

## **Welcome address**

**Henry BAKIS**

Let me first warmly welcome all attendants of this IGU Commission Conference. To begin with, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Chonnam National University, Kwangju, who has kindly accepted to host this Conference; Prof. Woo-kung HUH has worked very closely with me for nearly two years as scientific organizer for this occasion; Prof. Jeong-rock LEE, the local organizer. This meeting cannot be separated from all the excellent work they have done for it, and... from all the work that will have to be done after the Conference, particularly in editing papers.

Let me be an ambassador of all full and corresponding members of the IGU Commission who are not in a position to join us today. It is a tradition in this Commission, since its inception, to allow the "virtual" presence of all members who are unable to attend the Annual Meeting. This may be because of expenses associated with the Conference (like registration fees, travelling costs, hotel accommodation and so on) or because of other kinds of reasons, such as prior engagements. Well, this tells us that distance can still be a problem... in this cyber-geographical age!

Despite their absence, many of these members were actively involved in the preparation of this Conference and we will hear the presentations of some of these Absentees' papers by their representatives. Let us hope that this may change in the near future with papers given by the authors themselves on the teleconference network. This would also allow lively and exciting discussion. In this year, their participation is ensured by the presence of their representatives in this Meeting place and the submission of final versions of their papers for publication.

I count on you all for this new project of the Commission, and I thank you all (and all the absent but active colleagues) for the work that we have achieved together. I hope to see you soon in the next Chicago 2001 Meeting.

## **Practical information from the local organizers. Program and Introduction to the IGU Pre-Congress Meeting, Korea 2000**

**Woo-kung Huh & Jeong-rock Lee**

In the context of the 29th International Geographical Congress a Pre-Congress Meeting (the Communication Networks and Telecommunication. Commu-nission's 2000 Conference) is held in College of social Sciences, Chonnam National University, Kwangju, Rep. Korea from 8 to 11 of August. More than 20 persons attended the meeting including seven Korean student helpers.

Several who promised to attend the Pre-Congress Meeting, however, did not show up as well, but, as usual since the foundation of our scientific network in 1984 (Paris International Geographical Congress), the absentee's papers, in addition to welcoming address, keynote address and reports, were all read and discussed by the attendants.

### **PROGRAM**

#### **Session 1 : "The opening session"**

"Welcome address from the Commission IGU 96-C04 Chairman" (Henry BAKIS)

"Practical information from the local organisers" (Woo-kung HUH and Jeong-rock LEE, Korea)

"Understanding the geocyberspace: a major task for geographers and planners in the next decade" a scientific introduction of the Conference (Henry BAKIS<sup>1</sup>, read by Woo-kung HUH)

#### **Session 2 : "Telecommunications and Regional Development"**

"Information technology and balanced development" (Jung Duk LIM, Korea)

"Prospects of information and communication technology for the development of tourism in Nigeria" (Monanu ONOKALA, Nigeria)

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1. See also - BAKIS H. & LU Z. (2000), "The Change from the Geographical Space to Geocyberspace. Review on the Western Scholars on Regional Effects by Telecommunications", *ACTA Geographica Sinica*, vol. 55, n°1, 2000, p. 104-111 (in Chinese, abstract in English).

“A Northwest Russia information network: IT, urban ecology, environmental protection, and sustainable development for the transition economies”

(Craig ZUMBRUNNEN, USA)

“Territorial change and telecommunication in Castres - Mazamet, France”

(Katia CHIABAUT, France)<sup>2</sup>

“Telecommunications in Tunisia” (Adel BEN HASSINE, Tunisia)<sup>3</sup>

### **Session 3: “Networks and flows”**

“The structure of international Internet flows in cyberspace” (George A. BARNETT, Bum-Soo CHON, and Devan ROSEN, USA.)

“City network of Korea: a telephone-call interpretation” (Woo-kung HUH, Korea)

“Emerging patterns in telematic flows among European countries” (Edoardo BORIA, Italy)

### **Session 4: “IT, commodity flows, and telecommunication policies”**

“The making of new-tech cities: Helsinki and Singapore compared”

(Anne HAILA, Finland, and Kong Chong HO, Singapore)

“Information network and the distribution space in Japan: a case study in Japanese consumer’s goods” (Kenji HASHIMOTO, Japan)

“The geographical characteristics of commodity flows in the cable TV home shopping” (Jee-sun LEE, Korea)

“Management of a small-scale community broadcasting FM station in Japan; case study: FM West Tokyo” (Harumichi YAMADA (Japan)

“Call centers in France” (Nicolas BONNET, France)<sup>4</sup>

### **Session 5: “Interactions in the cyberspace”**

“Communications by face-to-face contacts and by the internet in R & D activities; an empirical study at Kyushu Island, Japan” (Yoshio ARAI, Japan)

“Interactions within telecommunicative extended spaces - a systems theoretical approach” (Andreas KOCH, Germany)

“Three models of the firm and their consequences on telecommunications” (Olivier LEFEBVRE, France)

“Spatial structure based on information industries and network” (Yuhua WU, China)

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2. To be published in a next issue of *Netcom*.

3. A French version of this paper was already selected for publication: see BEN HASSINE A. (2001) “Internet en Tunisie”, *Bulletin de l'AGF. Géographies*, 78<sup>e</sup> année, n° 1, p. 11-16.

4. A French version of this paper was already selected for publication: see - Bonnet Nicolas (2001), “le développement des centres d'appels en France”, *Bulletin de l'AGF. Géographies*, 78<sup>e</sup> année, n° 1, p. 39-46.

**Closing session**

“The IGU C04 Commission activities since the Washington Meeting (1992) - Report  
by the Commission Chair” Henry BAKIS (France)

“Proposal for a New IGU Commission: Geography of the Information Society”  
by Aharon KELLERMAN (Israel)<sup>5</sup>

**General Discussion**

“Synthesis and formal closure of the Meeting” by Woo-kung HUH (R. Korea)

**Field study**

Additionally, a field study was organised around the vicinities of Kwangju including Naju, Kangjin and Changhung. It was a whole-day excursion visiting a post office that serves as an internet café, a rural computer school (and also... an old Koryo porcelain site near Kwangju). Dinner or lunch together were arranged every day, so that the participants were able to get to know of each other more and more, and to be familiar with Korean foods as well. The participants were, all happy with the trip, and dinner/luncheon meetings.

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5. Already published: Kellerman A. (2000), “Proposal for a Commission on the ‘Geography of Information Society’ - 2000-2004”, *Netcom*, vol. 14, n° 3-4, p. 207-212; See also Kellerman A., Bakis H. (2000), “Objectives of the IGU Commission on the ‘Geography of Information Society/Objectifs de la commission de l’UGI Géographie de la société de l’information”, *Netcom*, vol. 14, n° 3-4, p. 431-432.