

**International Rural Sociology Association  
Mid-Term Council Meeting  
Toronto, Canada  
Wednesday, July 18, 2018 (12:30 – 2:30 pm)**

The Mid-Term Council Meeting of the International Rural Sociological Association was called to order by President Ikegami around 12:30 p.m. Council members present, and the region they represent, were:

- a) Vaughan Higgins (AFRN)
- b) Hugh Campbell (AFRN)
- c) Pierluigi Milone (ESRS)
- d) Second Vice President Sally Shortall (ESRS)
- e) David Brown (RSS)
- f) John Green (RSS) – Present via Zoom
- g) Kai Schafft (RSS) – Present via Zoom
- h) President Koichi Ikegami
- i) Secretary-Treasurer Raymond Jussaume
- j) 2020 Local Arrangements Chair Stewart Lockie (arrived at 1:00)

The meeting began with updates from each of the regions.

Vaughan Higgins spoke for AFRN. He noted that AFRN held its last regional conference on December 2 – 5, 2017 in Indonesia. There were about 70 to 80 participants at the conference. The next conference will be held from November 30 to December 2 in Brisbane, Australia.

Paolo was visiting the Council Meeting on behalf of ALASRU and provided a brief update. He noted that there is an upcoming ALASRU conference to be held in November in Montevideo.

Masami Tachikawa provided an updated for ARSA. He noted that their regional conference would be held at the end of August in Indonesia.

Sally Shortall spoke for ESRS. The last ESRS conference was held in July 2017 in Poland. The next ESRS conference will be held in June 2019 in Trondheim. A call for sessions proposal will be forthcoming shortly. ESRS has instituted a “young scholar keynote” at its meetings to encourage participation by younger scholars.

David Brown spoke for RSS. He noted that attendance at the Annual Meetings was now average between 300 and 400 participants. The upcoming RSS meeting would be in one week’s time (end of July 2018) in Portland, Oregon. The 2019 conference will be held in Richmond, VA from August 7 to 10. The 2020 meetings will be in Denver. The Journal *Rural Sociology* is doing

quite well and now has an impact factor above 2.0. David was asked whether RSS still has a policy to meet every other year with ASA. As far as is known, that is no longer happening.

At this point, Dr. Ikegami asked that the council to approve the minutes of the previous council meeting, which was held two years ago in Toronto.

**MOTION: That the minutes of the incoming IRSA Council meeting of August 13, 2016 be approved.**

**MOVED: Hugh Campbell, Seconded by Sally Shortall.**

Dr. Ikegami then asked that the council to approve the minutes of the IRSA General Assembly, which was also held two years ago in Toronto.

**MOTION: That the minutes of the IRSA General Assembly of August 13, 2016 be approved.**

**MOVED: Sally Shortall, Seconded by Vaughan Higgins.**

Updates from representatives of member associations regarding activities of their respective associations, including the dates and venue of the last and the next annual/bi-annual meetings of each association – Council Reps

Secretary-Treasurer Jussaume presented the two year financial report. Of special note was that we received \$7,265 from the Local Arrangements Committee for Toronto 2016. This will be our major income from the four year period. Raymond noted that RSS and ESRS dues payments were up to date. He also noted that IRSA has not had to make payment for web page services in two years, in part because Reidar Almas had some monies left from the Trondheim meeting that were used for web page services. Council members in attendance requested that Ray check with the web master about upcoming payments as well as updating the web site.

David Brown stated that it would be beneficial to get a clearer idea on how the \$7,265 figure was arrived at. He would like to see a report on the finances for 2016. He also said that it is important that council received more detailed information on finances for the upcoming 2020 World Congress in Cairns. David said that it is the council's job to review conference expenses.

Dr. Ikegami then opened up discussion on ideas for holding the 2024 World Congress. In the discussion, it was noted that there has not been a World Congress in Latin America since the 2000 World Congress in Rio de Janeiro. Unfortunately, no ALASRU council members were in attendance. Council members suggested that President Ikegami contact Sergio Schneider to gauge ALASRU thinking about holding the 2024 World Congress somewhere in Latin America. Dr. Ikegami will do so.

The council then hear from Stewart Lockie, who provided updates on planning for the 2020 World Congress in Cairns. Stewart began by stating that the Local Arrangements Committee had received Australian \$7,500 from the Queensland Government to help support the World Congress. In return, the Government expects an aggressive marketing campaign for the Congress. Stewart and the local arrangements committee will develop a cost prospectus with

variable cost projections due to the uncertainty regarding what attendance will look like for Cairns. Stewart is also hoping to get his University to underwrite the Congress in the case of a shortfall.

Stewart mentioned that a contract had been signed with Pullman Cairns International Hotel to secure the venue. This means that the Congress will be held in rooms at the hotel which is in the city of Cairns. The Cairns Institute is available for hosting pre and post Congress meetings, but the main Congress will be held at the hotel at their conference facility. Dr. Ikegami has gone on a site visit to Cairns, and was very pleased with the facilities. The hotel will charge approximately Australian \$65.00 per attendee per day.

Stuart then informed council that a Program Committee has been established, although a chair for the committee has not been selected yet. The committee members, and their country location, are:

- a) Neil Argent (Australia)
- b) John Greene (USA)
- c) Chul Kyoo-Kim (South Korea)
- d) Allison Laconto (France)
- e) Katherine Legun (New Zealand)
- f) Adolphus Naswem (Senegal)
- g) Sergion Schneider (Brazil)
- h) Steward Lockie (Australia)

The call for Sessions proposal is expected to go out in about 6 months from now. That would be about 18 months before the Congress, which will be held from July 8 to 12, 2020. The early estimate of the registration fee is Australian \$620 for attendees coming from ISA Category A countries. Other rates are to be set. The web site for the Congress will be [jcu.edu.au/IRSA 2020](http://jcu.edu.au/IRSA2020). Sally suggested that this information be distributed widely.

This ended the discussion about 2020. Dr. Ikegami next brought up the fact that the next election for President and Secretary-Treasurer will be held in February 2020.. Each member of council has one vote. We will need candidates by then.

Dr. Ikegami also shared with council that he has received a proposal from some scholars in Haiti for the establishment of a Caribbean Rural Sociological Association. Dr. Ikegami will continue to communicate with those individuals and suggest that they send representatives to the next council meeting in 2020.

Dr. Ikegami then noted that the council should propose and pass a formal motion regarding the next council's next meeting. The following motion was proposed and passed.

**MOTION: That the next meeting of the IRSA Council shall be during the XV IRSA World Congress of Rural Sociology in Cairns, Canada, July 8-12, 2020**

**MOVED: Sally Shortall, Seconded by Stewart Lockie.**

Before the close of the meeting, David Brown suggested that a committee be established to discuss in more detail the role of the IRSA Council and its representatives. After discussion, Dr. Ikegami agreed to invite one member from each region to consider joining such a committee. It was also suggested that a minimum of three individuals were needed to form such a committee.