Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics

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Submitted by Wendy Thomas


This year IAOS and SCORUS jointly organized their biennial conference in Shanghai. Two of the plenary sessions, “The harmonisation of regional and urban statistics, a challenge” presented by Dr. Berthold Feldmann, and “Innovative use of centrally collected data to inform policy at city and region levels: presented by Mr. Dev Virdee, were well received. The six SCORUS-focused sessions were well attended with up to 70 participants in each session. Thorough and insightful discussions focused on current issues, the inclusion of measurement of well-being in regions and cities, growing demand for regional and urban statistics, GIS and regional reference systems, new approaches to policy evaluation, and the application of urban and regional statistics in Asian cities.

Papers from the conference are available on the Conference website at: <www.iaos2008conf.cn>

SCORUS General Assembly

The General Assembly of SCORUS had been held in the afternoon of 16 October, 2008 after the closing ceremony of the conference. Some 30 participants had attended. Besides discussing various administrative issues of SCORUS, the General Assembly agreed on the composition of the 2009-2011 SCORUS Executive Committee as follows:

Chairperson -- Dominic Leung (Hong Kong, China)  
Vice Chairperson -- Dev Virdee (UK)  
Secretary -- Wendy Thomas (USA)  
Treasurer -- Teodora Brandmuller (Eurostat)

Moreover, the formation of a SCORUS Regional Group for Asia with Mr. Huang Langhui from China as the Organizer was also endorsed. Mr. Huang together with the Organizer of the Regional Group for Europe, Mr. Berthold Feldmann from Eurostat, will also serve as members of the SCORUS Management.

International Forum on Metropolitan Statistics, Beijing, 19 to 21 October 2008


The Chair of SCORUS, Mr Dominic Leung, was invited as one of the officiating guests at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Forum held on 20 October. In his address to the audience, Mr Leung expressed his gratitude to all SCORUS colleagues for their support to the Forum, particularly SCORUS Regional Group for Asia and the Census and Statistics Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for their efforts in assisting to organize the event.

Discussions at the Beijing Forum mainly focused on six major areas, viz. (1) Establishing and improving metropolitan statistics systems; (2) Demand for statistics in metropolitan development; (3) Statistics and policy-making; (4) Applications of statistical data; (5) Methods for compiling metropolitan statistics; and (6) Establishment and application of IT-based statistics.

Apart from 13 presentations by researchers and practitioners from the mainland of China, some 19 professional statistical practitioners and scholars from a host of countries, economies and international organizations, including Australia, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Macao, Ireland, Korea, the Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, the United Kingdom and the Eurostat had also attended the Forum. The presentations were very insightful and helped inject new perspectives and inspire innovative ideas conducive for enhancing participants’ knowledge and understanding of the practices, techniques and strategies adopted in respect of urban and regional developments research.

The Forum was a great success with its goals achieved and many fruitful discussions and exchanges culminated. It provided valuable platforms for promoting developments in urban and regional statistics. The organizer had received favourable and encouraging feedback from participants around the world.

Further information about the Forum is available on its website at: <www.bjstats.gov.cn/ddsgjtjlt/english/>

13th Annual Berlin SCORUS Conference 2009: Statistics and the Help of Young People in Big Cities, 6 to 8 April 2009

The focus of this year’s conference will be on “Income and Life Conditions”. The annual Berlin SCORUS meetings are for scientists from universities and research institutes, statisticians, selected experts from welfare and public health institutions, from firms and unions, social workers and others. They are organized by Prof. Dr. Eckart Elsner to further the discussion on regional and urban issues concerning young people. The size and venue of these conferences provide an excellent opportunity to share experiences and research, and to develop valuable relationships while discussing these important issues.

Once again this years conference will be hel in the South-West of Berlin in Bildungs- und Begegnungszentrum “Clara Saltheim”. Koblankstrasse 10, 14109 Berlin-Wannsee. The BBZ is situated in the Berlin-Flotsdham Cultural landscape protected by UNESCO. Please contact prof. Dr. Eckart Elsner for additional information Profelsner@aol.com

A special thanks to Mr. Dominic Leung for providing the report on the two meetings in China.