

Minutes of the PRSCO Council Meeting

Held on Friday 17 November 2006
Fairmont Royal York Hotel
Toronto, Canada

President Y. Kumata opened the meeting at 8:00 am.

a) Apologies received and roll-call

Apologies received:

A. Bailley (Past President RSAI, Switzerland)
Y. Miyata (JSRSAI, Japan)
D. Plane (WRSA, USA)
R. Shearmur (CRSA, Canada)
M. Tawada (JSRSAI, Japan)
I.B. Yussof (MRSA, Malaysia)

Present:

Patricio Aroca (SOCHER, Chile)
Graham Clarke (Executive Director RSAI, United Kingdom)
David Edgington (CRSA/ACSR, Vice-President PRSCO, Canada)
Yoshiro Higano (JSRSAI, Executive Secretary PRSCO, Japan)
Md. Fakrul Islam (BRSA, Bangladesh)
T. John Kim (WRSA, USA)
Yoshinobu Kumata (JSRSAI, President PRSCO, Japan)
Philip McCann (RSAI, New Zealand)
Peter Nijkamp (LRPC, Past President RSAI)
Jacques Poot (ANZRSAI, New Zealand)
Hiroyuki Shibusawa (JSRSAI representing Y. Miyata, Japan)
Shin Kung Peng (CRSA-T, Taiwan)
John Quigley (WRSA, representing T. John Kim, USA)
Bob Stimson (ANZRSAI representing John Madden, RSAI President, Australia)

b) Minutes of the PRSCO Council Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18th July 2006

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

c) Report on the 9th PRSCO Summer Institute in Kuala Lumpur, 18-20 July 2006

Y. Higano reported that this had been a very successful meeting and of a scale that was rather larger than earlier Summer Institutes. More than 100 papers were presented by 117 participants (of whom 50 from Malaysia and 67 from abroad). The conference had a high profile in Malaysia and the guest of honor at the conference dinner was the Minister of Education YB Dato' Mustapa Mohamed.

d) Affiliation of MRSA to PRSCO and RSAI

Y. Higano reported that he had received a letter dated 18th October 2006 from I. Yussof, Executive Secretary for MRSA, which stated that the Malaysian Regional Science Association (MRSA) had been officially established on 18th July 2006 during the 9th PRSCO Summer Institute meeting in Kuala Lumpur. In the letter, MRSA requested formal affiliation with PRSCO and RSAI. Members of the PRSCO Council strongly supported this affiliation.

e) Progress report on the organization of the 20th PRSCO regular conference, in British Columbia, 6-9 May 2007 (CRSA)

D. Edgington (University of British Columbia, PRSCO Vice-President), who chairs the organizing committee of the 20th PRSCO conference, gave a presentation about the conference. He also distributed a conference postcard and a conference flyer. The conference would be held at the Westin Bayshore Hotel. The conference website is www.prSCO2007.confmanager.com, while the email address of the conference secretariat is registration@housing.ubc.ca. The main theme of the conference is “Creative city regions: examining their role in the Pacific Rim”. Conference registration would commence in the afternoon of Sunday 6 May, followed by an opening reception. The closing ceremony and reception would be late afternoon on Wednesday 9 May. On Thursday 10 May there would be post-conference excursions. J. Poot reminded the organizers to send out email invitations to all members of all PRSCO sections. The registration fee for international RSAI members would be CAD 550 before 1 March 2007 and CAD 650 thereafter. As non-RSAI members would be required to be an additional CAD 100, it was pointed out that such participants would be better off joining RSAI for EUR 10. The PRSCO Council meeting would be held 8.30 – 10.30 pm on Monday 7 May. An RSAI Council meeting would be scheduled some time on Wednesday 9 May.

f) Report on activities of Pacific Rim regional science communities

(1) Chile

P. Aroca reported that in October 2006 a successful two-day meeting was held by the Chilean regional science association SOCHER. About 100 papers were presented. The venue was the Catholic University of the North in Antofagasta. Besides academics, there was also good participation of government officials. R. Stimson, G. Hewings and K. Haynes represented the international RSAI community.

(2) China

Y. Higano reported that good progress is being made with developing a section that can be associated with RSAI. The contact with PRSCO is extensive: Y. Higano visited China six times during 2006. However, it is now unlikely that a section will be formally established by the time of the Vancouver PRSCO meeting. An international regional science meeting is being planned in China for late 2007, possibly December. This follows the successful workshop held at East China Normal University in Shanghai, 3-5 April 2006. It is hoped that many key people from RSAI sections would participate to contribute to this development stage. The key link in China is with the Chinese Academy

of Sciences. It was noted that the development of a Chinese section would take time, given the size and complexity of the country, the issue of the relationship with the Chinese Regional Science Association – Taiwan (CRSA-T), and the presence of several regional science groups on the mainland.

(3) Colombia

P. Aroca reported on regional science meetings that took place in Colombia. There are at least two groups that are active in the regions, in Cartagena and Medellin respectively. Earlier, J. Serrano and Y. Higano attended a workshop of Columbian regional scientists in Cali. It was likely that a RSAI-affiliated section would be established. An international RSAI-sponsored workshop, along the lines of the one held in India in January 2006, would be considered.

(4) Bangladesh

Md F. Islam noted that Bangladesh had been in the news recently with Dr Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank having been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2006, for their development of micro-credit. Md F. Islam reported that the First Annual Conference of the Bangladesh Regional Science Association (BRSA) would be held 16-17 March 2007 at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The conference website is <http://teacher.buet.ac.bd/mzaman/brsa/>. It is hoped that several eminent scholars in regional science from around the world would attend. G. Hewings and Y. Higano had already confirmed their participation. The deadline for abstracts and proposals is 31 January 2007. It was also noted that the 10th PRSCO Summer Institute was planned to be held in Bangladesh in June or July 2008.

(5) Philippines

Y. Higano is trying to establish contact with regional science scholars in this country. B. Resosudarmo of IRSA had informed him of at least two groups to contact. R. Stimson commended Y. Higano on the efforts PRSCO is making to expand its activities in developing countries and noted that these activities may well be eligible for financial support from the Asian Development Bank.

g) The venue and the host sections/associations of the 2008 PRSCO Summer Institute and the 2009 PRSCO Regular Meeting

It was agreed that the 2008 Summer Institute would be held in June/July in Bangladesh. It was also agreed that the first choice for the 2009 regular PRSCO conference would be China. However, R. Stimson noted that if this turned out to be infeasible, the Australian and New Zealand section of RSAI would be willing to step in and host the 2009 conference. The last PRSCO conference hosted by ANZRSIAI was held in Wellington, New Zealand, in December 1997. A decision would be made at the PRSCO conference in Vancouver in May 2007.

h) Report of the Pacific Editor, PiRS

The Pacific Editor of Papers in Regional Science, J. Poot, reported that a new editorial team had been appointed by RSAI, commencing January 2007. The new Editor-in-Chief is Professor Jouke van Dijk, who is presently the European editor and will continue to

have that role as well. The new North-American editor is Professor James LeSage. The new Pacific editor is Professor Philip McCann. The new book review editor is Dr Charlie Karlsson. J. Poot noted that the long-term trend has been for an increasing number and share of Asia-Pacific sourced papers in the journal, as well as an increase in referees from this region. These are positive developments. A major change is planned with respect to paper submissions: from 2007 papers will be handled electronically through the Manuscript Central software that will be accessed from the journal's webpage. J. Poot also noted that RSAI Council is currently investigating the feasibility of a 'practitioners'-oriented journal that would complement the academically-oriented PiRS.

i) Any further business

The next meeting of the PRSCO Council will be held 8.30-10.30 pm on Monday 7 May at the Westin Bayshore Hotel in Vancouver, Canada. It is likely that a PRSCO meeting will also be held during the ERSA conference in Paris, August 29 – September 2, 2007.

President Y. Kumata closed the meeting at 10.00 am.