

## **JUNE 2007 / Vol 20 (2)**

### **EDITORIAL, June 2007 (Michael Stein, Chair)**

At long last IPSA RC 28 on Comparative Federalism and Federations is resuming its biennial publication of its Newsletter, which first appeared in 2002 under the editorship of Prof. Robert Agranoff, then its RC Chair. There has been a hiatus in its appearance since the spring of 2006, largely due to the lengthy transition period that followed the election electronically of a new Chair and Executive Board in September 2006. I was honoured to be elected then as your Chair for the next 3 years (until the summer of 2009), and to be joined in this election by a distinguished Executive Committee consisting of Uwe Leonardy (Germany) as First Vice-Chair, Bertus de Villiers (Australia), Second Vice-Chair, Sonja Waelti (Switzerland), Program Chair, and Rudolf Hrbek (Germany), Publications. Since that time the RC 28 Executive Board, and especially its Chair and First Vice-Chair, have been involved in a considerable number of RC 28 activities; however, most of these have concerned only the executive, and did not require participation by the RC 28 members at large. With the approach of a number of conferences related to federalism or other academic topics in the fall of 2007 and the spring of 2008, the time is propitious to involve many more members in upcoming RC 28 activities. These conferences and other activities are listed in the preceding Table of Contents, and will be elaborated in greater detail in other sections of this Newsletter below.

Before discussing these future activities, it is appropriate that I briefly summarize in this editorial the activities of the RC 28 Executive since September. First, in the fall of 2006, with the generous advice and assistance of both Bob Agranoff and Uwe Leonardy, who have had a long and deep involvement with RC 28, I began the transfer of the RC 28 Secretariat and website from the University of Indiana to the University of Toronto. This was also the time when I was in the process of converting my former teaching appointment at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario into a Visiting Professorship at the University of Toronto. As a result, it has taken me some time to complete this transfer arrangement, and appoint a new RC 28 webmaster and assistant. I have now completed this transfer and made the required funding arrangements and appointments.

Secondly, in January 2007 I visited the head offices of the Forum of Federation (FF) in Ottawa, an important and well-funded international organization that coordinates many of the interactive international activities of federal officials in its affiliated member countries. I met the President of that organization and several of its fulltime executive members and officials. Since we had previously (in late 2005) negotiated and signed an Agreement of Cooperation with that organization, it was important for us to accelerate the process of implementing it. As will be explained in greater detail below, we are in the process of initiating a cooperative arrangement with the FF for our Federalism Databank project, the exchange of detailed data on our respective memberships, the coordination of information on our publications, research activities and conferences, and assisting the FF in finding well-qualified federalism experts to help in some of the FF's current development projects in third world countries. The last item involves the expansion of our incipient Directory of Federalism Experts that was begun in a limited form under the Chairmanship of Lloyd Brown-John in 1999, on the initiative of Uwe Leonardy. Finally, Uwe Leonardy, through his broad contacts with federal officials in many countries, helped the FF propose names of practitioners of federalism to the New Delhi Conference organizers who could offer theme papers on the topics planned for discussion at that conference.

Thirdly, this past spring we have helped the chief organizers of the upcoming conference on "The Federal Idea". The conference is intended to honour Professor Ronald Watts, an esteemed international expert on Comparative Federalism, an RC 28 member and former

executive officer. The organizers plan to publish a festschrift containing selected papers from this conference. Our RC helped the organizers obtain some of the Paper Presenters, Chairs and Discussants for their sessions. We have also arranged to hold our RC 28 annual business meeting in Kingston on October 18th, just before the conference. And we have arranged a meeting of representatives of both our RC and the FF to discuss and advance funding arrangements for the Federalism Databank project.

Fourthly, we have been in close contact with the IPSA Secretariat and some executive members on several matters in the last few months. First, we have applied successfully for an automatic US \$200 grant from IPSA for upgrading of our RC website. We have also applied for financial assistance from IPSA for the holding of a future conference on federalism in conjunction with a Business Meeting in 2008, hopefully in Madrid, Spain. However, an IPSA Executive decision on this matter, together with other similar funding applications from the RCs, has been postponed until the fall IPSA Executive Meeting in Italy, when proposed new funding procedures for the RCs will be debated and implemented. We are also currently in the process of selecting two RC 28 representatives to participate in a joint RC/National Political Science Association Conference to be held in Montreal, Canada (at Concordia University) from April 28 to May 2, 2008 on the topic "International Political Science: New Theoretical and Regional Perspectives". More information about this IPSA inter-Congress conference will be provided in a later section of this Newsletter.

In conclusion, I would like to announce the names of my two new RC 28 appointees. My secretarial assistant will be Sebastian Baglioni, currently a PhD student in the Political Science Department of the University of Toronto, who is conducting research for a dissertation on Spanish federalism. He will be in communication with you very soon on RC 28 membership fees and other matters. My RC 28 webmaster is Curtis Debi, currently also an assistant webmaster for the Political Science Department at the University of Toronto. He has been responsible for mounting this Newsletter and arranging for your automatic e-mail notification of its availability. He will also handle all technical matters regarding this website in the future. Both of these assistants will be paid modest salaries for their work, which will be drawn from the revenues collected from our RC 28 membership fees.

I look forward to receiving your responses to this Newsletter and any suggestions that you would like to offer for its improvement in the future. I would also appreciate it if you would inform me about your recent publications and provide me with other relevant news items, which can be included in future issues of our RC Newsletter.

**Thanks to Bob Agranoff, former Chair, RC 28 (Uwe Leonardy)**



Thank You, Robert Agranoff

*by Uwe Leonardy, First Vice-Chair*

Bob Agranoff (photo) did not stand as Committee Chair again in the September 2006 elections because IPSA rules only allow two consecutive terms for RC Chairs (and also because he wanted to concentrate once again on his scholarly work). And so we had to say “goodbye” to him in that function last September. It seems appropriate, on the occasion of this RC 28 Newsletter edition, to let him know how much we all appreciated what he did for our Committee in his six years in office, from 2000 to 2006.

His most important contribution to the work and the liveliness of our Committee activities were two initiatives that he took at the beginning of his first term: the establishment of a secretariat and a website. Without the website and the establishment of the Newsletter online, we could not have communicated with each other as intensively and as rapidly as we did. Indeed, the numerous Newsletters which Bob edited—and which I witnessed—imposed a heavy burden on him, although this was not always apparent to those on the outside. But they clearly reflected the many and varied aspects of his dedicated activities.

These activities involved many different fields, of which I can only mention a few as examples. They included his insertion of numerous notes and reviews of federalism-related literature into the Newsletters, his reference to websites that would be useful for research on federalism, his establishment of a research awards programme, and his reports on annual conferences and other events. He was also a frequently successful applicant on behalf of RC 28 for IPSA grants for various projects and purposes. And in my specific functional field, I remain grateful to him for his keen appreciation of the importance of practitioners of federalism and their impact on our discipline. In particular, it would not have been possible without his valuable support to achieve an Agreement of Cooperation with the Forum of Federations, which we are now in the process of implementing. And we are all anticipating with great interest the completion and eventual publication of the book he is currently editing for the IPSA RC 33 book series on the development and current state of the discipline. This project has consumed much of his time and energy, and limited his availability for other RC activities, especially in the last months of his second term.

An important manifestation of Bob's administrative success as a Research Committee Chair was the recognition the IPSA Committee on Research and Training and the Executive Committee accorded RC 28 as an active and strong promoter of research on federalism. As a result, renewal of the Research Committee status of our federalism network was easily obtained for another six years. Bob should be proud of this achievements!

Let me finally add a personal word: It was good to work, discuss and decide with you, Bob, and therefore it was a pleasure to be your Vice-Chair. You were and will always continue to be both a good colleague and friend. I have no doubt that Michael Stein and our new Executive will be grateful to receive your advice during the next three years.

Keep well, and please keep in touch with us!

**2006 IPSA RC 28 Business Meeting, July 2006**

RC Business Meeting, Financial Statement, Panels and General Report on the Fukuoka Congress, July 2006 (Uwe Leonardy, RC 28 Acting Chair, Fukuoka Congress)

i) Business Meeting:

First Vice-Chair and Acting Congress Chair, Uwe Leonardy, chaired our RC 28 Business Meeting on July 9, 2006. The Agenda for that meeting included a Financial Statement for the year 2005-2006 (inserted in this section of the Newsletter below); a report on Implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation with the Forum of Federations (a copy of this agreement is attached to the section on Liaison with the Forum of Federations); a report on RC 28's progress on its Federalism and the State of the Discipline volume for the IPSA RC 33 Book Series on "The World of Political Science" (edited by Bob Agranoff); a statement of the new rules adopted on the electronic election of the new RC 28 Executive Committee; plans for the Annual Business Meeting and the Conference in honour of Ronald Watts, to be held in Kingston, Ontario, Canada on October 18-20, 2007; and preliminary plans for a Conference and Business Meeting in Madrid, Spain, probably in the fall of 2008. A detailed General Report on the Fukuoka Congress and RC 28's role in it was later presented by Uwe Leonardy to then Chair Bob Agranoff, a copy of which is appended to this section below.

ii) Statement of Expenditures of RC 28, July 2005- July, 2006 (Bob Agranoff)

Income:

2005 Dues Paid	\$ 190.00
Carry Over, Non Encumbered (\$1000 US set aside for the Directory of Federalism Experts	\$ 823.53
IPSA Grant 2005	\$ 500.00
<b>Total Non-dedicated Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,413.53</b>

Total Dedicated Income	\$ 1000.00
Expenses:	
Repayment to McMaster U. of encumbered Funds	\$ 780.00*
Newsletter/website maintenance	\$ 583.04
2005 meeting expenses (Menaggio)	\$ 700.80
Award plaques	\$ 100.49
Expenses of carry-overs from IPSA	
check-offs, low income countrymembers, postage for those not on electronic mail	\$ 90.52
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Total Expenses:	\$2,254.90
Balance:	-\$ 841.37**

\*Our account paid back the equivalent of \$1,000.00 Canadian to McMaster University for the production expenses of a federalism state of the discipline book. This was in accordance with the conditions established by IPSA RC 33, which provided “seed money” for a conference devoted to the papers covered in the book. Since the conference was not held, and the book could not be completed in time, the seed grant was cancelled.

\*\*Deficit financing has been allowed by the School of Public and Environmental Affairs of Indiana University pending receipt of additional funds. In a World Congress year, we expect to collect the bulk of our members’ fees, which are \$45.00 US for three years.

iii) Panels and General Report and RC Activities in the 20th IPSA World Congress, Fukuoka, Japan, 9-13 July, 2006 (Uwe Leonardy):

With approximately 2300 participants, Fukuoka was the largest IPSA World Congress to date. It was, indeed, a great success (even if many of the non-Asian participants appeared to suffer a good deal from the extreme heat and humidity). Nine RC 28 members attended, and thus attendance exceeded that of Durban, but, of course, our RC 28 numbers should have been even better.

Nonetheless, the two sessions organized by our Committee attracted between 25 and 30 participants each. Moreover, they were informed of our RC’s website address and our Committee’s activities in both sessions. These sessions consisted of the following themes and participants:

RC 28.22: Federal Institutions, Processes and Politics, British Columbia, European Union, Germany

Chair: Uwe Leonardy, Centre for European Integration Studies, Bonn University, Germany (uwe.leonardy@web.de)

Papers:

Wolfgang Renzsch, Otto-von-Guericke-University, Magdeburg, Germany (renzsch@gse-w-uni-magdeburg.de) : “Alternative Designs for Political Decision-Making: Citizen’s Assembly, Convention, Commission”

British Columbia, European Union, Germany

Vanadana Prakash, California State University, USA (uscvandana@yahoo.com): “Examining Inter-Jurisdictional and Inter-Sectoral Dynamics of Federalism: Study of Environmental Management in Delhi”

Anton Bebler, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia (anton.bebler@fdy-uni.lj.si): “Federalist Experience and the Prospects of (Non) Federalism in South-Eastern Europe”

Rejean Pelletier, Universite Laval, Canada (rejean.pelletier@pol.ulaval.ca) and Jean Crete, Universite Laval, Canada (jean.crete@pol.ulaval.ca): “Identity and Trust in Multinational Federations: The Case of Canada in Comparative Perspective”

John Kincaid, Lafayette College, USA (meynerc@lafayette.edu) and Richard L. Cole, University of Texas at Arlington, USA (cole@uta.edu): “Public Opinion and Federal Political Culture in Canada, Mexico and the United States”

RC 28.23: Federalism and Democracy

Chair: Wolfgang Renzsch (See above)

Papers:

Sumitra Kumar Jain, Shaheed Bhagat Singh (E) College University of Delhi, India (drskjvk@yahoo.com): “Accommodations to Electoral Federalism: Emerging Federal process in India”

Christian Leuprecht, Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, Canada (leuprecht-c@rmc.ca): “Demographic Change and Federal Governance”

Paolo Dardanelli, University of Kent, UK (p.dardanelli@kent.ac.uk): “Federal Democracy: The Swiss Experience”

Krishna Tummala, Kansas State University, USA (tummala@ksu.edu): “Federalism Turned on Its Head: India in 2005”

Olivier Giraud, Universite de Picardie, France (olivier.giraud@u-picardie.fr): “Reforming Social Policies in a Federal Context: Are Swiss Cantons and Localities Re-fragmenting the Social Policy Domain?”

Since only two hours were allocated to each session, there were only twenty minutes available for discussion after the papers were presented. Although this is frequently the case in large meetings like the Fukuoka Congress, some organizational improvements could have eased this situation. For example, there was a Special Session entitled “Federal and Institutional Change or Development” in which only two papers were presented. One of these papers was entitled “Federalism and the Senate in Russia”, and it could have easily been integrated into a third session of our RC so that the number of papers per session in RC 28 would have been reduced.

At any rate, most of the papers presented in the RC 28 sessions are well worth reading, and their texts can be obtained from the paper givers (see their e-mail addresses above). A CD

containing all the abstracts of the Congress was produced by IPSA, and can be obtained from Bruno Maltais at IPSA Headquarters in Montreal, Canada (contact [bruno.maltais@ipsa.ca](mailto:bruno.maltais@ipsa.ca)).

At the Meeting of the IPSA Advisory Commission on Research (consisting of RC Chairs), Michael Stein, one of our RC members, gave an impressive report as outgoing RC Liaison Representative of the Research Committees on the IPSA Executive Council. He has been nominated to serve as the incoming Chair of the new RC 28 Executive. Rainer Eisfeld of the University of Osnabruck, Germany, was elected to succeed him in that function. At that meeting I raised the following issues of specific interest to RC 28:

Business Meetings of RCs during World Congresses should in future immediately follow at least one of the RC sessions/panels to ensure maximum attendance. The IPSA Executive representatives promised to bring this matter before the incoming Programme Committee and the IPSA Executive Committee.

Special Sessions should not be organized if their subject-matters are covered by any of the RCs, but rather, should be integrated with the sessions/panels of the RCs (See reference in the discussion of the Business Meeting above). The IPSA Executive representatives promised to try to avoid such sessions in the future.

Research Committee dues should be collected by IPSA together with the IPSA dues themselves in order to avoid excessively high banking fees. Secretary-General Guy Lachapelle has promised to try to introduce these organizational changes, as long as the RCs provide the IPSA Secretariat with the information it would need about their membership dues.

I applauded the recent change in IPSA rules about electronic voting in RCs; however, given our need to amend our own RC by-laws in great haste so that they would be consistent with these new rules, I pointed out that these changes could have been made much earlier. IPSA Vice-President and CRT Chair Ilter Turan acknowledged this. He also confirmed our position that there was nothing in the existing rules that prevented RCs from selecting a Nominating Committee for its internal elections, as we have traditionally done in the past.

Finally Secretary-General Lachapelle urged all RCs to keep the IPSA Secretariat informed and also regularly updated about their members' e-mail addresses.

### **Liaison with the Forum of Federations, September 2006-June 2007**

Liaison with the Forum of Federations, September 2006- June, 2007

Initial resumption of contact and communication with the Forum of Federations, headquartered in Ottawa, was established by the newly elected First Vice-Chair, Uwe Leonardy, in September, 2006. He had been instrumental in the negotiation and implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation with the Forum of Federations, signed on August 19, 2005 (a copy of which is attached to this section below). Later in the fall and winter of 2006-2007, Michael Stein, as the newly elected Chair of RC 28, was invited to Ottawa to meet with the current CEO of that organization, George Anderson, and several members of its Board. The Meeting of January 23, 2007 dealt with several of the joint projects of these two organizations. They included 1) the Federalism Data Bank Project, which will be jointly coordinated by Gisela Farber (Germany), a member of RC 28, and David MacDonald (Canada), a senior staff member of the Forum of Federations. It is anticipated that this project would eventually have a fiscal federal, constitutional and financial/economic component and would involve a joint grant application to a funding organization. Further details on this project will be provided in the Fall issue of the Newsletter, after the joint meeting of representatives of RC 28 and the Forum of Federations in Kingston in October; 2) the expansion of the Directory of Federal

Experts, to be coordinated by John Kincaid (USA) and Ajay Mehra (India) of RC 28 and a Forum counterpart to be named by David MacDonald. Work on this project should begin in earnest this summer; 3) the exchange of magazine and book publication articles, and the establishment of electronic links between the respective Newsletters of RC 28 and the Forum of Federations, to be coordinated by Rudolf Hrbek of RC 28 and Rod MacDonnell, also a senior staff member of the Forum of Federation.

A copy of the Agreement of Cooperation between RC 28 and the Forum of Federation is attached to this section, and appears on the next page.

#### Agreement on Co-operation between the Forum of Federations and the IPSA Comparative Federalism and Federation Research Committee

The Forum of Federations (hereinafter referred to as “the Forum”) and the Comparative Federalism and Federation Research Committee of the International Political Science Association (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) agree on co-operation as follows:

Both institutions will co-ordinate their activities as widely and intensively as possible. A special emphasis of their co-operation will be on the availability of relevant information for practitioners of federalism. The Forum realizes that membership of the Committee is open to academics and practitioners alike, and that it comprises both categories of experts.

The Committee established a Directory of Experts on Federalism in 1999. Co-operation with the Forum is already underway to expand this Directory, to update it and to make it website-available. This project will be finalized in 2005, and thereafter it will be continuously expanded and updated by both institutions jointly. Each of them will name one representative responsible for this function. Persons who are members of the Committee will be designated as such in the Directory.

The Committee will identify Forum publications regularly on its web-based Newsletter. Relevant publications and papers of members of the Committee will be referred to and, space and copyright permitting, will be published on the website of the Forum.

The Committee will receive the Forum’s calendar of events and changes to that calendar as early as possible in order to enable the Committee to make proposals for suitable experts who might participate in Forum events.

Members to be nominated by the Committee will assist in establishing and updating the Forum data-bank for the specific needs of practitioners of federalism if the Forum decides to establish such a data-bank or to expand its website for such purposes. The Committee will be kept informed on upcoming and already taken decisions of the Forum on a project of this kind.

The Forum will be regularly invited to participate in the Annual Conferences and Business Meetings of the Committee, such conferences and meetings taking place during each of the triennial IPSA World Congresses, in the following year and in the year after that (preceding the next Congress), in the latter case jointly with the International Association of the Centres for Federal Studies.

For the implementation of this agreement and in order to institutionalize permanent contact, the Forum and Committee will nominate one office-holder each to perform these functions. Until further notice, this will be the Head, Partnerships and Development for the Forum and the First Vice Chair for the Committee.

This agreement shall remain in effect until December 31, 2008, and the parties may agree to renew it for 36 months at that time.

This agreement may be terminated unilaterally by either of the parties in a written communication made 30 days in advance or by mutual agreement.  
Agreed to on August 19, 2005.

For the Forum:  
[signed]  
(George Anderson)

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

For the Committee:  
[signed]  
(Uwe Leonardy)

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Vice-Chair

### **2007 Kingston Meetings, October 18, 2007, a.m. and p.m. and Federalism Conference, October 18-20, 2007**

Detailed planning for the Kingston Federalism Conference in honour of Ronald Watts was initiated by Tom Courchene, Director of the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, and others in January 2007. Michael Stein and Uwe Leonardy were asked to assist in this planning by suggesting the names of potential Conference Chairs and Discussants from among the members of our RC. In addition, no fewer than 8 members of the RC were invited to present papers at the Conference, which is addressing the topic of "The Federal Idea". The papers will treat topics in Comparative Federalism on Friday, October 19 and Canadian Federalism on Saturday, October 20. Prior to the regular Conference sessions there will be an Opening Session in the evening of Thursday, October 18, devoted to "Celebrating Ron Watts", and will include two papers and "Reflections".

On Thursday, October 18 in the morning there will be a meeting of 2-3 representatives of both RC 28 and the Forum of Federations, in which further ideas and plans related to the joint Federalism Data Bank Project will be advanced and debated. In the afternoon of October 18 those attending the conference who are members of RC 28, as well as others who are interested in our RC, will be invited to participate in the annual Business Meeting.

Following the presentation of conference papers, there will be coordinated efforts by the IIGR at Queen's University, RC 28, and other sponsoring organizations of the Conference to edit the papers and submit them for publication in a festschrift volume in honour of Ron Watts.

### **4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Federalism, New Delhi, India, November 5-8, 2007**

This conference, comprised largely of practitioners of federalism in the leading federal countries, will be hosted by the Government of India in partnership with the Forum of Federations (Ottawa). It is the fourth of a series of practitioner-oriented conferences that will bring together the Heads of State/Government, Heads of Constituent Units, Heads of Local Government, Ministers, Legislators, Administrators, Civil society representatives, academics and young professionals. The three previous such conferences were held in Canada (1999), Switzerland (2002), and Belgium (2005). The conference is entitled "Unity in Diversity: Learning from Each Other". It revolves around four main themes: i) Building on and Accommodating Diversity, ii) Fiscal Federalism, iii) Interaction in a Federal System, and iv) Local Governments in a Federal System. The working language of the conference will be English.

The conference participants will address these themes in a number of different ways, including work sessions, theme sessions and plenary sessions, giving the conference a multi-faceted structure. However, the main interaction occurs in small parallel work sessions, organized

around the theme issues and cases. All participants invited to the conference are expected to participate in these work sessions.

Michael Stein and Uwe Leonardy, RC 28 Chair and First Vice-Chair, have been invited to represent our Research Committee at these sessions. Uwe has already played a valuable role in suggesting to the Forum names of practitioners of federalism from various countries who might be invited to act as theme presenters at the Conference. Further information about this conference will be provided in the next issue of the Newsletter.

### **IPSA Montreal Conference, April 30-May 2, 2008**

This conference is currently being organized by the IPSA Secretariat and two members of the IPSA Executive Committee, Dirk Berg-Schlosser (Vice-President and Chair of the Committee on Research and Training ) and Rainer Eisfeld (RC Liaison Representative). It will include two representatives from each of the 50 IPSA Research Committees and 2 representatives from each National Political Science Association affiliated with IPSA.

The Conference will take place at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada from April 30 – May 2, 2008, and will involve discussions on the theme “International Political Science: New Theoretical and Regional Perspectives”. It will consist of three sections: I. State of Affairs and Conflicting Perspectives in the Major Sub-Fields of Political Science, II. State of the Discipline in Major Regions and III. Cutting-Edge Areas of Research in Political Science Sub-Fields.

Each RC has been asked to nominate two representatives by the end of June, 2007. The representatives of these RCs are invited to propose panels and papers for each of these sections, although the proposed format of these panels and papers varies for each section. The submission deadline for these proposals is August 15, 2007. They should be forwarded to both program chairs at the following e-mail addresses:

Dirk Berg-Schlosser [bergschl@staff.uni-marburg.de](mailto:bergschl@staff.uni-marburg.de) and Rainer Eisfeld [<rainer.eisfeld@uos.de>](mailto:rainer.eisfeld@uos.de). Those submitting proposals who represent an RC should also send copies of these proposals to their respective RC Chairs.

I would urge anyone who might be interested in representing our RC 28 to e-mail me immediately, so that I and other members of our Executive Committee can consider them as possible nominees for this conference. You should include a brief statement indicating what aspect of the conference theme interests you, and in which of the 3 sections of the conference you would like to participate. If you are nominated, you will be sent fuller information about the conference. You will also have until August 31st to prepare a detailed proposal.

### **Proposed RC 28 Conference and Business Meeting, 2008**

Proposed Conference and Business Meeting for RC 28 in Madrid, Spain in 2008:  
Luis Moreno, one of our RC members from Madrid, Spain, has invited our RC Executive Committee to consider holding the annual RC 28 Business Meeting and Conference in that locale some time in 2008. Planning for this possible meeting and conference has not yet begun, and we are merely considering possible dates and themes for it. If any members have suggestions in this regard, please contact Michael Stein at his e-mail address listed above.