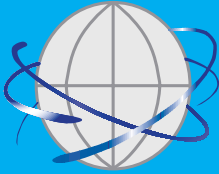


IGU
UGI



Regional Conference
TEL AVIV 2010

IGU

Regional Conference

مؤتمر إقليمي

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION
The Israeli National Commission For Geography

الاتحاد الجغرافي العالمي
اللجنة القطرية الاسرائيلية للجغرافيا

Tel Aviv, Israel, July 12-16, 2010

تل أبيب, إسرائيل, ١٢ - ١٦ تموز, ٢٠١٠



Bridging Diversity in a Globalizing World

جسر التنوع في عولمة العالم

WEB CIRCULAR

نشر أولى



Dear Colleagues

We take great pleasure in inviting you to the IGU Regional Conference 2010, hosted by the Israeli National Commission for Geography. The conference will take place in Tel Aviv, July 12 – 16, 2010.

*The central theme of the conference is **Bridging Diversity in a Globalizing World**.*

Several keynote speakers will be invited for the plenary sessions. Commissions are encouraged to integrate their meetings within the conference.

Our region provides visitors with an opportunity to explore the dynamism of a growing Mediterranean economy trying to accommodate both lifestyle-driven development and ecological challenges in diversified environments, including arid regions.

Numerous exciting field trips will be arranged before and after the conference to enable you to explore the unique diversity that is Israel.

We look forward to welcoming you to Tel Aviv, the “city that never sleeps”!

Best wishes

The Steering Committee

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STEERING COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Aharon Kellerman, Dept. of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Haifa

Daniel Felsenstein, Dept. of Geography, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Tovi Fenster, Dept. of Geography and Human Environment, Tel Aviv University

Itzhak Schnell, Dept. of Geography and Human Environment, Tel Aviv University

Michael Sofer, Dept of Geography and Environment, Bar Ilan University





BRIDGING DIVERSITY IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD

Despite the conformity of an increasingly globalizing world, diversity continues to flourish. While physical, economic and social global processes continue to challenge our planet, they are inevitably met by a multiformity of responses at the national, regional and local scales. This paradox forms the primary theme of the conference.

The international geographic community is uniquely poised to investigate these diverse responses. The integrative nature of the geographical sciences means that in the physical, economic, cultural and social spheres, geographers have a key contribution to make towards bridging diversity. For example, the global challenges of desertification, climatic change and air quality have elicited a plethora of reactions in different national and regional contexts. In the economic realm, supra-national economic integration has ironically given rise to neo-regionalism in some places and a reaffirmation of the nation-state in others. In the social and cultural dimensions, the response to rising global personal mobility has been the unwitting re-creation of social segregation in some urban areas and the heterogenization of others. The political expression of diversity is reflected in the upscaling and downscaling of geographical phenomena such as boundaries and relationships. These are in constant flux in an era of highly complex networks. Geographers can play a key role in analyzing, explaining and bridging this diversity in response to the challenges of a globalizing world.

Israel provides a highly suitable backdrop for this task. Physically situated at the focal intersection between the European, Asian and African continents and demographically, culturally, and politically rooted in each of them, no location better reflects the theme of 'bridging diversity'. Since establishment, some 60 years ago, Israel has always envisaged a bridging role in the



Middle East. As an immigrant Jewish society, with some 20% Arab-Palestinian population, the country has grappled with the social, cultural, ethnic and political challenges and opportunities of human diversity. The semi-arid climatic regime of the country has demanded imaginative ecological and environmental responses for sustaining the physical diversity of the national landscape. This has been reflected in areas such as water management, natural habitat protection and countering desertification. In the absence of natural resources and in order to sustain a rate of economic growth commensurate with that of other newly developed countries, the country has had to develop diverse human capital-based points of entry into the global economy.

Hosting the IGU regional conference in the city of Tel Aviv further highlights the conference theme. Tel Aviv-Jaffa reflects a level of social and cultural diversity unparalleled even in a society as heterogeneous as Israel. As the bustling economic core of the country, Tel Aviv, with its 2.5 million metropolitan inhabitants, provides the ideal venue for an inspired engagement with the challenges of bridging diversity.



GENERAL INFORMATION

TEL AVIV-JAFFA

Tel Aviv-Jaffa consists of the Jewish Tel Aviv and the mainly Arab-Palestinian Jaffa. Currently under one municipal roof its formal name is Tel Aviv-Jaffa. The heart of Tel Aviv, “the White City”, was declared a UNESCO - World Cultural Heritage site in 2003, for the abundance of International Style or Bauhaus architecture. This busy metropolis inspires its visitors with a unique energetic atmosphere of excitement and fun.

Tel Aviv offers varied and vibrant cultural environments and nightlife, including restaurants, museums, theatres and concerts, all combined with exotic markets, and gorgeous gold beaches. The ancient port city of Jaffa, with its medieval appearance, Ottoman and Arab-Palestinian style, cobbled stones and artist galleries, provides an interesting contrast to the modern pulse of Tel Aviv.



VENUE

The Dan Panorama Hotel is the conference venue. The hotel is situated on the Tel Aviv beachfront promenade, overlooking the sparkling waters and white sandy beaches of the Mediterranean.

Special accommodation rates will be offered at the Dan

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Panorama hotel and at various other hotels and hostels nearby.

LANGUAGES

Speakers may present in either English or French, however simultaneous translation will not be provided.

FIELD TRIPS

A variety of field trips will be offered during the conference, as well as pre-conference and post-conference trips.

CLIMATE

The temperature in Tel Aviv in July is warm with highs of approx. 29°C (84.2°F) and lows of 20°C (68.7°F).

SOCIAL PROGRAM

An exciting social program has been planned for participants, including a welcome get-together to meet and catch up with colleagues, a folklore evening to experience local culture, and the option of enjoying a gala dinner.

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

The secretariat will be happy to assist you with any additional information. Kindly contact the secretariat at the following address:

IGU Conference

c/o Target Conferences

PO Box 29041, Tel Aviv 61290, Israel

Tel: +972 3 5175150

Fax: +972 3 5175155

e-mail: geography@targetconf.com

website: www.igu2010.com

FURTHER INFORMATION

A second circular with additional information, will be mailed when available to all those returning the Intention Form (herewith) or via the website.

Please visit our website regularly for updates:

www.igu2010.com



PRE-CONFERENCE GRADUATE COURSE

June 28 – July 11, 2010

The University of Haifa will offer a special international graduate summer course for graduate students who intend to participate in the conference. The course is entitled: **Mediterraneanity.**

The course will include extensive field trips throughout Israel. The course coordinator is **Prof Haim Kutiel.**

Details can be found on the conference website:

www.igu2010.com

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TEL AVIV 2010

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.igu2010.com

INTENTION FORM

I am interested in attending the forthcoming Conference and would like to receive the Second Circular when available.

Surname _____

First Name/s _____

Title: Prof Dr Mr Ms

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Country _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

I would like to submit an abstract/s on the following subjects:

1. _____

2. _____

Please complete the form and send to the Secretariat:

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