

## **SCORUS Contribution to the IOAS Report for 2009-2011**

### (I) Conferences Organised/Contributed by SCORUS

As one of its major activities, SCORUS organised and made contribution to international conferences and meetings during the session 2009-2011 to provide opportunities for individuals interested in city and regional statistics and their application in urban planning to meet, talk and plan for the future.

SCORUS has been involved in the preparation of two invited sessions sponsored by the IAOS in the 2009 ISI Session held in Durban with the themes “Bringing Statistics Home: Role of the Official Statistical Offices in Supporting Comparable Statistics at Regional, Urban and Local Level” and “Improving Comparability of Urban and Regional Data: Standards, Harmonization, and Sharing Metadata Resources for Survey Development”. Both themes placed focus at the relationship between how data are collected at the national level and prepared for distribution at the local level. The presentations provided a basis for interesting dialogue on issues involved in striking a balance between meeting local analysis needs and international comparison requirements at the sub-national level, particularly in metropolitan areas and surrounding regions. It was noted that it is important to understand the effects of metropolitan areas as social and economic engines for development as well as the effect of interaction within surrounding urban and rural areas. Also noted were the issues common to supra-national, national, regional and municipal governments including: coordination and cooperation between levels, access to microdata for sub-national areas, comparability of sub-national area definitions, and the availability of very small area data to support interpolation of consistent geographic areas for comparison within and between countries.

SCORUS organised its 27<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in Riga under the sponsorship of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia in August 2010. The scientific programme covered the following topics within the overall theme “Creating a knowledge base for successful cities and regions, along the statistical value chain”: (a) issues of a good statistical design in addressing conflicting needs; (b) data collection from a variety of sources for creating a knowledge base for informed research and problem solving; (c) the challenges in the compilation, estimation, and documentation of the information required to create and sustain a knowledge base; (d) complex requirements of analysis and research; and (e) accessibility in data dissemination and the role of users in enhancing the knowledge base; (f) quality evaluation of the knowledge base and user satisfaction.

A number of sessions were organised by SCORUS in the 2010 IAOS Conference held in Santiago,

Chile, including (i) Regional Energy Supply and the Environment: The Statistical Challenges; (ii) Sustainable Economic Development of Cities and Regions; (iii) Cities, the Environment and Climate Change; (iv) Regional Interaction of Environmental, Social and Economic Statistics; and (v) Assessing the Environmental Quality of Life at the Local Level. In each of the sessions, arrangement was made to include useful sharing of the local experience of the hosting country through contributions from the Chilean Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINVU).

In the 2011 World Statistics Congress in Dublin, SCORUS will organise an invited paper session on “Recession and Recovery – measuring the impact and situation in cities, neighbouring areas and regions within countries”.

## (II) Activities of the Regional Groups

Continuing effort has been made by the Regional Group for Asia to work with several organizations in China, co-sponsoring events as well as increasing the involvement of Asian colleagues in non-Asian based conferences.

New opportunities are being actively explored to develop regional groups in other parts of the world such as North America or the Americas.

## (III) The SCORUS Management for the Session 2011-2013

The General Assembly of SCORUS held in Riga in August 2010 endorsed the following nominations for the SCORUS Management for the new session:

Chair: Petra Kuncova (Ms) [Czech]

Vice-Chair: Stephen KC Leung [Hong Kong]

Secretary: Wendy Thomas (Ms) [USA]

Treasurer: Teodora Brandmueller (Ms) [Eurostat]

Convenor of the Regional Group for Europe: Berthold Feldmann [Eurostat]

Convenor of the Regional Group for Asia: Liu Jianwei [China]

Coordinator for America: Ms. Wendy Thomas [USA]