1. ARSC Vice President Election

In accordance with the ARSC Charter, Prof. Kobayashi’s office term as the President will expire on March 31, 2009, and Prof. Takatoshi Tabuchi, the present Vice-President, will immediately succeed the Presidency. Thus it is necessary to elect the new Vice-President of the Conference.

Following the provisions of Article 7 and the Election Bylaws II in the Charter, the following three candidates for the Vice-President have been nominated by the Managing Committee. (Listed in the alphabetical order of their family names.)

Kuroda, Tatsuaki  
(Nagoya University)

Nakamura, Ryohei  
(Okayama University)

Seko, Miki  
(Keio University)

Names of these candidates are printed on an enclosed ballot. Please check an adequate box provided on the card and return to the address shown on the card as soon as possible. The ballot box will be closed on March 23, 2009. (If you vote from abroad, please affix airmail stamps.)

Although the Election Bylaws II does not explicitly require the Election Administration Committee for the vice-presidential elections, we have requested Se-il Mun, Kyoto University, and Yukihiro Kidokoro, National Graduate Institute For Policy Studies, to oversee the election procedure for esteeming neutrality.

As Article 7 of the Charter forbids the reelection of former Presidents, former and present Presidents as well as the present Vice-President are excluded from the nomination. The
Vice-President, to be appointed by this election, is scheduled to serve as the President from April 2011 to the end of March 2013.

2 . First Call for Papers - the 23th Annual Meeting

The 23th Annual Meeting will be organized under the direction of Prof. Michihiro Kaiyama of Yamagata University, who heads the organizing committee. Pertinent information is summarized below.

Dates: December 12 & 13, 2009
Place: Yamagata University (Yamagata City, Japan)
Deadline for Application: August 31, 2009
Submission of Full-paper: October 31, 2009
  (Details will be informed on the next newsletter and home page of ARSC.)

3 . Sakashita Prize 2008

Mr. Yasusada Murata (Nihon University) was honored as a Sakashita Prize winner of 2008, in the 22th annual meeting of ARSC 2008.

The committee for the selection of 2008 Sakashita Prize winner was formed under the chairmanship of Professor Atsuyuki Okabe (Tokyo University), and the committee selected Mr. Yasusada Murata as the prize winner..

4 . New and Withdrawn Members

The 2008 general meeting has approved the following persons, who applied for admission to the ARSC, during the period between the general meetings in November 2008, as the new members of the Conference.

(1) New Members

Full Member (9 persons)
Zhao, Laxiu (Kobe Univ.), Fukui, Shinnya (Osaka Prefectural Inst. For Advanced Industry Development), Hamagata, Sumio (Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry, CRIEPI), Nakanishi, Hōdaka (Research Institute of Economy, Trade & Industry, IAA), Matsui, Kazuhisa (Osaka Univ.), Fukuda, Kosei (Nihon Univ.), Tamura, Kazuki (Railway Technical Research Inst.), Bunditsakulchai, Pongsun (CRIEPI), Seshimo, Hiroyuki (Senshu Univ.)

Student Members (7 persons)
Wang, Qing (Doshisha Univ.), Tachibana, Yousuke (Waseda Univ.), Nakano Kazuyoshi (Kyoto Univ.), Ishino, Takuya (Keio Univ.), Kobayashi, Hideji (Tsukuba Univ.), Takayama, Yuki (Tohoku Univ.), Sung, Ji Eun (Kyoto Univ.)
(2) Withdrawn Members, Due to requests (8persons)

H nibuchi, to moy a (Nihon Fukushi Univ.), Sugita, Hiroshi (IBS), An Chi (Kyoritsu Research Inst.), Mizuno, Isao (Ochanomizu Univ.), Nishimura, Shuzo (Kyoto Univ.), Teramoto, Mtsuo (Taisei Gakuin Univ.), Tanji, Kazunori (Keio Univ.), Kuroki, Yusuke (Kyusyu Univ.)

As of November 15, 2008, the ARSC has 459 individual members make up of 399 in the full membership; 51 in the student membership; 9 in the overseas membership. In addition, we have 12 corporate members who subscribe 18 shares in sum.

5. Membership Fees for Fiscal 2009

The bills produces from our membership database are enclosed. Please pay the amount due shown on the bill.

(1) ARSC Membership Fees

The ARSC membership fee for 2008 will be $80 for those who subscribe to the ARSC Journal and $60 for those who do not. In case you pay in Japanese yen, fees will 10,000 and 7,500 yen, respectively. If you want to cancel your subscription of the ARSC Journal, you will pay $60 for 2005 instead of $80 shown on the bill. If you have some unpaid fees in the past, those fees are added to the amount due. In case you have some questions over the amount shown, please feel free to contact the Secretariat, preferably by e-mail.

< Methods of Payment >

Many of our foreign members used to pay their dues in the form of Remittance Cheques drawn on your local bank. The problem with these cheques is the commissions the Japanese banks charge on cashing them. Those commissions will differ from one country to another where the originating bank is located.

Thus we would like to ask you to consider either of the following payment methods.

a) Personal checks in U.S. dollars drawn on U.S. banks, if you maintain a checking account with them, or

b) Postal money order in Japanese yen or U.S. dollars if you do not have an account with a U.S. bank. The international postal money orders (Mandat de Poste International) are available in most countries where our members reside. However, in some cases, the service may not be available in smaller post offices. The denomination of money orders will be determined by the combination of the recipient and originating countries. When the money orders are addressed to Japan, they are likely to carry the denominations in Japanese yen. Ask your local post office for details, but the service charges are generally lower than with bank.

(2) RSAI Membership Fees

The RSAI (The Regional Science Association International) members can receive the following services direct from Wiley-Blackwell Publishing.
The RSAI Membership Fee for 2009 will be $65 (if student $32) for those who will receive the following services of Category A, and $13 (if student $10) for those who will receive the following services of Category B.

CATEGORY A
Members receive the following services:
- The printed (hard) copy of PiRS
- Reduced rate subscriptions to other Wiley-Blackwell journals, including *Journal of Regional Science*, along with contact details for the relevant publishers.
- Access to a new, sophisticated RSAI website, (as described later).
- Newsletter (printed version)
- Reduced rates at RSAI conferences
- Access to list of members

CATEGORY B
Members receive the following services:
- Electronic copy of PiRS
- Reduced rate subscriptions to other Wiley-Blackwell journals, including *Journal of Regional Science*, along with contact details for the relevant publishers.
- Access to a new, sophisticated RSAI website, (as described later).
- Electronic version of Newsletter
- Reduced rates at RSAI conferences
- Access to list of members