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INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues,

this year, our activities focused on two events. In May, it was seminar in Bratislava, Slovakia debating financialization and governance. The second one was IGU Regional Conference (Kyoto Regional Conference) in August 2013. Our Kyoto sessions had been planned into one afternoon and offered interesting overview of current research. We are very grateful to all organisers for providing us perfect facilities and meeting room service. We were pleased by wonderful environment and excellent organisation throughout whole conference. Brief summary of this meeting is included in this newsletter and a few photos are available in Commission web-page.

Major part of this newsletter focuses on our next year activities in Poland. We believe that our annual conference in Poznan and our sessions in Krakow Regional Conference will provide unique opportunity for sharing new ideas and research outcomes. Both events are already in stage of registration and submitting abstracts of planned contributions. Taking into respect our previous experiences, both events are linked one to another by excursion starting in Poznan with final destination in Krakow. Nevertheless, those interested to participate can participate on each meeting separately, according to their preference. Nevertheless, we will be happy if you will participate on both of them. Especially in Poznan, we attempt to offer affordable condition and interesting programme linked to Commission mission.

Besides invitation to Poznan and Krakow, I would like express our thanks to all organisers, supporters and participants involved in our meetings in Bratislava and Kyoto this year. Large effort had been developed within our book publication projects, especially by Andrew Ryder and Carlos Nunes Silva. Thanks also to those involved in other projects initiated and prepared within the Commission. We highly appreciate leadership of Carlos Nunes Silva during COST project elaboration and submission.

With best

Ján Buček,
November 2013, Bratislava

BACK TO IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE (KYOTO) AUGUST 2013

Our sessions in Kyoto were covered by umbrella topic „Traditions and innovations in governance: better meet the needs of people“. We discussed interesting issues concerning planning and development programming intersecting governance to various social and economic activities. As an important issue we can consider governance in large cities, ports, or cities facing large development initiatives. In global scale seems important attention paid to participatory structures in governance at the local and neighbourhood levels. I mean that it was very pleasant and inspiring afternoon. My special thanks for chairing the sessions to Prof. Ilona Palne Kovacs and Prof. Eran Razin.

Presented contributions included:

Eran Razin (Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel) - *District Plans in Israel: Post-Mortem?*

Brent Lovelock (University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand) - *Governance and tourism sustainability: A case from New Zealand*

Anna Maria Borowczak (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland) - *Qualitative approach to ex-post evaluation of regional development programs reflections from local studies*

Ilona Palne Kovacs (Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Pecs, Hungary) - *Governance challenges of big scale urban development programmes: the case of Pecs ECC project, Hungary*

Maite Verdol (Sorbonne University, Paris, France) - *Spatial development and governance in port urban regions: towards a new role for municipalities? Comparative approach of Antwerp, Le Havre and Rotterdam*

Yosuke Maeda (Niigata University, Niigata, Japan) - *New spaces of neighbourhood governance and democracy: a comparative case study of the UK and Japan*

Zoltan Hajdu (Hungarian Academy of Science, Pecs, Hungary) - *Traditions and Europeanization in the case of new countries formed in the Carpathian Basin after the cold war*

Helene Draux (London Metropolitan University, London, Great Britain) - *Change in governance in the UK: making local decisions with the public*

Ming-Kuang Chung (National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan), Bor-Wen Tsai, Dau-Jye Lu - *Community-based monitoring and post-normal science*

Jan Bucek (Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia) - *Traditions and innovations in regional government: Debating Slovak experiences*

Conference details:

IGU Regional Conference 2014



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C08.13 Geography of Governance Commission session - "Traditions and innovations in governance - better meet the needs of people".

Date: 4-9 August 2013

Place and Venue: Kyoto, Japan; Kyoto International Conference Centre

Organised by: National Committee of Japan for IGU and Organising Committee

COMMISSION 2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN POZNAN (POLAND)

We are very pleased that we can invite all Commission members to participate at our annual conference in Poznan (Poland). We will be hosted by our colleagues from Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management, Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU), Poznan (Poland) in August 14-16 2014. It will offer us unique opportunity to meet in quickly changing city and region. As usual, we will be very pleased by participants representing other neighbouring disciplines that frequently visit our meetings.

Main theme of the conference is:

"New challenges in local, metropolitan and regional governance"

The conference will focus on the following topics:

- 1) Contemporary territorial and functional reforms of public administration
- 2) New forms of public participation at the local level (e.g. neighbourhood councils, grass-root movements, internet tools)
- 3) Governance and fiscal austerity: The impact of financial crisis on public governance
- 4) Metropolitan governance, inter-municipal and city-suburban cooperation
- 5) Public governance and knowledge-based economy
- 6) Challenges of multi-level and cross-sector governance.

We believe that this wide range of issues will attract large number of participants and it will allow organise inspiring sessions. The venue of the conference will be famous old Collegium Minus and Collegium Geographicum (new buildings of AMU geography in Marasko campus). Conference organizers developed large effort to prepare "affordable" conference, at reasonable fees (EUR 100), including discount fees for young scholars (EUR 75). There are planned two days with sessions, walking tour around the Old Town of Poznan and one day field trip/excursion in Poznan and its surroundings. Conference fee will cover conference pack, lunch and coffee during sessions, welcome dinner, full-day excursion around Poznań (with lunch and dinner). There is very interesting excursion day planned "across Poland" on 17th August 2014 (via Wrocław and Upper Silesia), also serving as transfer from Poznan to Krakow, the place of IGU 2014 Regional Conference. It allows participants to continue



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without any complications on this event. Post-conference transfer to Krakow and farewell dinner will be calculated separately as additional/optional costs, for those interested.

More details are available in enclosed first circular to this newsletter, or at commission web: www.igu-gog.org.

Conference details:

IGU Commission on Geography of Governance 2014 Annual Conference

„NEW CHALLENGES IN LOCAL, METROPOLITAN AND REGIONAL GOVERNANCE“

Date and Place: 14-16 August 2013, Poznan (Poland)

Hosted by: Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań (Poland)

Registration fees: EUR 100 - regular fee; EUR 75 - PhD students/young scholars (under 30 years)

Important deadlines:

28 February 2014 - deadline for submitting abstracts to igupoznan2014@amu.edu.pl

1 April 2014: confirmation of acceptance

30 April 2014: deadline for registration and payment of conference fees.

2014 IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN KRAKOW

Main IGU event next year is its Regional Conference in Krakow, Poland. Due to the tradition that our commission is regularly presented during the IGU Regional Conferences, we will organise sessions within its main programme. It also allows participate on Commission activities for those that will not attend our meeting in Poznan and will prefer to participate in Krakow regional conference. We will highly appreciate those that will participate on both events (Poznan and Krakow).

You are invited to participate in Commission sessions organised under one overarching topic:

“Geography, governance and citizens’ participation”

(Note: select and tick in list of sessions organised by Commissions as C12.13 Geography of Governance session, available in “abstract section” after registration, we organize “oral” sessions only. Conference electronic system seems quite friendly.)

Nevertheless, besides this key issue, we will accept contribution focusing on various challenges current governance, public policy and administration are facing in various environments and dimensions. We could have in mind headlines of the regional conference, emphasising - changes, challenges and responsibility. Governance as widespread concept has to confirm its abilities to cope successfully with more complex institutional, financial and

political environment at various spatial scales and in wide range of geographical settings. Various actors, including central and local governments, are working under strong pressure within the last years. They are adopting new policies, reforms and development projects with changing perspectives, facing numerous limitations (financial, environmental etc.) and forced priorities. Also their social responsibility is higher as usual. Actors involved are asked for responsible balancing of their ambitions and available resource, protecting standards in administration and services delivery and reasonable level of the development. The role of citizens, their interests and participation cannot be underestimated in such conditions. It is important to know, which forms and approaches are available and applied for citizens involvement in current governance. What are the relationships among citizens and other actors? What roles have modern technologies applications and social networks, as form of citizens' empowerment? What are innovations in citizens' participation in planning and early phases of policymaking? Are there any citizens group excluded and not included in structures of governance? We should search for more efficient, responsible governance and decision making, able to react on challenges of current changing world.

Everyone planning to attend the conference needs to *register* and pay the *conference fee*. Registration is available only via the on-line system. Each registered can submit abstract until *15 January 2014*. Each abstract must be submitted to a particular session, again only via the on-line registration system. In the case where an abstract is accepted, it will be included in the programme and abstract book only if the registration fee is paid no later than 1 April 2014. For more reasons, it is recommended to register soon and pay "early" conference fee before 1 April 2014. More categories for fees are available, with "standard" as the basic. Options - "full" - include gala dinner in the Wieliczka Salt Mine, are bit more expensive. There are "reduced" fees options for young participants who are under the age of 30 (proof of age will be needed). For example, standard fee paid before 1 April 2014 is 1320 PLN (about EUR 300+), standard reduced fee will be about EUR 240 (depending on exchange rate of Polish zloty – PLN). Possible payment alternatives are credit card and bank transfer.

IGU offers limited number of *travel grants* to provide a partial contribution to registration, transport and accommodation - up to 1000 USD. Preference will be given to young (or emerging) scholars and, in particular to those from developing countries. Deadline for application submission is 17th March 2014 (see conference web page for more details).

Summary:

2014 IGU Regional Conference "*Changes, challenges, responsibility*"

Date: 18–22 August 2014

Organised by: Polish Geographical Society, in co-operation with Polish universities

Conference Venue: Jagiellonian University, Krakow

Important deadlines:

15 January 2014 – deadline for submitting abstracts for papers and posters

2 April 2014 – deadline for early registration fee payment

For more information: <http://www.igu2014.org/>



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LATEST BOOKS PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION MEMBERS

Pradhan, P. K., Buček, J. and Razin, E. (eds.) 2013. ***Geography of Governance: Dynamics for Local Development***. International Geographical Union, Commission on Geography of Governance. 254p., ISBN: 978-9937-2-6508-9.

Electronic full text version of the book is available for download at the Commission web page (http://www.igu-gog.org/download/Pradhan_Bucek_Razin.pdf)

Silva, Carlos Nunes (ed.) (2013). ***Citizen E-Participation in Urban Governance: Crowdsourcing and Collaborative Creativity***. Hershey-New York: IGI Global, 353p. (ISBN: 978-1466641693) doi:10.4018/978-1-4666-4169-3; Advances in Electronic Government, Digital Divide, and Regional Development (AEGDDRD) Book Series

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