

ARSC NEWS

The Newsletter of the Applied Regional Science Conference

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Inauguration address from new president

Tatsuaki Kuroda, The 13-th President of the ARSC

I have the honor of being appointed as the thirteenth President of the Applied Regional Science Conference from 2011 to 2012. When ARSC was established with the first president, the late Dr. Noboru Sakashita in December, 1987, I was just a graduate student at University of Pennsylvania. I still remember the scene that Prof. Masa Fujita (the 7-th President) told me there, "I heard they will establish a new association of Regional Science in Japan somehow." While I never expected to be chosen as the president of ARSC, 24 years later, I would like to do my best for the grave responsibilities as the president, with moral support by all members.

Just before the inauguration, the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred on March 11 this year. I would like to extend herewith my deepest condolence and heartfelt sympathy to all members those affected by the earthquake and tsunami. While I myself was born and grew up in Tohoku region, all of my relatives and friends around Sendai are turned out to be fine. However, watching the stricken beaches near Sendai or the

coast of Sanriku where I enjoyed cycling in the past, I could not help becoming depressed till this April.

On the other hand, as a regional scientist, I was stimulated by the recent change of supply chains represented by international or interregional fragmentation of industries. For instance, the reduction of automobile production all over the world due to an affected supplier of electronic parts revealed the change straightforwardly, besides the automobile plant there, relocated basically for preparation against expected Tokai Earthquake. Needless to say, one of the great achievements of Regional Science these years shall be the elaborate modeling of agglomeration economy by New Economic Geography or Spatial Economics so-called. In Japan, the population share of the three metropolitan areas, i.e., Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, has exceeded 50%, which implies the strong economic force of spatial concentration as a matter of fact. Although Japan has been keeping the basic policy such as “to solve the overcrowding or depopulated areas” or “to abolish the income disparities among regions” after the Second World War, we are just reconsidering it recently. Rather, we have started the discussion about the policy, recognizing the merits of concentration or agglomeration, when the disaster happened. I think the Great Earthquake provides us, regional scientists, with the question such as “What is really the redundant structure of activity distribution over the country against natural disasters?” Likewise, we should consider again how we could depict the future landscape of typical aging societies in rural areas such as Tohoku. Some of our members, of course, shall involve many works of restoration and rehabilitation of devastated areas. I really hope that our academic society, ARSC, would make outstanding contributions toward this kind of issues, stimulated by the disaster, as well.

As announced in another part of this letter, we have decided to postpone the second Asian Seminar of Regional Science scheduled this autumn in Sendai, due to the disaster. I am grateful for your understanding about this.

Finally, to the best of my poor ability, I would like to contribute to the development of the ARSC that shall be the most stimulating interdisciplinary “space” in Japan. Continued support by all members will be greatly appreciated.

2. Election Result for Vice President

The election for the Vice President of ARSC was held by the mail-in voting period ended on March 5, 2011. **Professor Ryohei Nakamura** (Okayama University) was elected. His term is from April 2011 to March 2013.

3. Call For Papers: The 25th Annual Meeting of ARSC

Shinichiro Iwata (Toyama University)

The 25th Annual Meeting will be organized under the direction of Professor Shinichiro Iwata(Toyama University), who heads the organizing committee. Pertinent information is summarized below.

Dates: December 3rd and 4th, 2011

Place: Toyama University (Toyama-City, Japan)

(<http://sites.google.com/site/arsc2011toyama/>)

Registration Fee: Members ; free Others ; 2,000yen

Deadline for Application: September 15th, 2011

Submission of Full-paper: November 18th, 2011

To present a paper at the meeting, please submit a sheet of A4/Letter-sized paper that lists the following information: (1) Speaker and co-authors (if any); (2) Title; (3) Abstract of around 100 words; (4) names of two or more prospective discussants, to the Organizing Committee.

The sessions will be organized under the following common subjects. However the topic of individual papers need not be restricted to those subjects. Besides the general sessions, the Thinktank sessions and the special session " Regions" will also be organized.

- * **Urban and Regional Analysis:** City and Regional Systems, Urban and Regional Redevelopment, Informatics and Urban Centers, Congestion Problems, Migration, Land Use, Urban and Regional redevelopment
- * **Transport:** Urban Transport Systems, Toll and Charge for Motorway, ITS, TDM
- * **Logistics:** Intraurban and Interurban Freight, Out-Sourcing
- * **Environmental Issues:** Environmental Taxation, Global Warming, Energy Analysis
- * **GIS**

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4. The second Asian Seminar in Regional Science ---Postponed

The second Asian Seminar in Regional Science, scheduled this October in Tohoku University (Sendai-city, Japan), has been postponed because of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

5. Balance Sheet for Fiscal 2010

Balance sheet for fiscal 2010 is summarized as below. Details will be reported in the next issue.

Balance Sheet (2010)

(10,000 Jpn.Yen)

Credits		Debits	
Balance brought	858	RURDS publication costs	282
Membership dues	468	ARSC Journal publication	66
Meeting registration fees	111	Annual meeting costs	186
others	1	Remittance to RSAI	19
		General administrative costs	96
Total Credits	1,438	Total Debits	649
		Balance carried forward	789

6. Report of the ARSC Managing Committee

The first meeting of the ARSC Managing Committee was held on June 3rd, 2011, at Tokyo University. The points of discussion are summarized in the below. If you are interested in some particular topics, please contact with the Secretariat by e-mail.

- * Election result for the Vice President (reported in this issue).
- * Balance Sheet of Fiscal 2010(reported in this issue).
- * The Second Asian Seminar in Regional Sciences (postponed) (reported in this issue)
- * Sakashita Prize

Members of the selection committee for the 2011 Sakashita Prize are shown as below.

<Selection Committee for the 2011 Sakashita Prize>

Chairman ; Komei Sasaki (Shokei-gakuin University)

Committee Member; Takashi Akamatsu(Tohoku University)

Miki Seko(Keio University)

Tatsuaki Kuroda(ARSC President)

Ryohei Nakamura(ARSC Vice President)

* ARSC Annual Meeting (reported in this issue)

7. Report from Secretariat

ARSC member counts

As of May 31, 2011,we have 461 personal members (403 ordinary members, 50 students,8 oversea members), and 9 corporate members.)

If you know someone who is interested in the fields of research related to regional science, whether personal or a group, please recommend them to join the ARSC. You can always obtain the application forms for personal membership from our Web site (<http://www.arsc.org/arscform-e.html>).