

January 2007 NEWSLETTER

Dear Colleagues,

I wish every one of our members a creative and productive time in the year ahead and I hope that the 2007 will be another action packed year.

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1. Commission activities

In the last Newsletter we paid tribute to the successful Symposium in Brisbane and the Tri Commission meeting in Cairns, and the great work done by our steering committee member Tony Sorensen and his team. Tony is now editing a set of proceedings of the Cairns meeting. I would like to thank again Tony Sorensen, our man from down under, for organising a marvellous event.

The Commission on Local Development 2007 main activity will be the participation in ***The Second Global Conference on Economic Geography*** in Beijing in June 25 to 28. The Commission has been offered sufficient session slots, and the final number is depended on the number of relevant papers at the final stage. Henry Yeung, the conference organizer, promised to take care of the organisation, but Campolina Dinitz and myself will be involved in organising the LD sessions.

Please inform all those persons you might think may have interest to participate in the LD commission's sessions in Beijing. You are still invited to offer your own papers. The deadline has been extended.

Information on the conference and registration form is available in the following site:

<http://courses.nus.edu.sg/course/geoywc/conference/econgeog.html>

Most of you are aware that the next ***IGU Congress*** will be held in Tunisia, with the dates of August 25-29 2008. The theme of the Congress is "Collaboratively Building our Territories". A decision that we need to make in the coming months is whether the Commission will hold a pre-Congress Symposium, or whether we will participate in the Congress with both paper sessions and business meeting. I am still waiting for the Commission to receive the name of a counterpart in Tunis with whom we will work.

I would like to turn your attention to the proposal to have our 2009 annual meeting in Warsaw under the organisation of Jerzy Banski (see table below). Jerzy has already offered me a draft of the first circular and it looks very promising.

The following table is the **updated timetable** of the Commission activities 2007-2010

Theme	Comments	Place	Month	Year
The dynamics of local and regional development	Second Global Conference On Economic Geography	Beijing	25-28 June	2007
To be decided	IGU International	Tunis	August	2008

	Congress; Possibly - a pre-congress meeting in Tunis			
Poverty-reduction through local development	Commission annual meeting	Warsaw	July / September	2009
To be decided	IGU regional conference	Tel Aviv	July	2010

I am looking forward to receive comments from members.

2. Conference announcements

Below is a list of coming conferences that I have been asked to inform you about.

2.1 I would like to call your attention to a message I have received regarding the **Local Development International Meeting**, to be held in Naples on **1 and 2 March 2007**, with AISLO scientific advice.

...The Meeting will focus on local development issues, thus perceiving territories not merely as “passive” physical contexts for policies, actions, and strategies, but as a complex, "active" system for developmental processes. On one hand, the increasingly global economy is interfacing with local dynamics and assets using the local context as a hub; on the other, the physical, economic, and business characteristics of places are creating unique specific assets which can be used for sustainable development. Political options aiming at competitiveness, development, and local cohesion urge to think about basic value strategies, the multiplication of governmental level and spatial scales of intervention, the role of specific sectoral policies and the added value provided by local synergies.

I add a couple of attachments concerned this meeting.

2.2 On behalf of Prof Ali Toumi (General Secretary of the Tunis 2008 Congress) I inform you of the **31st INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS**. The Congress is organized jointly by the Tunisian Geographers Association and the International Geographical Union, and will take place in Tunis on 12-15 August 2008.

I add a couple of attachments concerned this congress.

Amsterdam, 20-23 August **.Europe’s Geographical Challenges: Science Meets Policy** 2.3
Conference themes: ‘Standort Europa’ at Risk; .2007. EUGEO2007: call for papers open
Cities; The Changing Face of Rural Europe; Genuine Towards Revitalized and Cohesive
Identity, and Diversity; Nature Strikes Back; and Balanced ,European Values: Culture
:Governance. For more information and abstract submission Multilevel
[.www.eugeo2007.org](http://www.eugeo2007.org)

3. IGU President Adalberto Vallega

On behalf of the steering committee of the Commission on Local Development, I sent our message of condolences to the family of IGU president Adalberto Vallega, as well as to the Home of Geography.

I have recently received the following message from the Home of Geography

We have decided to dedicate the majority of our next e-Newsletter to the memory of Adalberto Vallega. In addition to an official obituary, we would like to include more personal tributes to him. If you would like to write a few lines with your personal memories of him if you knew him, or your own tribute to him if you only knew him through his work, please send them to us for inclusion in the next issue. As it will be sent out at the end of January, we need to receive your contributions by 15 January. Please aim to write no more than approximately 200 words.

Best wishes,

Giuliano Bellezza & Dawn Bissell

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