

# Minutes of the PRSCO Council Meeting (August 1998, Vienna)

(approved by the Council Meeting in Nagoya on Thursday 15th October, 1998)

*Held on Friday 28 August 1998*

*At the Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, Austria*

*Commencing at 2:00 PM*

Present: Batey, Corona, Getis, Gibson, Higano, Kimura, Kohno, Poot (Chair)

- a) Apologies received: Fukuchi, Hua, Munro, Nijkamp, Park, Plane, Quigley, Serano, Ronca, Yang
- b) Minutes of the PRSCO Council Meeting of December 8, 1997. These were approved, except for a small correction regarding WRSA section representatives. The details are given in the "Agenda and Report" tabled by Higano.
- c) Confirmation of section representatives and the ex-officio PRSCO Council members for the 1998 and 1999 calendar years. It was noted that Getis represented D. Plane at this Vienna meeting. Gibson noted that there was no formal term for section representatives. However, Poot said that there is an advantage in specifying a term in that it signals that no indefinite commitment is required. In any case, each PRSCO section has the right to replace representatives within the two years or to extend the term beyond this period. The Executive Secretaries of sections are requested to inform Higano of such changes as soon as they occur. Gibson also noted that the President needed to be nominated from among the official PRSCO Council members. There was some confusion about this with respect to ANZRSA representatives. It was therefore decided to interpret the status quo in the following way: Poot and West are ANZRSA

representatives, while Morrison is a member among "Ex Officio and Friends" in his capacity as chairman of the Local Organising Committee of the 15th PRSCO conference in Wellington.

- d) Progress report on the 5th PRSCO Summer Institute in Nagoya. Higano tabled the tentative program for the "Summer" Institute which will be held on October 15-16 1998 in Nagoya. On Thursday there will be two plenary sessions (including the presidential address) and three parallel session slots (with up to three concurrent sessions). On Friday, there will be a joint meeting with the Japan Association for Human and Environmental Symbiosis (JA-HES).
- e) Progress report on the 16th PRSCO conference in Seoul Preparations for the conference were proceeding smoothly. A conference brochure had been printed. All participants at the Vienna conference received a copy of the brochure in their conference kit. Gibson raised the issue of membership of RSAI as a requirement for participating in PRSCO meetings. It was agreed that the official RSAI policy would continue to be adopted: all persons participating in the Seoul meeting would need to be full members of RSAI, unless they are full members of the Korean section (KRSA) or official Korean guests invited by KRSA. However, in the light of the discussion at the RSAI Council meeting in Vienna, it was agreed to adopt Nijkamp's proposed "packaging" of this requirement. For example, assuming that the registration fee will be US \$300 (the amount tentatively suggested by Park), the conference fee

would be advertised as US \$360 to be reduced to US \$300 for members of RSAI or KRSA. Those who pay \$360 would automatically receive one year of RSAI membership as part of the conference package. RSAI membership would be checked by the person responsible for registration, based on an up to date list of paying members (to be supplied by Kieran Donaghy). Thus, the KRSA section will pass on the new members' information to RSAI after the conference and transfer the membership fee of \$60 for each such person. In addition, RSAI will receive from KRSA a lump sum of \$15 times the number of ALL conference participants. The latter amount represents the franchise fee for hosting a conference under the RSAI auspices.

- f) Proposal of the formal joining of the Indonesian RSA as the 8th group of PRSCO. As no correspondence had been received from this group, the matter has been deferred for the time being. It was noted that the hosting of a small meeting would be a prerequisite for considering formal membership of PRSCO. It was also noted that the Indonesian RSA had not formally liaised with PRSCO in their organising of an international conference on regional development policy that was planned to be held in Jakarta on October 20-21 1998 (during the week following the Nagoya meeting). However, it was noted that (due to a number of circumstances, including the current political situation in Indonesia) the Jakarta meeting had been cancelled.
- g) Contact with regional science scholars in Brazil. Efforts are being made by RSAI members in Brazil to establish a Brazilian section. Although PRSCO would not be a natural supra-regional entity to which such a Brazilian sec-

tion could belong, PRSCO would continue to support Brazilian scholars in regional science in their efforts to set up their own section and to build networks with scholars elsewhere. Batey commented that the emerging of a Latin American grouping or Spanish & Portuguese speaking grouping may be important in this context. This is really a matter for RSAI Council.

- h) Contact with regional science scholars in the People's Republic of China. Poot noted that the formal representation of the PRC on the PRSCO Council would be difficult in the present circumstances, but that conference organisers should endeavour to invite scholars from both mainland China and Taiwan at international meetings. This would ensure that all Chinese scholars in regional science have an opportunity to become part of the international networks in this field.
- i) Proposal for the 6th PRSCO Summer Institute in 2000. Poot noted that it would be difficult to attract participants to a separate PRSCO meeting in 2000, as this is the year of the World Congress in Lugano. However, Council members expressed the wish that a Summer Institute would be held in 2000 to ensure continuity of PRSCO activities. Gibson suggested that the PRSCO meeting could be attached to the Lugano congress. However, Kohno stressed that it is important that PRSCO meetings are hosted by one of the PRSCO sections in the Asia-Pacific. Poot then suggested that one possibility would be to ask WRSA if the PRSCO Summer Institute could be held jointly with the WRSA meeting in February. As the February 2000 meeting was likely to be held in Hawaii, that would be an excellent venue for a PRSCO gathering. Moreover, there is usually a good

representation of members of PRSCO sections at WRSA meetings. However, given that an official offer from WRSA to host the 2001 PRSCO conference had already been received in February 1998 (via David Plane), such a change of plans may not be feasible.

- j) Proposal for the 17th PRSCO Conference in 2001 WRSA had offered to host this conference, but if WRSA were to host the 2000 Summer Institute instead, an alternative would have to be found. Corona offered to discuss with Mexican colleagues the possibility of hosting a PRSCO meeting in Mexico City. The Mexican section had already hosted a Summer Institute in 1994. Consequently, an alternative to Mexico hosting a conference in 2001 would be for the Mexican section to host the Summer Institute in 2000 and for the status quo to be preserved for 2001. That is, WRSA would host the conference in 2001. A decision regarding the Summer Institute in 2000 and the Conference in 2001 will be made at the Nagoya Council meeting in October 1998, based on formal proposals from the respective sections.

- k) PRSCO delegate to RSAI, 1999-2001 J Munro's term will end at the end of 1998. Consequently, a replacement will need to be sought. Munro has served for two terms and had indicated not to be available for a third term. A sub-committee of Gibson, Higano, Munro and Poot would come with a recommendation to the Nagoya meeting.

As several council members needed to leave after discussion of this item, Poot decided to carry items l) to o) on the agenda over to the agenda of the Nagoya council meeting. That meeting will be held 12:30-14:00 (with lunch) on Thursday 15th October 1998. Poot noted that it was unlikely that all business could be discussed adequately during such a short period (given that lunch would also be consumed at the same time). Kimura would investigate the possibility of a second time slot on Thursday or Friday to continue the PRSCO Council meeting in Nagoya, if needed.

The meeting was closed at 3:40 PM.