

Leisure Newsletter

President's Message

Dear Members,

Greetings from Jaipur, India and Ishwar Modi, President, ISA RC 13.

Since I communicated with you in the last Newsletter, our Research Committee had made significant strides. Given our sincere and sustained joint efforts the membership of RC 13 which stood at 30 in the beginning of 2007 is now at the threshold of crossing 100. As such the target which we have set for ourselves seems to have been achieved. Research Committee on Leisure never had so many members at least during the last one decade. I may also proudly mention that now we have members from as many as thirty countries spread over all the continents.

I am also happy to bring it to your kind notice that the response to our call for papers for the various RC 13 sessions / joint sessions (mentioned separately elsewhere in this newsletter) at the First ISA Forum of Sociology being organized at Barcelona during September 5-9, 2008 has been overwhelming. We have received more than 120 abstracts and as such can look forward to the participation of at least 100 participants at Barcelona. It is all the more a matter of great pleasure for me to report that nearly a dozen important RCs of ISA are joining hands with us to hold the joint sessions and as such the Barcelona Forum is going to provide us a great opportunity to widen our horizons and to interact directly with the members of the collaborating RCs. Association of other specialized Research Committees of the ISA with the Research Committee on Leisure will also reinforce the relationship of leisure to various other social phenomena. This occasion will also provide us the opportunity to work upon joint collaborative projects in the areas of common interest with other RCs.

The Barcelona Forum will also be a happy occasion for all the members of RC 13 not only to interact with the fellow members and chairs from 30 countries but also to benefit from the presence of the three past presidents of RC 13 viz. Teus J. Kamphorst (1990-1994), Kenneth Roberts (1998-2002) and Francis Lobo (2002-2006).

It can hardly be overemphasized that young members of the RC be provided special opportunities of encouragement by way of official recognition and awards for their works of excellence. In order to accomplish this objective, the Board of RC 13 has decided to institute the Young Scholar Award for the best paper presentation by the young members of the RC on the occasions of RC 13 mid-term Conferences and the ISA Congress. I do hope that the institution of this award will also help improve the overall quality of the presentations and the subsequent post-conference/congress publications. I do hope that all the members and presenters will keep this in mind while writing their papers. In my view, our guiding principal and the *Mantra* or incantation for whatever we plan and do under the umbrella of RC 13 has to be "*Excellence*". I am very hopeful that each one of us will earnestly follow this as one's own dictum and a part of conscience.

Looking forward to sharing your ideas, wisdom and plans to strengthen the sociology of leisure in all its entirety and ramifications, and to warmly welcome you all in Barcelona,

Ishwar Modi
President, ISA RC 13.
Email: iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in