

Minutes of the PRSCO Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 27 July 2005
13th floor Meeting Room
Building 7, Nihon University College of Economics
Tokyo, Japan

President Jorge Serrano opened the meeting at 8.15 am.

a. Apologies received, roll-call and confirmation of Section representatives

Apologies received: J. Quigley, K. Donaghy, B. Brodjonegoro, B.P. Resosudarmo, R. Florax, A. Bailey

Present:

Patricio Aroca (Chilean Association of Regional Studies CARS – under formation); Peter Batey (Long Range Planning Committee LRPC RSAI); Graham Clarke (Executive Director RSAI); Lay Gibson (WRSA, LRPC RSAI); Haynes Kingsley (representing David Plane WRSA, LRPC RSAI); Yoshiro Higano (JSRSAI, *Executive Secretary PRSCO*); Rahmah Ismail, (Malaysian Regional Science Association MRSA); Mohd Yusof Kasim (MRSA); Tschangho John Kim (WRSA and PRSCO rep RSAI Council); Yoshinobu Kumata (representing Keiichi Tanaka, JSRSAI); Jen-Jia Lin, (representing Cheng-Min Feng – CRSA-T); Yuzuru Miyata (JSRSAI); Shin-kun Peng (representing C.C. Mai – CRSA-T); Jacques Poot (ANZRSAI); Jorge Serrano (*Amecider, President PRSCO*); Bob Stimson (President RSAI); Roger Stough (WRSA); Makoto Tawada (JSRSAI); Heinrich von Baer (CARS – under formation); Ishak Bin Yussof (MRSA)

Confirmation of Section representatives as at 27 July 2005

AMECIDER: J. Serrano (*President*), R. Wences

ANZRSA: J. Madden, J Poot

CARS: P. Aroca, H. von Baer

CRSA: D. Edgington, R. Shearmur

CRSA-T: C.-M. Feng, C. Mai

IRSA: B. Brodjonegoro, B. Resosudarmo

JSRSAI: Y. Higano (*Executive Secretary*), Y. Miyata, K. Tanaka (*Vice-President*), M. Tawada

KRSA: J.H. Choi, S.O. Park

MRSA: M.Y. Kasim, I.B. Yussof

WRSA: L.J. Gibson, D. Plane (*Immediate Past President*), T.J. Kim, R. Stough

b. Minutes of the PRSCO Council Meeting in Seattle, USA, 13 November 2004

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting, except for the omission of an apology for absence having been received from Lay Gibson.

c. Report on the organization of the 19th Pacific Conference of the RSAI, Tokyo, July 25-28, 2005

Yoshiro Higano reported on the conference. He noted that the chairperson of the Local Organizing Committee, Professor Keiichi Tanaka of Nihon University, had become ill before the conference. Professor Yoshibuno Kumata had agreed to step in at short notice to take on this role. Conference registrations were around 150, which was less than expected. Possible reasons included the timing of the conference being fairly close to the ERSA congress and also being during a teaching week in the southern hemisphere.

d. Progress report on the organization of the 2006 PRSCO Summer Institute in Kuala Lumpur

Mohd Yussof Kassim handed out a call for papers for the 9th PRSCO Summer Institute to be held at the Mandarin Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 19-21, 2006. The 8th PRSCO Summer (actually winter in the southern hemisphere) Institute was held in Valdivia, Chile, September 23-24, 2004. The theme of the 2006 meeting in Kuala Lumpur is “Regions on a Global Platform”. The registration fee for international participants will be US \$225, while the local fee is RM600. It was noted that a lower fee should be introduced for students and also for overseas participants from developing countries.

e. Progress report on the organization of the 2007 PRSCO Regular Meeting in British Columbia

Yoshiro Higano would ask the Chairperson of the Local Organizing Committee, David Edgington, to report on conference preparations at the PRSCO Council meeting in Las Vegas in November.

f. Affiliation of Indian Regional Science Association to the RSAI and PRSCO

Peter Batey spoke on behalf of the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) of RSAI. One issue with respect to affiliation of the Indian Regional Science Association is the choice of a supranational organization that would be the best for the Indian section. Hence the broader issue is where Asian sections would fit in. The LRPC will put to RSAI Council proposals that are aiming at restructuring the supranational layer of the RSAI network in such a way that enhances the participation of new sections, particularly those in developing parts of the world. Sections would have the option of seeking affiliation with more than one supranational organization. There is a strong push for expanding PRSCO to include non-Pacific parts of Asia, and it is therefore recommended to replace the name of PRSCO with APRSCO (Asian and Pacific Regional Science Conference Organization). Section representatives were urged to consider this in their sections and report back at the PRSCO Council meeting at the NARSC conference in Las Vegas in November.

Peter Batey noted that it was likely that RSAI and its constituent networks would develop in an evolutionary fashion during the next decade and any structures put in place would have to be flexible and reviewed after five years.

It was particularly important to facilitate the inclusion of Indian, PRC and South American regional scientists in the RSAI network. To do this, NARSC, ERSA and PRSCO would be invited to co-opt one or two additional RSAI Council members from such parts of the world. The Indian section has already operated for many years and its 36th annual meeting would be held in Delhi on November 18 and 19. Decisions would

need to be made in November 2005, so that the new structure would include India which will host an RSAI institute in Bangalore in January 2006.

It was moved and carried that the Indian section would join PRSCO and that RSAI Council would be advised to this effect. It was also agreed in principle to expand PRSCO to become the Asian and Pacific Regional Science Conference Organization (APRSCO). PRSCO councilors were invited to pass on their views in writing to the Executive Secretary of the RSAI, Graham Clarke.

g. Report on the organization of the Chilean Section

Heinrich von Baer and Patricio Aroca reported on the 3rd national meeting on regional studies to be held in Chile on 13-14 October 2005. At this meeting, the Chilean Association of Regional Studies (CARS) would be formed. This Association would then immediately seek affiliation with PRSCO, with confirmation of this status to take place at the Las Vegas meeting in November. It was noted that there is a strong “practitioner” interest in regional studies in Chile and the heterogeneity of skills and interests could be the strength of regional science development in Latin America.

Bob Stimson recommended that some international participants would be invited to the Chilean meetings. Such participants already include presenters from other Latin American countries, but it could be broader than that.

h. Report on other activities of Pacific Rim regional science communities

Jorge Serrano reported on an initiative in Latin America to use a network of university presidents/rectors as a means for building up a regional science network. Heinrich von Baer noted that while it was unlikely that such presidents/rectors would be able to actively promote regional science, they could at least identify those individuals in their organizations that would be able to join the regional science network.

With respect to Columbia, it was noted that there was one Columbian participant at the Tokyo meeting and there would be several delegates at the NARSC meeting in Las Vegas.

Yoshiro Higano reported that he visited PRC and investigated the possibilities for more involvement of mainland China in PRSCO. Because organizations such as the Chinese Regional Economics Association receive official endorsement and funding from the Chinese government, it would be impossible for such organizations to join PRSCO formally under the current international situation. However, individuals with an interest in regional science could informally group together for the purpose of acting as the equivalent of a PRSCO section in China.

i. Nomination of Friends of the PRSCO

Yoshiro Higano reported the names and countries of those regional scientists who act as representatives for regional science in countries which do not yet have regional science sections. They would be invited to attend PRSCO Council meetings. They are:

Isabel Aponte Jaramillo (Colombia)

Muhammad Iqbal Zuberi (Bangladesh)

Md.Fakrul Islam (Bangladesh)

j. PRSCO delegate for the RSAI Council, 2006-2008

It was proposed by Yoshiro Higano that this person would come from the Canadian section. David Edgington, Richard Shearmur and Warren Gill were named as potential candidates. The Council of the Canadian Section would be consulted and Lay Gibson & Yoshiro Higano would report back with a firm proposal at NARSC in Las Vegas.

k. International Symposium of the RSAI, Bangalore, India, January 6-8, 2006

Information about this was included in the PRSCO Tokyo conference satchel.

l. Report of the Pacific Editor, PiRS

Jacques Poot reported that the first issue to be published by the new publisher Blackwell had been made available the previous week electronically. The printed version would be available the week following the conference. The second and third issues for 2005 had already been prepared as well, so that the delay due to the transition from Springer to Blackwell would be overcome very quickly. The third issue would be a special issue. The board of editors now includes Professor Jouke van Dijk of Groningen University. However, the system of regional editors has been abolished. All submitted papers should be sent electronically to the PiRS headquarters which is the Free University Amsterdam (Angele Janse) until early September 2005, and Purdue University (Joy May) from then on. Papers will be assigned to editors based on expertise and an even spread of the workload. The current rate of paper submissions is about 80 manuscripts per year. The editors aim to increase this to 100.

The impact factor of the journal is quite close to that of other regional science journals and it was noted that PiRS had the highest immediacy index among regional science journals in 2004 (based on the number of articles published in 2004 and also cited in 2004).

m. Any further business

The next Council meeting is likely to be held on Thursday November 10, 8-10 am at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas.

Jorge Serrano closed the meeting at 10.00 am.