

A preliminary agenda of the conference

RECONFIGURATION OF THE GLOBAL SCENE AND THE MEGASPACES OF THE XXI CENTURY

Hotel Sheraton, Warsaw, Poland

February 23-24, 2012

The rapid reconfiguration of the global scene is creating a new framework for the development of regions of the XXI century. This new framework will during the next decades change our interpretation of regional development, regional policies and regional studies. The European Union which is facing the reconfiguration of the global scene has to take an active role in development of a new global order. We have to not only recognise this new global order but we have to find the best strategy to identify our place in this new reality. The debate becomes particularly important under the financial crisis pressure faced by individual countries and regions. A new paradigm of development has to be designed taking into consideration numerous approaches to development policies presented by different academic and business communities and by international organizations, especially the OECD, the World Bank and the European Commission. Our conference should be seen as a part of the REGIO FUTURES PROGRAMME of the Ministry of Regional Development as well as the general debates in the framework of the European Union in the dimension of the territorial development policies. This conference is trying to strengthen the efforts to outline the new paradigms of global and regional development. A special attention of the conference is concentrated on the comparative analysis of the megaspaces of the EU, USA, China and India.

Background publications: 1. Volume 6 REDEFO series: *The Future of Regions – The Megaspaces of the XXI century*, Ministry of Regional Development, Warsaw 2011; 2. Post-seminar Publication from Ostróda 18-19 July 2011: *Territorial Dimension of Development Policies*, edited by the Ministry of Regional Development.

23rd of February

09:00 *Welcome coffee and registration*

10:00-10:30 **OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE**

Ms Elżbieta Bieńkowska – Minister for Regional Development, Poland

Ms Ewa Synowiec (tbc) – Head of European Commission Representation in Poland

Dr Michał Boni – Minister of Administration and Digitalization, Poland

Prof. Mario Pezzini – Director of the OECD Development Centre

10:30-12:30 **PANEL ONE: THE RECONFIGURATION OF THE GLOBAL SCENE OF THE XXI CENTURY**

The new geostrategic, geopolitical and geoeconomic map of the world will have a great direct and indirect impact on the of the development of all regions around the globe. The analysis of the changing intensity of this impact in time and space is a new challenge for regional studies. To face this challenge we need to develop our knowledge and imagination in the interpretation of the reconfiguration of the global scene. This is the most important task of the first panel of the Conference.

How to define the essential features of the old global scene? How to “outline” to “predict” to “invent” the essential features of the new global scene. How to define the scope and duration of the processes leading from the old to the new global scene. Will the decline of the old scene and the emergence of the new scene be a guided or a chaotic processes?

This bold and dramatic questions have an innovative background in the comprehensive Reports of international organizations and especially the OECD¹ the World Bank² and the European Union³. The reconfiguration of the global scene is a complicated multidimensional and controversial problem. The decline of the power of the Atlantic Community is a tragedy of Western Civilization. From the Asian points of view the rapid ascendancy of China and India is only a return to a millennial equilibrium distorted in the years 1500-2000⁴.

This perspective of different value judgments should be incorporated into the “mentality” of the First Panel.

Moderator: Prof. Jan Woroniecki – former Ambassador of Poland to the OECD

Panellists:

Dr Michał Boni – Minister of Administration and Digitalization, Poland

Ms Grażyna Henclewska (tbc) – Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Economy, Poland

¹ OECD Report, *Perspectives on global development 2010, Shifting Wealth*, Paris 2010

² *World Development Report – Reshaping Economic Geography*, The World Bank, Washington DC 2009

³ European Union, *Investing in Europe's future*, Brussels, November 2010

⁴ K.Mahbubani, *End of whose history*, IHT November 12 2009, K.Mahbubani is the dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore.

Prof. Mario Pezzini – Director of the OECD Development Centre
Prof. Indermit Gill – Chief Economist of the Europe and Central Asia Region of the World Bank
Prof. Zbigniew Hockuba – Executive Director, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

12:30 *Lunch*

13:30-15:30 **PANEL TWO: THE MEGASPACE OF THE XXI CENTURY**

The concept of megaspaces as a new instrument to explore the regional reality of the XXI century. A comprehensive analysis of 6 megaspaces (presented in volume 6) proposing an innovative conceptual and empirical framework for this analysis. In this framework we can find methodological and factographical weaknesses and probably false value judgments. These weaknesses and false value judgments will be exposed in the discussions developed in the context of the second panel of our conference. We hope that the second panel will discover also new perspective opened by the context volume 6. That is creating a cognitive and pragmatic bridge linking the already mentioned Reports of the World Bank and OECD. A joint analyses of the six megaspaces is extending our knowledge and imagination to see the grand comparative panorama of 6 megaspaces.

The concept of the megaspace is an effective instrument linking global reality and the reality of individual regions.

We can explore also the concept and dynamics of the six megaspaces as an contribution to the interpretation of the reconfiguration of the global scene discussed in panel one.

In this way panel two will be an important consecutive step in the implementation the mission of our conference and the development of the second stage of the Regio Futures Programme.

Moderator: Dr Piotr Żuber – Director of the Department of Structural Policy Coordination, Ministry of Regional Development, Poland

Panellists:

Prof. Antoni Kukliński – University of Warsaw, Poland

Prof. Herman Baeyens – Regional Development Advisor, Belgium

Prof. Sergey S. Artobolevskiy – Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Federation

Prof. Ryszard Piasecki (tbc) – University of Łódź, Poland

15:30 *Coffee Break*

16:00-18:00 **PANEL THREE: THE MEGASPACE OF USA and OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, the dramatic dimension of the crisis of the American and European megaspaces**

Panel three will be dedicated to a comparative analysis of the American and European megaspaces. The two megaspaces are excellent field to test the concept of megaspace. The theory of regional studies as a framework for the definition of the megaspace was originally developed following the experiences of the grand space of the Atlantic Community.

The megaspaces of the European Union and USA are still the most powerful megaspaces in global scale. The megaspaces have the best statistical documentation and the most developed system of methodological and empirical studies.

The third panel of our Conference will have opportunity to outline the power and glory of the megaspaces of the USA and EU. This panel will have however have also the task to discuss the trap if slow growth which is defining the declining global role of the Atlantic Community⁵.

The third panel should also discuss the most important pragmatic question how the American and European regions can overcome the trap of slow growth and open the era of a new European and American renaissance?

Moderator: Prof. Hans van Zon – Rotterdam University, The Netherlands

Panellists:

Dr Jan Olbrycht (tbc) – Member of the European Parliament

Prof. Grzegorz Gorzelak – Director of the EUROREG, University of Warsaw, Poland

Dr Gilbert Fayl – President, The Global Round Table, Belgium

Mr Krzysztof Gulda (tbc) – Director at Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland

19:00 *Dinner*

24th of February

10:00-12:30 **PANEL FOUR: THE ASCENDING POWER OF THE CHINESE AND INDIAN MEGASPACE**

The scale and dynamics of the regional transformation of these two megaspaces: Chinese and Indian are a new chapter in global history, not known in the rich experiences of the Atlantic Community. This chapter is new in the empirical perspective. It is not clear however if the Chinese and Indian experiences will be an inspiration

⁵ A. Kukliński, K. Pawłowski (eds) *The Atlantic Community. The Titanic of the XXI century?*, Nowy Sącz 2010

to develop a new theory of regional development, regional policies and regional studies.

The contributions published in volume 6 are formulated in the conventional language of European and American regional studies. We do not see yet a new theoretical framework inspired by the Indian and Chinese experiences and civilizations.

This is an interesting question to be discussed by panel four. However the main stream of this discussion should to our mind be concentrated around following questions:

1. The global status of the Chinese and Indian megaspaces
2. The internal differentiation of the processes of regional transformation in China and in India
3. The regional perspective in the evaluation of the advantages of the dynamic growth in China and in India
4. The regional perspective in the evaluation of the ecological disadvantages of the dynamic growth in China and in India

Naturally this set of questions is not limiting the broad scope of panel four integrating the Chinese and Indian experiences into the substance and methodology of the second stage of RFP.

Moderator: Prof. Andrzej Wierzbicki – Polish Academy of Science

Panellists:

Mr Joerg Wuttke (tbc) – Chief Representative of BASF Company Ltd, China

Mr Ksawery Burski – former Ambassador of Poland to China

Prof. Jean Marie Rousseau – International consultant in Territorial Intelligence at TAO-ITIN&RIS, France

12:30 *Lunch*

13:30-15:30 **PANEL FIVE: THE REGIONS OF THE XXI CENTURY - NEW APPROACHES FACING THE ENIGMA OF THE FUTURE**

Let us imagine that the global scene is a network of 1000 regions representing different features of political, economic, social and cultural development⁶. Is it possible to design a comprehensive study analyzing the transformation of this network created by the reconfiguration of the global scene and by the consequences of the pentagonal crisis closing the experiences of the XX century and opening the experiences of the XXI century.

How to envisage the interrelations linking the global and regional realities of the XXI century? How to emerge different scenarios of the active role of regions using inter alia the concept of the megaspaces? Does the local or regional will be still possible to identify and define? What will be the future of society? What will be the society in the future?

This set of questions is only a starting point for a brainstorming discussion in the framework of Panel five of our Conference. The reconfiguration of the global scene and the megaspaces of the XXI century.

Moderator: Prof. Antoni Kukliński – University of Warsaw, Poland

Panellists:

Prof. Roman Galar – Wrocław University of Technology, Poland

Prof. Paul Drewe – Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands

Prof. Elżbieta Mączyńska (tbc) – President of the Polish Economic Society

15:30-16:00 **THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE**

Dr Piotr Żuber – Director of the Department of Structural Policy Coordination, Ministry of Regional Development, Poland

Prof. Antoni Kukliński – University of Warsaw, Poland

16:00 *Au Revoir Tea & Coffee*

For further information please contact: Ms Patrycja Artymowska, patrycja.artymowska@mrr.gov.pl

⁶ Compare global trends 2025. A transformed World, Washington DC, November 2008, National Intelligence Council, compare also J. Kotyński in *Titanic of the XXI century?* op.cit.