

APPLIED GEOGRAPHY COMMISSION

CO8.01: IGU Applied Geography Commission

NEWSLETTER

February 2009

Tunis Meeting August 2008

More than 30 people attending the Tunis IGU Congress in August 2009 come to the four sessions organized by the Applied Geography Commission.

The main item on the agenda was the launch of the Commission's second book, *Applied Geography and the Entrepreneurial University*, Edited by Antoine Bailly, Lay Gibson and Kingsley Haynes, and published by Economica in association with the Brookings Institute, with 14 chapters contributed by 21 authors as participants in the Commission. Antoine Bailly and Robert Stimson provided an overview of the origin and the context for the book which is based on papers contributed by the authors of the chapters that had been presented at a series of meetings of the Commission over the last three years.

One session was devoted to paper presentations by four of the new members of the Commission: Lucinda Fonseca, Portugal; El Hassane Boubekroai, Morocco; Frederico Arenas, Chile; and Stephan Joost, Switzerland.

There was a Round Table discussion on "*Which Future for Applied Geography?*" led by Antoine Bailly (Switzerland), Robert Stimson (Australia), Bernard Weinstein (USA), and Ali Toumi (Tunisia, and General Secretary of the 31st IGC, Tunis).

In a final session was devoted to a discussion of the "Future Program for the Applied Geography Commission", led by Incoming Chair of the Commission, Robert Stimson (Australia).

Involvement of Geographers in the Commission

There is now a list of some 60 names listed as either members of the Commission or Friends of the Commission, or are on the Commission's Advisory Committee.

Please pass on this Newsletter to others whom you think may be interested in the Applied Geography Commission, and if you know someone who you know would like to become a 'Friend' of the Commission, please send their name and email to the Secretary, Kingsley Haynes (khaynes@gmu.edu).

Change in Commission Leadership

There has been a change in the leadership of the Commission with President Antoine Bailly and Secretary Lay Gibson coming to the end of their terms of their office. The new President is Robert Stimson (Australia) and the new Secretary is Kingsley Haynes (US).

The new members of the Commission are: Federico Arenas (Chile); Professor El Boubekraoui (Marocco); Lucinda Fonseca (Portugal); Stephane Joost (Switzerland); Dr. Hamish Rennie (New Zealand); and Ali Toumi (Tunisia).

Focus of Commission Activities, 2009-2012

The preparation and publication of a third edited book from the Commission to be launched at the 2012 IGU Congress in Cologne

The tradition of the Applied Geography Commission publishing an edited book every four years to be launched at the IGU Congress it is to be continued.

The proposed theme is on "*Applications of Geographic Analysis in Public Policy, Planning and Business*". The intent will be to demonstrate how geographic concepts, tools and techniques have been applied to address on the one hand public policy concerns and planning issues and on the other hand business development and operations.

Contributions to the book will both draw on the actual outcomes of collaborations between researchers and public agencies and researcher sand business through the documentation of case studies, and on the demonstration by practitioners in the public sector and the business sector of how they are applying geographic concepts, tools and techniques in their field of employment.

The intent is to have contributions from both the developed and the developing world that relate to public agencies at different levels of government and to both large and small businesses.

This activity is likely to be the major activity specifically organized by the members of the Commission. Progress towards this objective will be achieved through the presentation of papers at a series of meetings of the commission held in association with a number of meetings of professional and academic organizations during 2009, 2010 and 2011 which are attended by participants in the Commission.

Possible publication of series of papers on a specific theme of applied geography through a special issue of an appropriate journal

To accommodate the special interests of Commission members and of other participants in the Commission's activities it is proposed that the Commission sponsor workshops on specific themes in applied geography. These workshops could be held in association with workshops in association with the conference of a professional association. Such proposals may be initiated by a Commission member who would identify a theme and invite the paper contributors who would meet during a special session or sessions under the name of the IGU Applied Geography Commission that would be held at that conference. Or such a workshop might be held as a stand-alone event at a venue to be organized by the initiator.

The output from such a workshop would be an edited publication.

Commission Meetings in 2009

There will be the opportunity for member of the Commission to meet, along with non-members who are interested in being involved with Commission activities, in association with two events during 2009.

Napa (California), US, 25 February

In association with the *Western Regional Science Association* annual conference to be held at the Silverado Resort in the Napa Valley, California, 22-25 February, 2009, interested persons are invited to attend a meeting of the Commission 8.00-9.00 am on Wednesday 25 February.

At this meeting we will have a discussion on the organization of a series of meetings that might be held over the next two to three years for presentation of papers that will comprise the chapters of the proposed 3rd book to be produced by the Commission on *Applications of Geographic Analysis in Public Policy, Planning and Business*, in addition to other potential events and activities.

Gold Coast, Australia, 19-22 July

Members of the Commission and other interested people are invited to attend the biennial meeting of the *Pacific Regional Science Conference Organisation* to be held on the Gold Coast (fly into Brisbane), Australia, 19-22 July, 2009. It is planned to hold two sessions sponsored by the Commission at which papers will be given by geographers illustrating how they have undertaken research sponsored or commissioned by a government agency of business in which they have used geographical analysis to address a policy, planning or business issue or problem.

St. Die, France, 2-4 October

Members of the Commission are invited to participate in the annual *International Festival of Geography* in St. Die, France which is held over the Friday-Sunday first weekend in October. The Commission will arrange for some of its members to make presentations on Applied Geography in the public forums held as part of the festival, which attracts an attendance of around 50,000 people.

Collaboration with the Applied Geography Association

During the coming year the Commission Secretary will liaise with the leadership of the Applied Geography Association in the US with a view to developing joint activities.