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### INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues,

in this short newsletter, I would like to turn your attention to our conference held in November in Kathmandu, Nepal. Altogether with local organiser Professor Pushkar K. Pradhan we somewhat extended conference themes. This has been initiated in co-operation with more Commission members. We also adjusted early registration time - now it is June 30, 2011. Afterwards, within a week, invitation/acceptance letters will be provided to accepted participants. It should help those participants that need more time for funding approval at their institutions. It should also provide enough time for reasonable travel arrangements in advance. Nevertheless, your registration forms are welcomed until end of September 2011. The Steering Committee and Professor Pushkar K. Pradhan are strongly interested to have very good conference participation in Kathmandu. According to already known interest, we will have scientifically well profiled and truly global conference. This newsletter includes actual general information. More complete information provides First Circular, which is, as well as separate Application Form, distributed again as attached separate files to this Newsletter. We will be very pleased to have you in Kathmandu. Now, it is just the right time to start prepare your participation.

There are two events planned by the Commission for 2012. It is more narrowly focusing conference in Lisbon and whole range of sessions during IGU Congress in Cologne. For your long term planning, it is important to know that after "European" year 2012, we would like to return back to Asia in 2013. From this reason, the Steering Committee considers organization of the Commission annual conference within the framework of IGU Regional Conference in Kyoto.

With best wishes

Ján Buček

## COMMISSION 2011 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 local organiser will be Professor Pushkar K. Pradhan. The conference theme will be “**Geography of Governance - Dynamics for Local Development**”. We suppose that it is important to share the experiences and present innovations in local governance and local government, local development, directions in public service delivery, their diverse position in different parts of the world, or their ability to cope with crisis at the local level. The conference subthemes include – local government structure, process and functions; infrastructure, institutions, service delivery systems and management; challenges and measures in local development; diversity in social situation and local government social policies. 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 transition, as well as innovative western democracies.

*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)

#### ***Early-registration, final registration (with abstract):***

1. Those interested in early-registration submit your form until **June 30, 2011**.
2. The final registration is open until **September 30, 2011** (open for participants that decide later).

#### ***Local Organizer: Professor Pushkar K Pradhan, PhD***

Head of the Department

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## 2012 LISBON CONFERENCE ON E-PARTICIPATION

As it is known from the history of the Commission activities, it traditionally organises more narrowly focused scientific meetings addressing the latest developments in the field. From this reason, I am very pleased by 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 2011 Autumn newsletter and on the Commission web page.

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](mailto:cs@campus.ul.pt)

## COMMISSION ACTIVITIES DURING IGU 2010 CONGRESS IN COLOGNE

The Commission is preparing its activities during 32nd IGU Congress in Cologne (Köln, Germany) in August 2012. Taking into account that issues of governance are very extensively debated, the Commissions intend to register for approximately 4-5 sessions (about 12 time slots). As usual, 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 working altogether with local organizers on selection of papers, speakers, session chairs etc.

The core topics of our sessions respect our Commission primary scientific interests, existing research directions, as well as emerging innovations in the field of geography of governance:

- Governance – key theoretical and methodological issues, main research directions
- Managing development in regions, cities and rural communities



# Commission on Geography of Governance

- Innovations in public sector - public administration reforms, public sector reorganisation, local finance and progress in planning

More extensive information on key topics, as well as themes within each session, it will be available in next Newsletter, as well as in sessions outline provided by 2012 IGU Congress organizers.

Please send any comments and proposals concerning our activities within 2012 IGU Congress 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](mailto:info@igc2012.org)

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

### **FORTHCOMING IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCES (CHILE, KYOTO, KRAKOW)**

The main IGU event in 2012 is Regional Conference in Santiago de Chile. The conference will be held from 14th to 18th November 2011. The venue of the conference will be the Institute of Military Geography. The conference fee is set at affordable level (below 500 USD). Despite the fact that Commission do not organise special sessions, we highly recommend your participation. If interest to participate will expand, the Steering Committee altogether with local organizers will develop all needed effort to develop suitable conditions for well-organised sessions. Early registration period ends on June 28 2011. For more details on IGU Regional Conference in Chile visit its web [www.ugi2011.cl](http://www.ugi2011.cl)

The Commission is considering its future conferences also within the context of already known locations of IGU regional conferences. They will be held in Kyoto 2013 and Krakow 2014. The Steering Committee is already in contact with Kyoto organizers and intend to organize sessions directly within this event in Japan (August 4-9, 2013; see [www.igu-kyoto2013.org](http://www.igu-kyoto2013.org)). For 2014, the plan is to some extent different. We can have our meeting as pre-conference in Poland or in other neighbouring Central Eastern European country, not inevitably directly in Krakow. However, Krakow should be easy accessible for those that plan to participate also in 2014 Regional Conference (e.g. by speed train).

Nevertheless, is it long term planning and it is open for discussion and changes. All other proposals for different arrangements, as well as other conferences organisation proposals within the Commission framework are welcomed. The Commission will welcome and consider especially proposals for more narrowly focused meeting in other parts of the globe.