

MINUTES

RSAI COUNCIL MEETING JULY 2025

July 23rd, 2025, 11:00 am GMT by Zoom (3:30 pm in Sri Lanka)

1. (Hiro) Apologies
2. (Hiro) Approval of Minutes from the previous RSAI Council Meeting (*Annex I*)
3. (Ana) Approval by the RSAI Council of the new text agreed by the Honours Committee regarding the Peter Nijkamp Award (*Annex II. New text*)
4. (Ana) Situation of the Czamanski Dissertation Award.
5. (Ana) Approval of the new Selection Jury for the Jean Paelinck Award
6. (Ana) RSAI activities: LARSA and the future "Central Asian Regional Science Association"
7. (Hiro) Report on the PRSCO re-structuring Committee (*Annex III*)
8. (Ana) Late application for the NNT Program from Ecuador for an event taking place in Sept 2025. (*Annex IV Application by RECIR*)
9. (Ana) Improvement of the 2 RSAI Programs: Nurturing New Talent Program and Building Bridges Program. (*Annex V*)
10. (Hiro) AOB
11. (Hiro) Next meeting

1. Apologies

(Hiro)

The following members are participating onsite: Hiroyuki Shibusawa, Hidehiko Kanegae, Andrea Caragliu and Ana Viñuela

The following members are participating online: Sebastian Bourdin, Andre Chagas, Camila Lenzi Carlos Azzoni, Evelin Van Leeuwen, Patricio Aroca, InKwon Park, Sarah Low, Daniela Constantin, Rosella Nicolini.

Apologies received from Roberta Capello and Martjn Smith.

We start the meeting when we reach 50% members of the council required for all our decisions to be considered final.

RSAI president welcomes all RSAI members attending online or onsite. For convenience, a power point presentation will be shown during the meeting with the 11 points of the Agenda.

2. (Hiro) Approval of the minutes of the RSAI Council Meeting, *New Orleans meeting November 2024* (*Annex I. Minutes*)

Minutes were previously distributed to the all council members and now are officially approved.

3. (Ana) Approval by the RSAI Council of the new text agreed by the Honours Committee regarding the Peter Nijkamp Award (*Annex II. New text*)

The Honours Committee had the duty of adapting the text of the Peter Nijkamp award as we received lots of emails always asking the same 3 issues related to the present text : i) if the eligibility criteria is "researcher being from a developing country" or if "researcher being part of an entity/faculty based in a developing country"; ii) the definition developing country, which was depending on the RSAI council, not on any transparent classification of countries, and

iii) who has to fulfil the eligibility criteria in a very common case: the person applying for this individual award (CV is evaluated) or all the authors that could be signing the paper that is also evaluated to receive this award.

The answers provided by the Honours Committee to these issues were that the award should say that the applicant needs to be both from and working in a developing country. And in order to define a “developing country”, the definition used by the World Bank -already used for the different RSAI fees-, should be the criteria used.

A discussion regarding the RSAI reduced fees (to only group D and C, the so-called low-income countries and lower middle-income countries) and the criteria for this Award started. After having a look at the list of countries, the RSAI Council realized that if following the same criteria, very few countries with a RSAI section would be eligible for this award. The suggestion by the Honours Committee to include also for this Award countries from group B, is then analysed by the RSAI Council. Group B includes countries that could be considered “developing”, but others not so much. Concerns about receiving too many applications for this award arise.

Patricio Aroca expresses his concerns about Chile, which is considered by the World Bank classification as a developed country. Patricio suggests to use another classification not based in the GDP or GDP per capita, such as the Human Development Index. Countries such as Brazil or Colombia are in a similar situation; they would not qualified as “developing” with the World Bank classification. Although a relevant debate, we decide to keep at present time a criteria based on the World Bank classification -as in the rest of awards- and therefore the question is enlarging the “developing country” criteria exclusively for this award to the countries from group B or not.

After remarking the need to advertise better this award and reach researchers from “developing countries” as the award does not receive many applications anyway, the RSAI council agrees on the following country eligibility criteria: “This Award will use the country classification by the World Bank and will consider “developing countries” those that fall into the category of: “Low Income Country”, “Lower Middle Income Country” and “Upper Middle Income Country”. Nevertheless, in equal conditions, preference will be given to applicants from and based in low and lower-middle income countries.”

Regarding the individual or collective eligibility issue, the RSAI council decides that the paper can be written by more than one person and the eligibility criteria needs to be met only by the individual applying for the Award. It is necessary to remark that the award is individual, and a letter of acknowledgment about the paper being sent for consideration for publication to PiRS and being part of an individual award from the rest of authors will be requested.

Changes in the PN Award text are approved.

4. (Ana) Situation with the Czamanski Dissertation Award

Regarding the (Stan) Czamanski Dissertation Award, the RSAI Executive Director informs that after writing to the person in charge with the award according to the RSAI web page, Laurie Schindtler (lschintl@gmu.edu), it is discovered that Laurie is no longer in charge of this Award, she does not know who is in charge (and anyway, nobody has written to her to apply for this award this year).

When reading the Minutes of RSAI Council meeting 2014, we can see that this Award was created in 2014 by initiative of Daniel Czamanski (son of Stan Czamanski)

Here a summary:

- *The prize for the best PhD dissertation proposal will be awarded in memory of Stan, past president of the Regional Science Association, 1975-1976.*
- *The prize will be awarded every 2 years. The prize of US\$ 1000 will be awarded to the student and a plaque to the student's advisor.*
- *The selection will be by a panel of 3 persons serving for three years each.*
- *Eligibility of students - in the spirit of Stan's philosophy, the prize will be open to students from around the world. However, it will be awarded at the NARSAC annual meeting.*

- *The prize money of US\$ 1,000 will be provided by Danny Czamanski for at least 3 rounds. An effort will be made to raise sufficient funds to establish a fund to sustain the prize beyond six years. In case that no outside funds will be secured beyond the 3 rounds, the prize will cease to be awarded.*

Money does not come from RSAI, neither from NARSC and there are no funds raised. Although it clearly says "In case that no outside funds will be secured beyond the three rounds, the price will cease to be awarded", a consultation is made to Neil Read, president of NARSC. We have three options in relation to this Award: a) to cease the award, the award doesn't exist anymore; b) to continue with the award but with no monetary price as there's no money from the family anymore, and c) using RSAI money for this award but in that case the nature of the award should be changed considerably because it would collapse strongly with the RSAI Dissertation Awards. So some differentiation would be needed between both of them.

After remarking that neither of them is anyway very popular, Azzoni suggest a fourth alternative, which would be changing or giving the Czamanski name to the RSI Dissertation Award.

The RSAI Council votes to discontinue the Award. The RSAI Executive director will invite NARSC members and/or Cornwell University to write to the family to inform them. The Award will disappear from the RSAI web page.

5. (Ana) Approval of the new Selection Jury for the Jean Paelinck Award

The Selection Jury for the Jean Paelinck Award approved by the RSAI Council in the previous online meeting needs to be modified. Specifically, Carlos Azzoni needs to be replaced due to conflict of interests. He was substituted by Eduardo Haddad.

The Jean Paelinck Selection Jury met right after and decided to recommend Luc Anselin for this Award.

The RSAI Council approves the recommendation by the Selection Jury and Luc Anselin is the 2025 Jean Paelinck Award. The RSAI Executive Director will write email him to inform him and invite him to be keynote speaker at the 2026 World Congress in Quito.

6. (Ana) RSAI activities: LARSA and the future "Central Asian Regional Science Association" (no Annex)

RSAI Executive Director informs about her attendance last month to a workshop in Colombia that was funded by the NNT program. There's a new willingness in Latin America to reactivate the Colombian section; the Ecuador section and others in Latin America are already pretty active. Conversations about organizing a LARSA conference in 2027 were initiated (it would be 10 years after the last one).

And then I would like also to inform you about an email that we received about the creation, the legal creation of an association called Central Asian Regional Science Association, which is not yet a part of RSAI, but that is the aim. It would be a national section, the same as the German-speaking section or the French-speaking section, that comprises several countries from Central Asia. The initiative is led by Uzbekistan, and then all the countries from the Silk Road. So far, they just created it legally, and with the base in Samarkand, they had to deal with lots of trouble, because we're talking about different countries. And I don't think they are going to make it for the 15th of August, which is the deadline to apply to become a national section of RSAI. But let's hope that for 2026, they manage to put all the paperwork together so we have a new application for a new RSAI section in Central Asia. (Hiro) Report on the Restructuring Committee

RSAI President about the four times meetings we had so far. Hiro remarks that during the last council meeting, he had already explained part of the outcome of this committee. A report was distributed among the members of the RSAI Council and the LRPC.

The aim of the Re-structuring committee is to assess the development of the regional science in Asia, Pacific, from global perspective, explore potential organisational models and present a vision for the future. The consensus from the last meeting was to maintain the current structure for the time being, while recognizing the possibility for gradual separation in the future. In this committee, two models were proposed: One is renaming from PRSCO to Pacific Asia Regional

Science Association, and another model is creating a new super regional association, Asia Regional Science Association. Pacific Asia Regional Association is a short-term strategy, gradually transition, transparency, the collaboration is emphasized. The second model, Asia Regional Science Association is a medium of a long-term strategy. In this committee, we discuss several points. We have the common understanding. The main points are strength in Asia, to propose a transition timing, regional balance, objective indicator or evidence, and collaboration. And this part, this discussion of this committee are expected to contribute to the future planning for the three-quarter measure. The important next step or phase is set up the committee within the PRSCO. So this committee suggests the establishment of a committee for a future PRSCO formation.

No questions or comments

7. (Ana) Late application for the NNT Program from Ecuador for an event taking place in Sept 2025 (Annex II NNT application by RECIR)

The RSAI Executive Director informs about the need to talk about two RSAI programs, which are not depending on any honours committee, it's depending on ourselves.

As we discussed before, there's a problem because not having a just-in-time process for the NNT program; or if you prefer, there is too much length of a time between the deadline for the application and the time that the event takes place. This is the main reason why we get late applications; the other possible reason is the lack of information (so we have a marketing problem about RSAI awards and RSAI programs).

We received this NNT Program application from Carolina Guevara from Quito, who is a part of the local organization committee of the World Congress. She realized about the NNT Program after talking to the organizers of a Colombian workshop. Ecuador is organizing a workshop next September 2025 and she claims that the workshop is "part of the events leading up to the 2026 RSAI World Congress". According to her information, the event will be a seminar with open audience, a workshop where Patricio Aroca is going to be teaching, and then a training course. They are also presenting a budget and the application is on the name of the Ecuador Regional Science Association.

The RSAI Executive director informs that there is still money left from last year call for LARSA, from last year call (1,400 euros) and requests the RSAI Council to take a decision about this late application?

Rosella Nicolini intervenes (she can not vote) to remark she is not against but we need to consider the "institutional story", ie, RSAI should fund through the NNT Program events that are not mere seminars or classes (teaching) but that "nurture talent" and serve as a platform for dialogue for people, for young scholar to present their research and to become members of the Association. We can not give the idea that RSAI is a cash machine. We need to finance something which is structurally relevant for the association, for the visibility of association, for the quality of a kind of scientific activity we are performing, that means interaction between students, .

RSAI Executive Director cannot agree more with Rosella's remarks, but underlines that this philosophy behind the NNT program, ie everything that Rosella indicated, should be written down so all applicants know what is expected from the event and also we can apply a selection criteria. For instance, writing down if a country with no section will have preference over a country that has no section; or what is indeed meant by "nurturing new talent" (e.g. events addressed to PhD students, PhD students presenting their research, interacting). But all that should be written in the rules because right now, there's nothing like that written in the rules to apply.

After concerns regarding the nature of the events to be sponsored by the NNT Program and after remarking that it is the RSAI council the one deciding to fund or not (no the RSAI Executive Director), Evelin also underlines that there is indeed need for interaction and network building but everything should be written down clearly. Evelin also remarks that she is in favour of approving this late application because it is Ecuador and we always have few people/initiatives from these countries, so we are promoting Regional Science.

After noticing the direct involvement of one of the RSAI council members in the event under discussion, it is decided that we will vote online. Results show the approval of this application for the NNT Program (1,400 euros). Carolina Guevara will also be informed about the result.

8. (Ana) Present situation of the 2 RSAI Programs (Nurturing New Talent Program and Building Bridges Program) and suggested changes to be discussed among the RSAI Council members

The RSAI Executive Director informs that one short term issue was to accept (or not) the late application for the NNT Program, and another changing the text (long term strategy) to include new deadlines and if we are willing to, all the points addressed by Rosella in the previous discussion regarding the general philosophy of the NNT Program.

There is also a need to discuss about the Building Bridges Program. Both RSAI programs are not depending on any honours committee; they directly depend on the RSAI Council Committee.

Thus, the big issue is how to modify these two programs in order to fit better the present needs of the Association.

So far the NNT program might be funding workshops and summer institutes that should not be granted -as suggested in the previous point of the Agenda-, and maybe we should redefine what expected for the events funded by the NNT program.

A new text is needed also for the Building Bridges (BB) program, where we have again the eligibility problem: the countries that are eligible are group C and D from the World Bank classification so very few people can apply. That can be one of the reasons for the lack of success of the BB Program and the other one could be that we are really bad at marketing.

While the RSAI Executive Director had a proposal (attached as Annex) for the NNT Program, she had nothing for the BB Program. Suggestions by the members of the RSAI Council are expected.

Regarding the deadline for the NNT Program, we need a narrower gap between the application deadline and the moment the event takes place.

So far, it's said that the deadline is October 7th, 2025 for workshops is taking place in 2026. So far, nobody has applied.

The following suggestion in relation to the deadline was agreed by the RSAI Council:

“Nurturing New Talent Program

Call for events taking place in year 2026

1st deadline November 1st 2025 (for events taking place from January 2026 to December 2026)

2nd deadline June 1st 2026 (for events taking place from June 2026 to December 2026)”

Also, the RSAI Executive Director explains that some workshops applying for the NNT program already incorporate names of the speakers participating while others are more open and then, write to RSAI representatives asking for potential speakers. Maybe the text of the NNT Call could be changed to offer local organizers both financial support and -if they want to- scientific support for the event funded by RSAI. This is approved by the RSAI council making clear that RSAI would not be paying for that “scientific support”.

RSAI Executive Director asks for the collaboration of the RSAI Council members to reflect specifically the philosophy of the NNT Program (i.e. what is expected from a NNT Program event) in the Application form. This point will be discussed in the next RSAI Council meeting.

In relation to the Building Bridges Program, the RSAI Executive Director simply informs about the few applicants received each year and the need to re-think this program. Conversations left for the next RSAI Council meeting. (2024: one application from India to attend ERSA; 2023: 3 applications from India to attend NARSC, ERSA and PRSCO; 2022: zero applications; 2021: zero applications; 2020: 24 applications from Morocco to attend RSAI Congress in Morocco; 2019: zero applications, etc)

9. AOB

(Hiroyuki Shibusawa)

No questions or requests

10. Next Meeting (Hiroyuki Shibusawa)

Next meeting will take place in ERSA, Athens.

RSAI Council Members

2025 RSAI Council Members

	Name Hans Westlund	Member	Period	Email address
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4	Sumona Banjeree	PRSCO Representative	2025-2027	sumona_bm@yahoo.com
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6	Haifeng Qian	NARSC Representative	2024-2026	haifeng-qian@uiowa.edu
7	Sarah Low	NARSC Representative	2025-2027	salow2@illinois.edu
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9	Lise Bourdeau-Lepage	ERSA Representative	2023-2025	lblepage@gmail.com
10	Eveline Van Leeuwen	ERSA Representative	2020-2025	eveline.vanleeuwen@wur.nl
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12	Patricio Aroca	LARSA Representative	2020-2025	patricio.aroca@unab.cl
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ANNEX II

The Peter Nijkamp Research Encouragement Award

DEADLINE to RECEIVE APPLICATIONS: November 30th 2025

1. Goal

The Award recognizes the outstanding potential of a mid-career researcher **from a nation in the developing world**, and seeks to encourage his/her development as a high-quality researcher in the field of Regional Science and his/her participation in the international Regional Science community.

2. The Award and Eligibility

2.1 The Award is established to recognize and honour the contribution Professor Peter Nijkamp, a RSAI Fellow and an outstanding regional science researcher, has made to the encouragement and involvement of young scholars in Regional Science research and activities.

2.2 The Award recognizes the potential of outstanding scholarship in Regional Science in a mid-career researcher **from and based** in a developing nation.

2.3 This Award will use the country classification of the World Bank and will consider “developing countries” those that fall into the category of: **“Low Income Country”, “Lower Middle Income Country” and “Upper Middle Income Country”** (See World Bank classification below)

2.4 Eligibility to apply for the Award is restricted to researchers:

- a) who has held their doctoral qualification for no more than ten (10) years as at the 31 December in the year in which they apply for the Award (i.e. mid-career researchers)
- b) **from a developing country (as defined in 2.3), and**
- c) **in full time employment in either a teaching or a research position in a university or research institution based in a developing country (as defined above)**

2.5 An applicant for the Award must be member of RSAI in good standing (**Please contact your national section or RSAI in case you want to become a member**).

2.6 The Jury of the Award will have to both evaluate:

- a/ the research track record and performance of the applicant (as demonstrated in a full up-to-date Curriculum Vitae), and

b/ the quality of a written formal research paper on a topic in Regional Science (formatted in accordance with the requirements by *Papers in Regional Science*),

2.7 The winner of the Award will be able to attend one of the Supra-national RSAI Conferences (ERSA; PRSCO, NARSC) or the RSAI World Congress with the following costs being covered by RSAI (up to 750€): conference fees, transportation (with advanced purchase of flights) and accommodation during the conference. The winner will participate in the conference, present the submitted paper, and by then will have the paper submitted for review and potential publication in *Papers in Regional Science*. The winner of the Award will be granted with a certificate at the RSAI meeting that decides to attend

2.8 The award is individual (only one person awarded) but up to two (2) awards may be made in any one year. **The eligibility criteria must be met by the researcher applying for the Award, but not for all the co-authors of the paper submitted.**

3. Nomination Process

3.1 By April each year the Executive Director will contact members of RSAI and post on the RSAI website a notice calling for applications for the *Peter Nijkamp RSAI Research Encouragement Award*.

3.2 The eligible mid-career researcher must submit an electronic copy of:

a/ the up-to-date CV of the applicant for the award

b/ the research paper (formatted in accordance with the requirements for submitting a manuscript to *Papers in Regional Science*) **and**

c/ in case of multiple authors, a letter of acknowledgement from all authors specifying that i) they are aware of the application of (name of applicant) to the Peter Nijkamp Research Encouragement Award based on the paper (title of the paper); and ii) they agree with the paper being sent for consideration for publication in the RSAI Journal *Papers in Regional Science*.

to the RSAI Executive Secretary (rsai@apdr.pt) for consideration for the Award at any time up to the end of November.

4. Jury and Process for Recommending the Award

4.1 The Jury will be formed by the immediate past-President of RSAI (as Chair), an Editor of *Papers in Regional Science*, and two RSAI Fellows. The Jury needs to be approved by the RSAI Council

4.2 The RSAI Executive Director will forward the applicant's documentation received to the members of the Jury and the Jury will convene (in person and/or by

email/teleconference) after January 1st in the following calendar year and will evaluate the applications. Its recommendation(s) will be submitted to the RSAI Executive Director by the end of January in that year.

4.3 The RSAI Secretary will inform the winner(s) of the Award and make all the necessary arrangements for their travel (up to a limit of 750 €) to the RSAI World Congress or one Supranational Conference (ERSA, PRSCO, NARSC) at which the paper will be presented and where the winner will be publicly announced and granted with a certificate

4.4 The Award must be taken up and the winner(s) attend the conference nominated during the year that the Award is announced or the Award will lapse.

WORLD BANK CLASSIFICATION

- A. **High Income Countries:** Andorra; Antigua and Barbuda; Aruba; Australia; Austria; Bahamas, The; Bahrain; Barbados; Belgium; Bermuda; British Virgin Islands; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Cayman Islands; Channel Islands; Chile; Croatia; Curaçao; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Faroe Islands; Finland; France; French Polynesia; Germany; Gibraltar; Greece; Greenland; Guam; Hong Kong SAR, China; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland; Isle of Man; Israel; Italy; Japan; Korea, Rep.; Kuwait; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macao SAR (China); Malta; Monaco; Netherlands; New Caledonia; New Zealand; Northern Mariana Islands; Norway; Oman; Palau; Panama; Poland; Portugal; Puerto Rico; Qatar; San Marino; Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore Sint Maarten (Dutch part); Slovak Republic; Slovenia; Spain; St. Kitts and Nevis; St. Martin (French part); Sweden; Switzerland; Taiwan (China); Trinidad and Tobago; Turks and Caicos Islands; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; United States; Uruguay; Virgin Islands (U.S.).
- B. **Upper Middle Income Countries:** Albania; Algeria; American Samoa; Argentina; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belize; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Brazil; Bulgaria; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Equatorial Guinea; Fiji; Gabon; Georgia; Grenada; Guatemala; Guyana; Iran, Islamic Rep.; Iraq; Jamaica; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kosovo; Lebanon; Libya; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Mauritius; Mexico; Montenegro; Namibia; Nauru; North Macedonia; Paraguay; Peru; Romania; Russian Federation; Samoa; Serbia; South Africa; Sri Lanka; St. Lucia; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Suriname; Thailand; Tonga; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; Venezuela, RB.
- C. **Lower Middle and Low Income Countries:** Angola; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Bolivia; Cabo Verde; Cambodia; Cameroon; Comoros; Congo, Rep.; Côte d'Ivoire; Djibouti; Egypt, Arab Rep.; El Salvador; Eswatini; Ghana; Honduras; India; Indonesia; Kenya; Kiribati; Kyrgyz Republic; Lao PDR; Lesotho; Mauritania; Micronesia, Fed. Sts.; Moldova; Mongolia; Morocco; Myanmar; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; São Tomé and Príncipe; Senegal; Solomon Islands; Sudan; Timor-Leste; Tunisia; Ukraine; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; Vietnam; West Bank and Gaza; Zambia; Zimbabwe; and Low Income Countries: Afghanistan; Benin; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Central African Republic; Chad; Congo, Dem. Rep.; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Gambia, The; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Haiti; Korea, Dem. People's Rep.; Liberia; Madagascar; Malawi; Mali; Mozambique; Nepal; Niger; Rwanda; Sierra

Leone; Somalia; South Sudan; Syrian Arab Republic; Tajikistan; Tanzania; Togo;
Uganda; Yemen, Rep.

ANNEX III

Toward the Future of PRSCO: A Proposal by the PRSCO Restructuring Committee of the RSAI

Prepared by: Hiroyuki Shibusawa (PRSCO Restructuring Committee Chair)

1. Background and Objectives

The Pacific Regional Science Conference Organization (PRSCO) has long promoted regional science across the Asia-Pacific. However, recent regional expansion and diversification have highlighted the need to reconsider its organizational structure.

This committee was established following a proposal by former RSAI President Professor Hans Westlund at the 2023 NARSC Conference in San Diego, aimed at exploring PRSCO restructuring. The committee's role is to assess the development of regional science in Asia-Pacific from a global perspective, examine possible organizational models, and present a future vision.

This vision reflects the RSAI Restructuring Committee's perspective and will be submitted to the LRPC, RSAI Council, and PRSCO Council. Given that each supranational organization has different origins and histories, any restructuring will require careful coordination and decision-making by PRSCO or a successor organization.

This report summarizes the three committee meetings held between November 2024 and May 2025, and presents proposals for PRSCO's future direction. (See Annex for details.)

2. Committee Members

In Kwon Park, Sumana Bandyopadhyay, Tieshan Sun, Budy Resosudarmo, Jaewon Lim, Kingsley Haynes, Hiroyuki Shibusawa, Ana Viñuela.

3. Summary of Committee Meetings

1st Meeting (Nov. 13, 2024)

- Discussed the concept of a new organization suitable for the Asia-Pacific region.
- Agreed to maintain the current structure for now, while acknowledging the potential for gradual separation in the future.

2nd Meeting (Feb. 26, 2025)

- Proposal by In Kwon Park of Korea to rename PRSCO to *Pacific Asia Regional Science Association (PARSA)*.
- Suggested a two-phase, gradual transition process with trust-building.
- Emphasized the need to clarify regional structure and secure involvement of China and India.

3rd Meeting (May 30, 2025)

- Tieshan Sun of China proposed *Asia Regional Science Association (ARSA)* as a supranational body focusing on Asia-specific needs.
- ARSA would support annual conferences, research, and young scholars.

- Highlighted the importance of gradual transition, regional inclusion, and transparent procedures to short-term transition plans.
- Agreed on the coexistence of PRSCO and ARSA during the transition.

4. Key Discussion Points and Common Understanding

- **Strengthening Asia:** Support for current members, promotion of new memberships, and young talent development are essential.
- **PARSA Proposal:** Considered acceptable as a short-term, flexible transition model, though some concerns exist regarding identity and clarity.
- **ARSA Proposal:** Supported as a medium to long-term Asia-focused model, but concerns about confusion from separation remain.
- **Transition Timing:** Most agree on a 5-year transition period or more.
- **Regional Balance:** Inclusion of China, India, and neighboring countries is key.
- **Objective Indicators and evidence:** Needed to ensure transparency and justify transition.
- **Collaboration:** Allowing members to belong to multiple supranational organizations. Coordinating with the RSAI and national sections to establish a new organization.

5. Summary

The Asia-Pacific region is a highly important area of research for regional science, encompassing both population growth and decline within its diverse contexts, and facing significant environmental challenges.

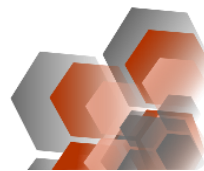
This committee reaffirmed that the Asia-Pacific region—particularly across Asia—is a key area for the development of regional science, where the pace and level of activities vary widely. Given this situation, it is essential to strengthen the foundation by supporting existing members and expanding membership.

Proposed future initiatives, such as PARSA and ARSA, reflect the region's diversity while allowing for evolutionary change. However, as the history of PRSCO's development demonstrates, restructuring should not be too rapid or proceed without careful planning. A gradual and comprehensive approach, grounded in objective indicators and evidence, is preferable. Flexibility, transparency, and collaboration with RSAI and national organizations are also critical.

It is expected that these efforts will contribute to the continued advancement of regional science in the Asia-Pacific region and foster the creation of a more sustainable and resilient future.

6. For the next phase

We propose that PRSCO establish a "Future Vision Committee" to further discuss current challenges and future directions, and report back with recommendations.



1. Proposed title of event

2025 RECIR Regional Science Workshop

2. Dates and venue

The 2025 RECIR Regional Science Workshop will be held in September 25th and 26th, 2025 at University of Guayaquil in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

3. Intended target (PhD students, young researchers)

There is an urgent need to align science, local public management, and strategic sectors to address the growing challenges that cities and territories face. Therefore, the 2025 RECIR Regional Science Workshop is targeted to young scholars and servants from local governments, who will benefit from training in spatial analysis and feedback for their ongoing research from our invited senior scholar.

This workshop is part of the events leading up to the 2026 RSAI World Congress, to be held in Quito in 2026.

4 How the proposal fits the RSAI Nurturing New Talent programme

The 2025 RECIR Regional Science Workshop is an academic event, organized by the Ecuadorian Network of Regional Science (RECIR, acronym in Spanish), aiming to establish a work space for two main objectives:

- Nurturing young scholars from a senior scholar.
- Interaction among young scholars from the Ecuadorian Network of Regional Science.

Regarding the first objective, we have previously contacted Prof. Patricio Aroca. He is an associate researcher in the "Geographies of Conflict and Cohesion" research group at COES and a full professor at Andrés Bello University in Viña del Mar, Chile. He is also a principal investigator for the Millennium Scientific Initiative Core of MIDEPLAN, "Regional Science and Public Policies," and an affiliated research professor at the Applied Regional Economics Laboratory (REAL) at the University of Illinois, USA. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA; a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Chile, and a Commercial Engineering degree from the Universidad Austral de Chile. His research interests include Regional Economics, Econometrics, and Natural Resource Economics. Scholars from the Ecuadorian Network of Regional Science and from public institutions can benefit from her experience in research regarding topics of Regional Science through the interaction promoted in this academic space.



We plan to organize three consecutive events for the workshop: 1. Seminar with an open audience, 2. Workshop about research methodology with artificial intelligence provided by our invited senior researcher, Patricio Aroca, and 3. Training course about applications of spatial analysis, provided by our associated trainer organization, Ergostats.

5. Detailed breakdown of budget

	Quan tity	Unitary cost	Total cost
Senior researcher (flight ticket Chile-Ecuador and accommodation)	1	\$700.00	\$700.00
Accommodation per night	4	\$100.00	\$400.00
Trainer of applications of spatial analysis (flight ticket Quito-Guayaquil)	1	\$500.00	\$500.00
Accommodation per night	4	\$100.00	\$400.00
Materials (agenda and badge)	20	\$7.80	\$156.00
Coffee Break (3 stations)	60	\$2.00	\$120.00
Lunch (2 days)	40	\$6.00	\$240.00
Dinner (1 day)	20	\$25.00	\$500.00
Co-funding in species			
Facilities of the University of Guayaquil (technological resources and auditoriums)	1	\$1,000.0	\$1,000.00
Total			\$4,016.00

ANNEX V

Nurturing New Talent Program.

2025 Call for events taking place in year 2026*.

Deadline October 7th 2025

** Although **events taking place in 2025** should have applied in the previous call of the **NNT Program**, **late applications are permitted if and only if the event is due**. Funding will depend -among others- on the availability of unused funds. In this case, please write ASAP to the RSAI secretariat (rsai@apdr.pt) indicating in subject **LATE APPLICATION for the NNT PROGRAM** and attaching the application form filled with the information requested.*

The RSAI aims to continue promoting the development of Regional Science events providing financial assistance through the **Nurturing New Talent Program (2025 Call for Events taking place in 2026)**.

The Council has pledged resources to co-finance Regional Science events (mainly workshops and summer schools) intended to provide substantive training to pre and post-doctoral researchers, who will have the opportunity to present their work, receive feedback from senior scholars and their peers, as well as learning about the latest works and advances on Regional Science.

The selection of the Regional Science workshops and Summer Schools to be co-funded by RSAI will try to be geographically balanced.

- To ask for **Financial Support** for Regional Science **events that will be taking place in 2026**, the Local Organizers of the event (workshop or Summer School) need to fulfil the following application before **October 7th, 2025** and send it to the RSAI secretariat (rsai@apdr.pt). ([Template nurturing talent application \(Download\)](#))
- Additionally, if Local Organizers feel they also need **Scientific Support**, they should get in touch with RSAI secretariat (rsai@apdr.pt) indicating the name of the event and their scientific needs. RSAI will then try to find suitable speakers/teachers

The Local Organizers are strongly encouraged to consult with their national and supranational sections to allow better coordination among different initiatives and to include with their application a brief letter by the National and Supranational Sections acknowledging the existence of the initiative.

All applications will be reviewed by the RSAI Committee and will have to be formally approved by the RSAI Council. Their decision will be final.

APPLICATION FORM

1. Proposed title of event

Please provide a title of your event (workshop or summer school)

2. Dates and venue

Please provide information on the dates (days or week, month and year) and the place (town/University/Faculty) when the event will be taking place.

3. Organizers and teachers/speakers

Please provide information on the Local Organizers (name, email and affiliations) and, if possible, a detailed list of intended speakers/teachers and their affiliations*. Confirmation of their availability and/or acceptance to participate would be strongly appreciated.

*Scientific Assistance can be requested to RSAI to find suitable speakers/teachers related to the proposed event and topic. In such case, the Local Organizers should contact the RSAI secretariat (rsai@apdr.pt) asking for Scientific Assistance either before or after submitting their application for the Nurturing New Talent Program.

4. Intended target (PhD students, young researchers)

Please describe the audience that the proposed workshop/summer school is targeting and the expected number of attendees/students.

5 Structure of workshop/Summer School

Please describe the possible structure of the workshop (plenary sessions, parallel sessions, lectures, etc) or the Summer School (lectures, practical classes, etc).

6 How the proposal fits the RSAI Nurturing New Talent program

Please provide a justification of the event in the context of the scope of the “Nurturing New Talent” program (<https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/programs/nurturing-new-talent.html>).

4 Detailed breakdown of budget

Please provide information about the following items:

- Total overall expenditures (e.g.: accommodation, dorm fees, travelling expenses, meals, class materials, etc.) **
- Total overall income (e.g.: co-financing from home institution, fees charged to attendees/students, co-funding from private institutions, etc.)

Please notice that Nurturing New Talent Program RSAI provides financial support to Regional Science **events (no to individual's expenses).