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WELCOME

Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to distribute the second newsletter for 2009. I am focusing to summarise our Bratislava 2009 summer meeting. It was successful event within much wider framework of newly expanding initiative of European geographers to meet together each second year. The preparatory works have progressed in a case of our future meetings. The Commission meeting in Jerusalem will be our next year main event. Professor Eran Razin already started multiple activities related to its successful organisation. It is organised in a way that allows easy transfer to Tel Aviv IGU Regional Conference. Depending upon interest, we suppose to have sessions also in Tel Aviv for those participating in both events, as well as those coming only to Tel Aviv. It was also decided that the Commission 2011 meeting will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal. Since the Commission has ambition to have global coverage, our move from Europe and Mediterranean areas to the heart of Asia seems logical. You can read more details on both forthcoming events in next sections of the newsletter. You are kindly invited to participate on all mentioned events.

With best wishes

Ján Buček

OUR SESSIONS DURING 2009 EUGEO CONGRESS IN BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

The Commission used an opportunity to organize special sessions within EUGEO Congress in 2009. EUGEO Congress had been organized by the Slovak Geographical Society, Comenius University and Geographical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, in co-operation with geographical societies of the other Central European countries (especially Polish, Czech and Hungarian societies). The chance to meet during this congress also used, for example, IGU Commissions on Global Change and Human Mobility (C08.17) and Land Use and Land Cover Change (C08.25).

The wider context within which the Commission meeting had been organized, it allowed formation of more extensive stream of papers combining various inter-related issues of governance and political geography. The presence of the Commission meeting also expressed our participation during the Congress plenary sessions. Long term serving member of our Commission Steering Committee Professor Petr Dostál chaired first plenary session. One of the speakers during final plenary session had been Professor Jiří Blažek, our corresponding member and frequent participant on previous Commission meetings. We had five sessions providing enough time for discussions. Numerous congress participants outside those familiar with work of our commission visited our sessions. It was positive effect of having meeting within “congress” framework. Originally we had almost 30 papers submitted, but due to last moment withdrawals and program changes (some papers were presented from personal and organizational reasons in other sessions), finally we had 17 presentations altogether in “our” sessions. The final participation in Bratislava meeting had negatively influenced financial uncertainty and limits introduced in many institutions in relation to financial and economic crisis. It forced many participants to cancel their participation, as it was frequently indicated in our personal communication during the Spring and Summer 2009. I would like to express thanks to all papers’ presenters, session chairs as well as other participants.

List of papers presented:

Polish and Czech colonial aspirations during inter-war period - TADEUSZ SIWEK (Czechia)

Exporting the geography of Europe? Examples of Island colonialism - STEPHEN A. ROYLE (United Kingdom)

Geographical analysis of a Parliament vote: the case of the “capital debate” in Germany in 1991 - ANTOINE LAPORTE (France)

An ambivalent political geography of Europe: differentiated integration, current crisis and changing public opinion - PETR DOSTÁL (Czechia)

Visions of Europe in the World – First results of Eurobroadmap Project - CLAUDE GRASLAND (France)

Strategic transnational cooperation as a tool for regional development - DAVID RYLANDER, PONTUS TALLBERG (Sweden)

Geographies of justice and difference: challenges in implementing the European Water Framework Directive - MICK HILLMAN (United Kingdom)

Development and public participation: the case of Strategic Plans for Cities and Metropolitan Areas in a southern Italian region - PAOLO MARGARI, STEFANO DE RUBERTIS (Italy)

The role of local government in built environment transformation: case of Kablo Bratislava - PAVEL ŠUŠKA (Slovakia)

Environmental conflicts and the Nimby phenomenon. Some evidence from the recent Italian experience - VITTORIO AMATO (Italy)

Solid cities with divided hinterlands in Europe - PÉTER BALOGH (Hungary/Sweden)

The power of identity for the governance of regional, cross-border development - STEFAN OBKIRCHER (Austria)

Transformation processes and future perspectives for the tri-border region Germany-Poland-Czech Republic - RICK GLÖCKNER, ISOLDE ROCH (Germany)

Between cooperation and competition – cross-border and inter/intra-ethnic relations at the Hungarian-Serbian state border - BÉLA FILEP (Switzerland)

Success and failure of marketing of place – on the example of promotion strategy implementation of Białystok as the capital city of north-eastern region of Poland - EWA GLIŃSKA, TADEUSZ POPŁAWSKI, TADEUSZ KOWALEWSKI (Poland)

The governance of Italian industrial districts - ANGELA CRESTA, ILARIA GRECO (Italy)

The right to be small: protecting self-government in small municipalities by inter-municipal co-operation and joint municipal offices in Slovakia - BUČEK JÁN (Slovakia)

Meeting details:

Title: **Urban and Regional Governance – Power, Actors, Interests, Strategies, Rights.**

IGU Commission on Geography of Governance meeting organised within the 2nd EUGEO Congress

Location: Comenius University Bratislava, Slovakia

Dates: August 13-16th 2009

Organised by: Ján Buček

Department of Human Geography and Demogeography

Comenius University, Bratislava

Web page of the meeting: <http://gis.fns.uniba.sk/eugeo2009/>

FUTURE CONFERENCES

Our future conferences include:

2010 - Jerusalem (Israel) - The Hebrew University (followed by IGU Regional Conference in Tel Aviv-Jaffa)

2011 – Kathmandu (Nepal) - Tribhuvan Central University

2012 – Köln (Germany) – next IGU Congress



Commission on Geography of Governance

INVITATION TO JERUSALEM

You are invited to participate in a conference:

**Local Government in a Changing World:
Between hierarchies and networks, between global neoliberalism and welfare state
interventionism**

A preconference of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance
Location: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
Dates: 8-9 July 2010

Local government transformation concerns territorial configurations, inter-governmental relations, finance, democratic participation, governance culture, and development strategies, the latter involving inter-municipal collaborations, and inter-sectoral partnerships. The fundamental challenges of local self-government have essentially remained unchanged for decades, perhaps centuries, but rapidly changing economic, political and technological contexts have continuously transformed policy agendas of the local state.

The Jerusalem workshop aims to bring together scholars engaged in the study of local government and local governance: geographers, including those engaged in the activities of the IGU commission on Geography of Governance, as well as scholars from other disciplines, such as political science and public policy. Presentations on any aspect of local government, local governance and their relationship with urban development are welcome. We aim at a particular focus on cross-national perspectives, on assessments of the impact of economic and ideological transformations of the early 21st century on reform discourses, and on the implications of the above for prevailing theories of governance at the local and metropolitan/regional levels.

For further information and registration please contact:

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

Important Note:

This meeting is organised in fact as pre-conference to IGU Regional Conference in Tel Aviv. It allows move after the Commission meeting to Tel Aviv and go on in participation in this main IGU event. The participants can stay one day longer in Jerusalem, or move to Tel Aviv. There are for example one day field trips organised by IGU Regional Conference already for Sunday, July 11, 2010 (for details see <http://www.igu2010.com>)

IGU GOG COMMISSION MEETING IN KATHMANDU, NEPAL IN 2011

The Steering Committee accepted proposal submitted by one of its members, Professor Pushkar K. Pradhan to have 2011 IGU GOG Commission meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal. This decision reflects the intention of the Commission to cover by its activities more regions around the world. It is appropriate place, closer especially to participants from Asia and Pacific region. The Commission already has very good experiences with previous successful conference organised under the co-ordination of Professor Puskar K. Pradhan in Kathmandu a few years ago.

The organising institute, the Central Department of Geography (CDG), is one of the leading and oldest departments of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, established in 1958. CDG has been actively involved in running Master's and PhD Programmes in Geography, which is open to all disciplines for admission and in geographic research for the universities, national and international agencies. In addition to core physical and human geographic subjects, major subjects of attraction are regional planning, natural resources management, urban planning and governance - enterprises and public-private partnership, GIS and RS, agricultural transformation, climate change, etc. It is publishing regularly a geographic journal once a year. It has academic collaboration programmes with several universities across the world, including Norway, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Japan, Thailand, UK & USA.

All activities related to this 2011 IGU GOG conference are initially planned for about a week. Major activity - conference with paper presentations, it will be held in the Kathmandu for three days. Next part of the programme will be field excursion planned for four days. It will focus on one of the world's renowned trekking sites in Pokhara and its surroundings - Sirubari Village or Ghalegaon Village in western Nepal.

The next Commission newsletter will provide more details concerning the conference participation and programme.

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES RELATED FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION

Dieringer, Jürgen, Sturm, Roland, eds. 2009. *Regional Governance in EU-Staaten* (in German). Verlag Barbara Budrich, 360 pp. ISBN-10: 3866492650 , ISBN-13: 9783866492653.

Pradhan, Pushkar K (ed.), 2009. *Micro Enterprises, Livelihood and Local Development*. Micro Enterprise Development Programme, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supply, the Government of Nepal and United Nations Development Programme.



WEB PAGE – WWW.IGU-GOG.ORG

The Commission web page is the main permanent information tool serving the Commission. We are attempting to present here news and actual information, as well as information reflecting previous work of the Commission. It is also open to present work and activities of all commission members related to its scientific profile. From this reasons, you are invited submit planned conference/workshops information, synopsis of your important published works (books, larger collection of papers) for presentation to the rest of Commission members.

All correspondence, information or materials you would like to present on web/page address to Jan Bucek (bucek@fns.uniba.sk).

STEERING COMMITTEE

Steering Committee for the period 2008-2012:

Commission Chair:

Jan Bucek, Comenius University, Bratislava, SLOVAKIA

Full Members:

Eiki Berg, University of Tartu, Tartu, ESTONIA

Christine Bichsel, University of Berne, Bern, SWITZERLAND

Shii Okuno, University of Marketing and Distribution Sciences, Kobe, JAPAN

Shannon O'Lear, University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA

Pushkar K. Pradhan, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, NEPAL

Eran Razin, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, ISRAEL

Andrew Ryder, Portsmouth University, GREAT BRITAIN

Xiaohong Zhang, Fudan University, Shanghai, CHINA