

MINUTES

RSAI COUNCIL MEETING MIAMI

FRIDAY 11ST NOVEMBER, AT 16:30 | 2011

1. Apologies

Council members present: Yoshiro Higano (Chair), Roberta Capello, Alessandra Faggian, John Caruthers, Mark Partridge, Paul Dalziel, Patricio Aroca, Sam Ock Park, Jouke van Dijk and Tomaz Dentinho.

Apologies from Council Members: Eduardo Haddad and Danni Shefer.

Ex-officio members present: Michel Carroll, David Boyce.

Apologies from ex-officio members: Dimitris Balas, J. LeSage, Phil McCann, Rui Luís and Charlie Karlsson.

Invited persons: Eveline van Leeuwen, RSAI Newsletter Editor; Xue Ying and Sun Teishan, promoters of the 5th International Conference of RSAI in Beijing; Carlos Bustamante and Juan Serrano, promoters of the RSAmericas/RSAI Meetings for Latin America; and Roger Stough, former RSAI President and member of the Long Range Planning Committee.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of Barcelona Meeting (Sep 2011) were accepted by all members of the Council.

(Yoshiro Higano proposed the anticipation of Points 7. and 8. of the Initial Agenda which was accepted)

3. 5th International Conference of RSAI on Regional Science and Sustainable Regional Development in Beijing (Y.H.; SUN Teishan; Xue Ling)

Sun Teishan and Xue Ling, from Beijing University, presented their association and a proposal to organize the 5th International Conference of RSAI in China in Beijing, 2 -4 of November 2012.

They first reported the history of regional science in China that started in the seventies associated with the opening of China's economy, continue in the eighties with the major concern on the balanced growth of Chinese regions, and continued afterwards with the participation of Chinese researchers on the major themes of regional science (growth poles, spatial complexity, new economic geography, computer general equilibrium models, industrial clusters,..).

Sun Teishan and Xue Ling also reported that Regional Science Association of China (RSAC) was formally established in 1991, affiliated to Beijing University, and since then have been in close connection with key researchers in regional science such as Massa Fujita, Walter Isard and David Beckmann that have been invited to participate in Chinese regional science meetings. The official connection with RSAI was not put forward along these years because the Regional Science Association of Taiwan had a different name but now this issue has been overcome.

Finally Sun Teishan and Xue Ling presented the proposal of the 5th International Conference of RSAI in China in Beijing, 2 -4 of November 2012. They intend to invite 20 international scholars and have the participation of more than 100 researchers. The proposed theme is Sustainable Organization and Public Policy.

Yoshiro Higano acknowledged the presentation of the association and asked if the councilors had any remark or question on the proposal.

Mark Partridge asked why the Conference will only attract 100 researchers and Gunther Maier inquired what would be the language of the Conference.

Sun Teishan and Xue Ling replied that the organization will try to increase the number of participants and that there will be simultaneous translation between Chinese and English.

I The proposal that RSAC will organize the 5th International Conference of RSAI in China in Beijing, 2 -4 of November 2012, was approved unanimously by the RSAI Council.

4. Biannual Latin American Meetings in Regional Science (Carlos Bustamante and Juan Serrano).

Roberta Capello informed the Council that, following her participation in the Mexican Congress of 2011, the Regional Science Association of Mexico, proposed the establishment of a biannual Latin American Meeting in Regional Science, to alternate with the Meeting of RSAmericas. Carlos Bustamante and Juan Serrano were invited to present the proposal to RSAI Council.

Carlos Bustamante and Juan Serrano justified their proposal on seven major points: 1) There is a major concern on the effects of the global crises in regional development in different areas of the planet; 2) Latin America wants to reactivate its identity; 3) Latin America would like to reinforce his knowledge on regional development processes and learn and share with the others; 4) We want to stimulate the creation of new sections of regional science; 5) English can be a barrier to enter to many Latin American researchers and therefore the meetings can include sessions in Latin American more common languages; 6) the meeting can become biannual to alternate with the Meeting of RSAmericas; and 7) it is planned a three-day work in the 1st week of September beginning in 2012 in Mexico City.

Patricio Aroca reported that RSAmericas supports the initiative and stressed that this can be seen as a trial meeting to gather Ibero - American Sections.

Jean-Claude Till reinforced that it is crucial to involve new countries such as Ecuador and Peru, with which there are already contacts, but also to bring on board Caribbean countries such as Cuba.

Yoshiro Higano said that PRSCO is very concerned with the inclusion of China in RSAI and that PRSCO will support the initiative within the scope of RSAmericas.

Roberta Capello said that this is a good opportunity to reinforce RSAI in Latin America which in line with the development of an International Community. RSAmericas should take the lead and RSAI is there to help and to make sure that the right people are on board so that the initiative can be successful, with financial support if necessary.

Gunther Maier pointed out that from the European perspective this is a very important proposal namely for the Spanish and Portuguese sections. Nevertheless it is the first step in the process and it is not expectable that a lot of Europeans can join the conference but that will change over time.

II The proposal that the Mexican Section will organize the 1st Biannual Latin American Conference of Regional Science in September 2012, within the scope of RSAmericas and RSAI, and with the support of PRSCO and ERSA, was approved unanimously by the RSAI Council.

5. Report of LRPC

Roberta Capello reported the outcomes of the LRPC meeting, focusing following topics that were commented by the councilors:

- World Conferences:
Roberta Capello said that “in May 2012 there will be the World Conference in Timisoara (Romania). In Barcelona a committee was created to propose a new design for RSAI World Conference. The committee presented some ideas on the frequency, venues, dimension, organization and financing issues that were analyzed by the LRPC. In the RSAI Council of Timisoara there must be a decision by the Council on the future design of RSAI World Conferences.”
- RSAmericas/RSAI Meetings for Latin America:
Roberta Capello reported that “the LRPC analyzed the proposal by the Mexican Section for the organization of Latin American Meetings every two years alternating with the meeting of RSAmericas. The LRPC agrees that the initiative can help the development of new sections in Latin America and create a major push in the existing ones. The first Latin American Meeting is proposed for September 2012 in Mexico City.
- RSAI in China:
Roberta Capello informed the Council that “the proposal analyzed in point 3. (5th International Conference of RSAI on Regional Science and Sustainable Regional Development in Beijing) is promoted by one of the four groups RSAI have been in touch with to create a RSAI Section in China. All these groups are interested in Regional Science. The LRPC discussed the issue and agrees on the following: a) To support the initiative of Yoshiro Higano that invited all the four regional science groups for a joint meeting of the 26th of November 2011 to decide on the future structure of RSAI in China; b) RSAI shall presume that the group that does not send a representative to the meeting has no interest in the official creation of a RSAI Section in China and RSAI should go ahead with the groups that are represented.”

III The report of the LRPC was acknowledge by RSAI Council.

4. RSAI Archivist Report and Fellows Awards

Based on the Thirteenth Report to the RSAI Council (in annex) David Boyce reported that there is an automated archiving capability available to RSAI through the Regional Science Archives established at Cornell University Library. In order to keep these records updated David Boyce presented the following proposal to RSAI Council:

The Council of the Regional Science Association International desires to archive its website at www.rsai.org and the websites of its constituent superregional and section organizations. In order to perform function effectively, the Council requests all webmasters and others responsible for posting materials to: 1) regularly update and maintain their websites; 2) post materials of interest to regional scientists in portable document format (pdf) in order that they may be preserved; 3) maintain through their websites a record of conference programs, research publications, council meetings, officers and other items of historical interest to the field of regional science.

Gunther Maier asked if there was any problem with the language and David Boyce clarified that Cornell Archivists do not care about language. Jouke van Dijk stressed that it is very important to have archives. John Carruthers asked if there is any problem in printing all the material. David Boyce replied that the first think they do is to transfer everything into paper.

David Boyce also reported that, after the death of Walter Isard, he worked with the family and Walter Isard documents were boxed up and put in Cornell University. David Boyce also pointed out that the family provided 10000 US\$ to catalogue the documents

IV The proposal presented by David Boyce was approved unanimously by the RSAI Council.

Concerning the Fellows Award David Boyce informed the Council that, since the Fellows Award must be initiated by propositions the members and most of them do not know the process, they must be informed soon.

Finally David Boyce proposed that each member should have access to the list of other members in the members's area of RSAI webpage.

V The proposal that each RSAI member should have access to the list of other RSAI members was approved unanimously by the RSAI Council.

5. Selection of RSAI Councilors- at-large (YH)

Tomaz Dentinho reported that there were 303 votes for the election of RSAI Council at large and that the elected members are:

- Dr. Amit Batabyal from Rochester Institute of Technology;
- Dr Rachel Franklin from Brown University
- Dr Jean-Claude Thill from the University of North Caroline
- Prof. Daniel Czamanski from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology

They will replace Graham Clarke, Danni Shefer, Roberta Capello and Sam Ock Park.

Members of the Council asked if former elections had a similar number of votes. Graham Clarke, former executive director of RSAi, reported that the usual number has been around 400.

VI Yoshiro Higano and the Council welcomed the new members for 2012-2014, and thanked the contribution of those whose term finishes in 2011.

6. World conferences:

Roberta Capello informed the Council that 9th World Congress of the Regional Science Association International will take place in Timisoara, Romania, on 9-12 May 2012, the presentation of abstracts will be until November 2011 the 30th and that the keynote speakers, main themes and structure of the scientific program is settled.

Jean Claude Till reported the results of the working group created to think on future World Conferences. He said that RSAI world conferences should be every 2-3 years, with 5000-1000 participants, in global places, organized in association with supra national organizations of RSAI and with a fee between 300 and 400 Euros.

VII Yoshiro Higano and the Council asked the working group to come with a clear proposal for the next RSAI World Conference in Timisoara.

9. Publication reports:

a) Papers in Regional Science

Jouke van Dijk reported that the day before there was a meeting with the Editorial Team and the Editorial Board of Papers in Regional Science. He also said that that PIRS maintains its production on schedule, decreased the impact factor from 1,4 to 1,2 because the number of pages (which are in the denominator of the index) but that next year is expected to rise to 1,5 or may be more.

b) Regional Science Policy and Practice

Michael Carroll informed the Council that submissions are increasing mainly from PRSCO area and also from Europe but not so many from Americas.

VIII The RSAI Council congratulate Jouke van Dijk and Michael Carroll for the work done in PIRS and RSPP.

10. RSAI Awards

Gunther Maier reported that the RSAI dissertation award for 2011 was attributed to Tijis Neutens with a special reference to the second candidate Emmanouil Tranos.

Roberta and the Council congratulated Graham Clarke for the Kohno Award 2011.

Jouke Van Dijk reported that the Beckmann award for 2011 was attributed to two papers: one by Maarten Bosker and Harry Garretsen; and another by Akihiro Otsuka, Mika Goto and Toshiyuki Sueyoshi.

David Boyce remembered that in 2011 the new Fellows are: Åke E. Anderson, Jönköping International Business School, SWEDEN; and Gordon Mulligan, University of Arizona, USA.

Roberta Capello suggested a “master of ceremony” that takes into account the whole process of the awards (from the constitution of the commissions, to the organization of the attribution of the awards). One of the new incoming members of RSAI could take this role.

IX The Council agreed that one of the new incoming members of RSAI will be chosen to take this role.

Tomaz Dentinho suggested that there should be a limit to the total prize of the dissertation award to support registration, accommodation and travel costs to a RSAI Conference.

X the Council agreed unanimously to establish a 750 € limit to the total prize of the dissertation award.

11. ED matters (TD)

a. Negotiations with Wiley Blackwell

Tomaz Dentinho reported that RSAI will be in charge of the enrolment of members and will pay WB the journals subscription according to the number: until 4000 (around 5 £) and for more than 4000 (1 £). Furthermore RSAI participation in the profit of the journals will be kept the same. He also reported that there is one last point to talk about on the price updating with UK inflation which must be decide soon.

b. Sections’ recognition

Tomaz Dentinho said that the list of recognized RSAI sections will be publicized in RSAI web page.

c. Budget for 2012

Tomaz Dentinho informed that expenditures of RSAI will be guided by the draft budget presented in Barcelona Council which will be updated for the Timisoara conference based on the new financial relations with WB and the sections.

13. AOB

Eveline van Leeuwen, RSAI Newsletter Editor, told the Council that the new issue of the Newsletter will be ready to be distributed in Timisoara and that the theme will be on Regional Impacts of Disasters.

14. Date of next meeting

Timisoara, 11th May. 8H00 – Long Range Planning Committee; 14H00 – RSAI Council Meeting.

Tomaz Ponce Dentinho, RSAI Executive Director, November 2011, Angra do Heroísmo.