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Special Session (SS17) on:
Regional Science and Peace Science

Organiser:

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The aim and scope of the special session:

The objective of the papers presented in the session is to show how different techniques and methods of Peace science can be applied in Regional Science. Regional planning starts with the basic assumption of the existence of political, geographic, economic and social regions within a nation or a group of nations. Climate and soil differences are pronounced in different parts of a country demanding different types of economic and social development. Historical reasons, political situations, language differences, ethnic diversities and most important the economic considerations all dictate that we choose a smaller area and decide the optimum planning strategy. In the beginning it may appear that this policy of treating a portion of the space (district, metropolitan area, river basin, State or a combination of States, etc.) as the proper planning unit, goes against the very formulation of overall national plans and the concept of national unity. But this does not have to be that way. A national plan cannot take into account the best possible strategy for regional development in its broad framework. On the other hand, a regional plan by its very definition possesses some question of inter-regional conflict. Whereas these conflicts are often over-emphasized and used against the concept and implementation of regional plans, enough is not said about how we can resolve these conflicts (including terrorism) through interregional cooperation which will at the same time maximize the potentialities of development of respective regions. It is true that the benefits of this type of cooperation are often preached by politicians in different regions. But in reality it is seldom pursued primarily due to the absence of scientific studies which can show how this cooperation will lead to increased benefits for the interested regions and the nation as a whole. The papers in this session will discuss some of the analytical techniques of Peace Science which can be applied for such a purpose of conflict prevention and possibly, resolution.

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