

**Reports on Conferences and Seminars**

**THE PHENOMENON OF THE CULTURE OF LEISURE  
HELD ON 19-20 OCTOBER 2006 IN WROCLAW, POLAND**

**By Bohdan Jung**

The historical city of Wrocław, located in south-western Poland is bidding to organise in 2012 a World EXPO on the theme of 'Culture of Leisure'. In preparation for the final decision to be made by Paris-based Bureau International des Expositions (BIE), the City is staging two conferences, one held in October 2006 and the other planned for July 2007.

The October conference attracted some 150 international and Polish participants. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Wally Olins from the Oxford University, who explored the use of leisure as an element of branding a World Expo to be held in Poland. Two parallel sessions featured known leisure and management specialists.

The first session focussed on *Social and Cultural Perspectives on Leisure*. The following presentations were made (in chronological order):

Digitalisation of leisure: myths and hopes (Bohdan Jung, Warsaw School of Economics)

From otium to leisure: unpacking the concept of free time (Anna Gašior-Niemiec, Polish Academy of Sciences)

Some driving factors behind emergence of the culture of leisure (Roman Galar, Wrocław University of Technology)

Leisure Culture or Leisure in Culture? (Veena Sharma, Prajna Foundation, New Delhi)

Leisure public policy in Latin America: entertainment and socio cultural inclusion (Carlos Alberto Rico A, President of FUNLIBRE - Colombian Leisure and Recreation Foundation)

The second session, entitled *Looking at Emerging Trends* dealt with the following topics:

Next year in Grand Canaria? Autonomization of leisure time in modernity and postmodernity (Leszek Koczanowicz & Dorota Frackiewicz, University of Lower Silesia, Wrocław)

Adapt to survive. The development of thriving culture of leisure in South African cities (Jackie Grobler, University of Pretoria)

Europe's Next generation: Youth culture, Leisure and beyond (Eva Feldmann, Center for Applied Policy Research – CAP)

Engagement in Extreme Sports and the tendency to take drugs. The report from research on teenagers' behaviour (Tomasz Grzyb, Warsaw School of Social Psychology, Campus in Wrocław)

Leisure and urbanization of Latin America (Luiz Octavio de Lima, Camargo Centro Universitário SENAC, Sao Paulo)

An interesting extension to the main conference theme was offered by a session focused on , which included some historical and management insights into the organisation of such an event.