economic Development to Infrastructure Finance and Social Development*
- Shiba P Rijal - *Climate Change and Tourism-Based Livelihoods in Nepal*
- Dharani K Sharma - *Community Forest and Governance in Nepal*
- Puspa Sharma - *Information System and Governance for District Level Planning and Management in Nepal*
- Gyan Laxmi Shrestha - *Appropriateness of Solar Dryer to Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change on Food Security in Dandagoan VDC, Rasuwa District, Nepal*
- Suman L Shrestha and Keshav L Maharjan - *Vulnerability of Farmers to Climate Change in Nepal: Case of Ilam District*
- Shobha Shrestha - *Assessing GIS Based MIS in Local Authorities: Challenges and Measures in Birganj Sub-Metropolis, Nepal*
- Uttam S Shrestha - *Challenges of Local Governance and Development in Nepal*
- Manjeshwori Singh et al. - *Enhancing Rural Livelihood through Rainwater Harvesting: a Case of Nepal*
- Nirmala K Suwal - *Pode's Livelihood in the Context of Urbanization and Environmental Degradation in Kathmandu Valley*
- Tadeusz Strykiewicz and Krzysztof Stachowiak - *Creative Sector: a Newly Emerging Chance for Local Development and/or a Challenge to Local Governance*
- Paweł Świaniewicz and Joanna Krukowska - *Distressed Neighbourhoods in Policies of Polish Cities*
- Koji Terakawa - *Does Community Forestry Work on Poverty Reduction in Nepal? The Case from Dhading District Nepal*
- Ankit Verma et al. - *Socio-Economic Analysis of Rag Pickers of Punjab*
- Mamoru Yoshida et al. - *Self-organized Compartment for Local Activities*

Local Organizer:

Professor Pushkar K Pradhan, PhD

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IGU 2011 REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN CHILE

Despite the fact that Commission did not plan extensive activities during Regional Conference in Chile, under the roof of the Commission were organised specialised sessions. The conference had been held from 14th to 18th November 2011, in Santiago de Chile. The venue of the conference was the Institute of Military Geography.

We are very pleased by the interest of scholars focusing on governance to participate in Santiago. We are especially delighted by participation of our Latin America colleagues. They have less frequent opportunities to participate in Commission activities close to their own countries, so we have been very pleased that they used chance to participate in Chile regional conference of IGU. The Steering Committee would like to express its gratitude to Regional Conference organizer, as well as those chairing the sessions. We will try to establish more firm links to scholars presenting their contribution within the framework of our Commission.

Jürgens Ulrich - *Governance and new discounter outlets: the example of Germany*

Gudiño María Elina – *Geography in management*

Schmidt Paul - *Adaptive management of urban ecologies: implications for governance*

Coni Aguiar Tereza - *Identification and analysis of environmental conflicts: a methodological contribution on the basis of an environmental of the Santa Catarina coast*

Tancredi Elda – *Environmental evaluations as a collective and geographically equable effort of the global scientific community within new forms of governance*

Díaz Hernández Ramón – *Geography and government of territory: trust in institutions, associative density and elector*

Breuer Christophe - *Diversity of governance in European cities*

Mulero Mendigorri Alfonso – *The system for territorial heritage and its significance in the context of the new procedures and rules for territorial management in Andalusia (Spain)*

Alberto-Villavicencio Ángeles – *Payment for environmental services as a governance strategy for environmental management*

Ilyushkina Maria – *The impact of globalization on industrial region of Russian Federation (Ural region)*

Guerrero Elemen Carlos Agustín - *Geo-referencing information*

Next regional conferences will be held in Kyoto 2013 and Krakow 2014. The Commission is considering having sessions during main programme in Kyoto, as well as pre-conference to Krakow conference (probably in some other Polish city). More details will be available later.

MEMBER'S BOOKS RELATED TO COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

We would like to turn your attention to following books published or edited by our members:

Bennett, R. J.: *Local Business Voice: The History of Chambers of Commerce in Britain, Ireland and Revolutionary America 1760-2011*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, October 2011.

This book challenges previous academic commentary on the early chambers by showing they were more numerous, persistent and active than previously recognised. It demonstrates common origins in protest leading to a reform agenda, with diffusion down the size spectrum of cities, eventually reaching all towns and communities. Chamber voice increasingly linked lobbying with supplying a 'bundle' of business services. The book uses multiple theoretical frameworks, overlapping in time, to trace for the first time the importance of commercial arbitration, coffee and reading rooms, and information and consultancy services as critical parts of the chambers' Unique Selling Point (USP). For later developments it demonstrates the challenges arising from increasing partnerships with government, and competition with rival sector and small firm bodies. A systematic analysis of members shows their links with early protest campaigns and religious dissent; in modern chambers it demonstrates the forces that underpin joining and lapsing decisions: exit, voice and loyalty.

H. Wollman and G. Marcou: *The Provision of Public Services in Europe - Between State, Local Government and Market*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2010.

The book is the first of its kind to provide a comparative analysis of the provision of social and public services in France, Italy, Germany, the UK and Norway. Leading national experts, topically examines whether, when, how and why the delivery of social and public services, which was historically a responsibility of local authorities, has been significantly shifted to marketized and commodified forms. However, despite this considerable change, there have been recent indications of remunicipalization in some sectors. Combining both cross-country and cross-policy comparisons in a broad range of pertinent service fields, this volume fills a noticeable gap in the international literature currently available.