

President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to bring to your kind notice that while we were at the threshold of having nearly 100 members at the time of our last Newsletter, we have now actually crossed the sort of magic mark of 100 members for RC13! We can take due pride at this achievement which was made possible due to all our collective efforts. The very fact that we now have one hundred and seven members (and that many more have promised to become members of our RC at Barcelona, due to the convenience of membership fee payments) from as many as 30 countries is a matter of satisfaction and encouragement. I would like to congratulate you all for contributing to this feat!

Now that you have personal friends and colleagues sharing a common interest, Leisure, you have every possibility to spread your wings far and wide across all continents! Our joint sessions, at Barcelona, with more than a dozen other RCs of the ISA having such diverse academic interests and expertise as education, future research, social transformation and development, ageing, health, religion, science and technology, environment, deviance and social control, work, women, youth, childhood, tourism, and the body may further add to our imagination and aspirations of varied academic collaborations.

You will recall that RC13 faced embarrassment when it was refused to be considered for financial support by the ISA Research Coordinating Committee as some of the Board Members were not paid members of good standing of RC13 in 2007. However, it has turned out to be a blessing in disguise for us at RC13! If our RC stood valid for the ISA Grant at that time, the ISA would not have given us more than US \$ 300. However, when the ISA Grants Committee met again in March 2008, they happily allotted a grant of US \$ 900 to RC13 since it was now a large committee and they had to sanction a commensurate grant for its various proposed activities.

You will be further pleased to know that recently RC13 has been provided with more funds by ISA on account of dues of its membership fee. Hence, now that money is no more a handicap to what we can do, let us plan to undertake various activities under the umbrella of RC13. I will keenly look forward to receiving your innovative and pragmatic ideas.

I also take this opportunity to reiterate and to once again bring to your notice that a **post-Barcelona collection of papers is planned to be published**. It need not be over emphasized that only well acclaimed and quality papers will qualify for inclusion in this volume of great unity and diversity – unity because of its central theme on Leisure, and diversity, because leisure will be examined from varied perspectives in its varied ramifications as is apparent from the list of papers (attached elsewhere in the Newsletter) that will be presented at Barcelona.

I am very hopeful that by now all the Barcelona paper presenters have communicated their abstracts for publication to the CSA Sociological Abstracts at: <http://md1.csa.com/socioabs/submit.php> and have also booked their accommodation in Barcelona. Every passing day will make it more difficult to have a choice of accommodation since the Barcelona Forum is going to be a congregation of nearly or may be more than 3000 delegates. I hope you realize the mega nature of the event and the problems it may therefore entail.

I am pleased to inform you that a sister research committee of ISA with which we share cross-interest i.e. Research Committee on International Tourism (RC 50) has decided to hold its next mid-term conference in India at Jaipur during November 24-27, 2008. Since I am also the Vice-President of ISA RC 50 and responsible for its mid-term conferences and am based in Jaipur, I have been entrusted with the responsibility of organizing this mid-term **ISA RC 50 International Conference on Tourism** on the theme of “**Ever the twain shall meet; relating international and domestic tourism**”. The research committee on Leisure and Tourism of the Indian Sociological Society as well as the Indian Leisure Studies Association are joining hands in supporting this conference.

It would be a matter of great pleasure for me to receive as many members of RC13 as possible and to have personal interaction with them in my own hometown, Jaipur and also with my family, at home. I extend a very hearty welcome to you all to come to Jaipur and be with us. Let me also mention that Jaipur is one of the most sought after tourist destination in India and the beauty of this planned ‘Pink City’ of great heritage and architectural value will enchant you and will make you cherish its memories for long. The announcement and the Call for Papers of this conference are attached in this Newsletter.

As yet we have no record to know how many members of RC13 are young people. In the very first Newsletter I had requested all the members to communicate their CVs not only to have a definite idea about the age groups of our members but also to plan RC13 activities in accordance with their specializations and other interest areas. I had, somehow, assumed that many members of RC13 are young people and that they will benefit by participating in the Young Leisure Scholar Award. But to my dismay, only a handful of our members are participating in this contest. The process of selection of the best paper has already been initiated through an independent selection committee of very eminent leisure scholars, and the one whose paper will be adjudged the best will be honoured with the **Young Leisure Scholar Award** of ISA RC13 at Barcelona. In the best interest of RC13 and all us members **I would once again like to request you all to please send your CVs to me immediately.**

As I sum up, I have a pleasant bit of news to share with all of you. I have been receiving fairly strong feelers from our fellow colleagues and members of RC13 from China that they are seriously contemplating offering to organize the next mid-term conference of our research committee in China in 2009. My response to these feelers, as you can imagine, has been positive and I have encouraged them to go ahead with their plans. So, although it is not yet confirmed, we can look forward to receiving their formal offer in Barcelona. May be you will find it in the agenda of our business meeting.

I am very excited and keenly looking forward to meeting a large number of our new members, too, who are coming to Barcelona. Most of them, nearly two - thirds became members after my taking over as President of RC13. Our sessions and joint sessions, I hope, are going to literally be ‘*melting pots*’ of cultures from all over the world. It’s going to be a great opportunity of mutual learning and sharing, of experiencing and appreciating the profound genius of the Barcelona participants!

Best Regards,

Ishwar Modi

President ISA RC13 (Leisure)

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