

Editor's Note

As the new editor of this Newsletter I welcome all the readers and contributors, many of who are personally known to me, and many others with whom I now wish to make an ongoing acquaintance. The Newsletter will go on as before with a few minor changes. Firstly, it will now be brought out on a six monthly basis to allow enough time for getting some well researched articles and inputs and allow space for meaningful dialogue. In each issue we propose to have one, or two, article/s and one, or two book review/s depending on the length of each one. Other than these, the Newsletter will carry information and news about ongoing and upcoming activities in the leisure field.

The idea is to make the Newsletter a dynamic forum for alternative inputs on leisure, for dialogue and debate and for providing space for hitherto less heard voices. As such, ideas and comments are welcome!

In this issue we have a message from the new President Prof. Ishwar Modi who is taking his assignment with seriousness and enthusiasm. The message will be a regular feature as it will update readers about any new proposals and ideas mooted for making RC13 a more dynamic and participatory body that will try its best to initiate activities in which members can participate.

I also wish to congratulate the organisers of RC13 meetings at Durban during the ISA Congress. The papers presented were more in number than expected. That says much about those who put in the effort into this somewhat dormant Research Committee. A review of the proceedings of the conference has been given by Prof. Francis Lobo. The RC13 sessions managed to generate reasonable interest and draw some people who had earlier not known enough about it. It was a vibrant coming together as a new committee also was to be elected.

Another important Symposium on Leisure was held at Wroclaw, Poland. Wroclaw is bidding for the Expo in 2012 and has projected a theme 'The Culture of Leisure in World Economies'. As such, it organised a symposium on 'The Phenomenon of the Culture of Leisure' in which a number of scholars from different parts of the world participated. The paper presentations were followed by special sessions dedicated to debate and discussion which proved very useful and informative even as they provided a chance to audience and students to interact with the presenters. The well-organised conference served the purpose of show casing the city in a most wonderful way. The young Mayor, Rafal Dutkiewicz, who himself took active part in the organisation was seen briskly interacting with all the participants.

Another very interesting facet of the conference was the inputs of young volunteers. Wroclaw being a university town has an overwhelming majority of young population (total population 630,000) that comes in from various parts of the region thus providing a multicultural and multi-ethnic mix of population. Besides, the Poles who inhabit this area are mostly drawn from the eastern parts of erstwhile Poland which later became a part of the Soviet Union.

The conference harnessed the energies of the young who very politely and elegantly guided the visitors (each participant had the honour of being personally guided by one young volunteer assigned to him or her!). As such, the conference became a sort of

leisure activity for the youth who also learnt much from the interaction and the proceedings. It was nice to see that the youth could easily approach the Mayor and his officials, without much fanfare and formality. The enthusiasm of a young nation that became a democracy only a few years ago and a member of the European Union in the year 2004 was clearly visible.

An erstwhile German colony, Wroclaw has much to offer leisure practitioners as it still has a number of the baroque buildings standing in tact despite the destruction caused during WW II. The innumerable Churches and Cathedrals and the old mansions, with the Odra river as a backdrop, make the city a tourist's delight for it is still very human in its dimensions and does not overwhelm and diminish the visitor with awesome and impersonal freeways and high rises. The blend of religions – various branches of Christianity and Judaism – reflect the tolerance and liberal attitude of the people. A Jewish Choir performed for the visitors in the architecturally amazing Holy Cross Church on the island in the river that formed the old city.

A report on the proceedings of the Symposium has been provided by Bohdan Jung.

The article on 'Adolescent Development Through Leisure: A Global Perspective' is an extensively researched work providing an alternative view into less looked at aspects of leisure. Linda was part of an international group of scholars who were commissioned to look at the state of knowledge in eight regions of the world. The article draws from some very useful and elaborate reference material. Due to shortage of space that has not been carried on this website. Any one interested in drawing from that material can ask for it from the editor of this Newsletter or even approach the author directly through her e mail.

In the next issue we will be entertaining book reviews as also information about new researches being carried out in the field of leisure. Suggestions and inputs will be most welcome as the idea is to create an active dialogue in the field of leisure through this website.

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