

Leisure Newsletter

President's Message

Dear and Esteemed Colleagues,

Greetings from Jaipur, India and Ishwar Modi.

Let me first of all apologize for not being able to communicate with you for such a long time. Right from mid-December 2008 when I communicated with you last with the winter 2008 issue of our Newsletter I had been in the midst of regularly followed academic activities. Until the end of December 2008, I remained heavily involved with the organization of the 34th All India Sociological Conference of the Indian Sociological Society (ISS) in my role as its current Secretary. My this role also demanded to address various national seminars and conferences in India almost regularly. And then came the conference of the Council of National Associations of ISA in Taipei, Taiwan towards the end of March 2009 which focused on the theme of "Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Sociology". While I made a presentation there on behalf of ISS, the CNA conference was attended by representatives of nearly 50 national associations. CNA conference also provided me the opportunity to locate and associate such scholars who are working in the area of leisure and related studies in various countries. I do hope that our research committee will stand benefited in enlarging its membership from several such other countries where we had no presence earlier.

No sooner I returned from Taiwan, came on heels the organizational work of the ISA RC 15 Mid-term conference on "Health for All: Opportunities and Challenges" about which I informed you in our last Newsletter; and also the work of our own research committee's mid-term conference in China on "Leisure: A Pathway to Human Happiness and Social Harmony". At the same time I was once again heavily involved with the organization of the 35th All India Sociological Conference of the ISS scheduled for early October 2009 in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir. However, more than anyone of these conferences, what kept me most busy was to march with ISA in meeting its deadlines in communicating the tentative program of the RC 13 sessions to be organized at Gothenburg, Sweden, July 11-17, 2010 on the occasion of the XVII World Congress of Sociology. Given our very fruitful and satisfactory experience of having successful joint sessions with other research committees of the ISA, it was but natural that efforts be made to repeat this happy experience and as such I once again entered in dialogue with the Presidents of several such research committees with whom RC 13 could have meaningful collaborative joint sessions. Happily and with a sense of fair satisfaction I would like to bring it to your kind notice that while RC 13 had joint sessions with about a dozen other RCs at the first ISA Forum of Sociology in Barcelona, this time RC 13 will be organizing joint sessions with eighteen other RCs of the ISA having more than one RC as a collaborating partner in four sessions as you can notice from the program of RC 13 Sessions / Joint Sessions. **(Program of RC 13 sessions / joint sessions attached).**

It may be of interest to note that keeping in tune with the main theme of the ISA World Congress of Sociology at Gothenburg "**Sociology on the Move**", RC 13 decided to focus on "**Mapping Leisure and Life through the Ages**" as its main theme. The theme of the Presidential Session of RC 13 will also remain the same. It is proposed that a post conference volume on the same theme covering as many countries and regions of the world as possible be brought out. Besides the invited speakers to the Presidential Session at Gothenburg, which includes all the three participating past-Presidents of RC 13, contributions will also be included from the cross-section

of RC 13 members representing various countries and regions in the world. As such all such members of RC 13 who wish to participate in this project are welcome to prepare their contributions for consideration of publication in the proposed volume on "Mapping Leisure and Life through the Ages" in the context of their own countries / regions. I would much appreciate your expression of interest either to me or RC 13 Secretary, Dr. Veena Sharma.

I once again take this opportunity to bring to the notice of young members / potential members of RC 13 that as in Barcelona at Gothenburg also a Young Leisure Scholar Award will be presented to a young scholar (of below the age of 40 years) whose paper will be considered the best among the presented papers based on the decision of the committee constituted for this purpose. **(Announcement of the Young Leisure Scholar Award attached).**

I am very hopeful that as in Barcelona a large number of our committee members will also be participating at the ISA Congress in Gothenburg. I also do hope that you will be meeting a large number of new RC 13 members besides the old colleagues. Do start preparing right now to be in Gothenburg. Such members who need financial support for participation may apply for travel and accommodation grant or registration grant as per rules of ISA **latest by January 31, 2010** to the Program Coordinator of the Research Committee where a paper will be presented. **(ISA Guidelines for Financial Support attached).**

I do hope that the response to the Call for Papers of the RC 13 Sessions and Joint Sessions will be overwhelming and that we will be able to meet a large number of our colleagues in Gothenburg.

Best Regards,

Ishwar Modi

President ISA RC 13 (Leisure)

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