

September 2006 NEWSLETTER

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1. CHAIR'S REPORT: Michael Sofer (CHAIR)

a. On behalf of the Commission, the first thing I would like to do in this newsletter is to thank the Brisbane Organising Committee for their efforts in providing us with a wonderful symposium venue and a stimulating programme. I would like to thank Tony Sorensen, our man from down under, for organising a marvellous event – the tri-commission meeting in Cairns, following the Brisbane conference. I hope life has returned more or less to normal for Tony. For those of you who were unfortunately unable to join us, the meeting and the discussions were great, as were the field trips and the food, as well. The companionship was magnificent and the quality of the presentations all very exciting and informative.

Both meetings, but particularly the conference in Cairns, gave us the opportunity to exchange views with our colleagues in other branches of geography. In Brisbane, we had a business meeting of the Commission and in Cairns, the three participating members of the Commission Steering Committee met to discuss future directions.

b. The Brisbane conference included four sessions of our commission:

IGU 2006: Local Development Sessions

A. Brownfields, the urban landscape and local development

Chair: Michael Sofer

1. Cortez A., University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, Local development and the restoration of the landscape in brownfields: the sanitary landfills in Brazil
2. Ortigoza S., University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, Brownfields in medium-size cities in the countryside of Sao Paulo State, Brazil: the possibilities of local development by means of (re) development of urban areas.
3. Lombardo M and Vasques A., University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, The process of brownfield formation and redevelopment in Sao Paulo, Brazil
4. Pitton S., University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, Local development: valuation of the health services in Rio Claro/Sao Paulo/Brazil

B. The nature of local development in peripheral areas

Chair: Paweł Churski

1. Sofer M., Bar-Ilan University, Israel, Local development and the Fijian periphery: the case of Kadavu Island
2. Bański J., Polish Geographical Society, Poland, Relations between core and peripheries in the Polish conceptions of development.

3. Campolina Diniz C., Universidade Federal De Minas Gerais, Brazil, The regional policy for the Brazilian northeast region and recent local development experiences.

4. Young M., Charles Darwin University, Australia, Reconceptualising tourism destination development in peripheral areas.

C. Local responses to local and global challenges

Chair: Young Martin

1. Peters K., Flinders University, Australia, Don't know, don't do: local business associations and their influence on the environmental performance of small business.

2. Ab. Ghaffar Fauza, University of Malaya, Malaysia, Globalisation and regional transformation: rethinking regional policy in Malaysia.

3. Carroll M., Bowling Green State University, USA, Social capital and cluster-based economic development.

D. On development plans and local development

Chair: Campolina Diniz

1. Makki M., Saudi Geographical Society, Saudi Arabia, Towards a balanced development in Medina region, Saudi Arabia.

2. Churski P., Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan, Poland, Structural foundations of the European Union in Poland – experiences of the first period of membership.

3. Teresa C, Zbyszko C, Chojnicki Z and Czyz T., Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan, Poland, Human capital in a knowledge-based economy in Poland

c. The meeting in Cairns was a joint event of three commissions:

- * **The Sustainability of Rural Systems;**

- * **Land Use Cover Change;** and

- * **Local Development**

Because of its nature and orientation, there was a mixture of sessions and papers and most of the local development papers were presented in the sessions entitled: **Development of Rural Regions and Changes in the Rural Urban Fringe.**

d. The Commission endorsed the IGU initiative on Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development. Professor Adalberto Vallega (President, IGU) leads the project. See www.homeofgeography.org for details.

2. CONFERENCE TIMETABLE - 2007 – 2010

a. We propose to hold our coming annual meeting before the next meeting of the Commission in Tunis in 2008. Campolina Diniz has offered to host a meeting in Belo Horizonte, Brazil in August 2007. The theme will be 'The nature of local development in developing regions' – a title that allows us to look not only at the experience of developing countries, but also at local development processes in eastern Europe and in peripheral areas of developed economies.

Theme	Comments	Place	Month	Year
The nature of local development in developing regions		Belo-Horizonte, Brazil	August	2007
To be decided	IGU International Congress; Possibly - a pre-congress meeting in Tunis	Tunis	August	2008
The role of talents and creative industries in local development / Poverty reduction through local development	To be decided in Brisbane 2006	Europe	July / September	2009
To be decided	IGU regional conference	Tel Aviv	July / August	2010

b. A most important item on the agenda is the 'shape' of the following full meeting of the Commission in Tunis in 2008. The Tunisian delegates made a presentation and distributed programme details. The Commission will receive the name of a counterpart in Tunis with whom we will work. If we can not find a local organiser by August 2007, we may suggest a meeting within the format of the IGU and promote some other activities during the Congress year.

3. NEW MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

We have a new member on the steering committee to replace members who retired. The new member is Assoc. Prof. Jerzy Banski. His contact details are:

Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization

Polish Academy of Sciences

Warsaw, Poland

(+48 22) 69-78-922, (+48) 602-39-14-53

jbanski@twarda.pan.pl or jbanski@wp.pl

Web page: <http://www.banski.pl>

One of our targets for 2006-2010 is to recruit new members for the Steering Committee. We are still looking for new members from Africa, including Tunis. Suggestions are welcomed.

4. INTERNET SITE

The commission has an internet site:

<http://www.biu.ac.il/soc/ge/igucomld/>

For updates on IGU activities, also check the Home of Geography website:

<http://www.homeofgeography.org/>

We look forward to receiving news from members.