

Newsletter December 2011

Dear colleagues,

in this letter we would like to inform you about the activities of the International Economic History Association since the last newsletter was issued in December 2010, and to draw your attention to decisions taken by the Executive Committee during its last meeting in Milan (11th-12th November 2011).

First, you will have noticed that preparations for the World Economic History Congress (WEHC) in Stellenbosch (9th -13th July 2012) are in full swing. The Local Organizing Committee in South Africa as well as the IEHA office is very busy with the preparations of this event. The Local Organizing Committee was able to win James Robinson, Deirdre McCloskey, and Gareth Austin as keynote speakers. All information on the congress as well as the provisional program is available on the congress website (<http://www.wehc2012.org>). Please notice that the registration is now open (<http://www.wehc2012.org/general.php>), as well as the call for the poster session. Submissions for the poster session should be sent by email to session@wehc2012.org before March 1, 2012. You can also find a list of Calls for Papers that session organisers have asked the WEHC 2012 Programme Secretariat to publicise: <http://www.wehc2012.org/papers.php>.

During the EC meeting, the juries of the dissertation competition met and each decided on three candidates who will present their PhD research in the dissertation sessions of the WEHC in Stellenbosch:

The nominated candidates are as follows:

- Pre-modern: Sebastian R. Prange (University of Michigan), Pilar Nogues-Marco (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid), Dries Lyna (Universiteit Antwerpen)
- 19th century: Marta Felis-Rota (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid), Julio Martínez-Galarraga (Universitat de València), Florian Ploeckl (University of Oxford)
- 20th century: Morten Jerven (Simon Fraser University), Tamás Vonyó (University of Groningen), Julius Agbor Agbor (University of Cape Town)

Concerning the academic program, the Executive Committee discussed the session proposals that were submitted in reply to the second call for session proposals. 71 out of 113 were accepted, bringing the total number of sessions up to 130 (59 sessions were accepted in the first round).

Additionally, the Executive Committee discussed the nominations for seats in the Executive Committee to be filled in 2012. These nominations were made by the member associations and were then evaluated by a nomination committee: Jan

Luiten van Zanden (chair), Grietje Verhoef, Price Fishback, Catherine Schenk, and Osamu Saito (external member). According to the statutes, the current vice-president Grietje Verhoef will become president for the next term (2012-2015), beginning at the WEHC in Stellenbosch. The current Treasurer, Luis Bértola, is willing to serve another term. The Executive Committee supports this. After having served for two terms, I will step down as Secretary General at the Congress in Stellenbosch. After careful evaluation, the Executive Committee decided to endorse the nomination of Debin Ma (London School of Economics) as the next Secretary General of the IEHA for election by the General Assembly at its next meeting in Stellenbosch during the WEHC. As nominees for the vacant EC seats the Executive Committee selected Mathieu Arnoux (Université Paris Diderot-Paris 7), Joerg Baten (University of Tübingen), Marjolein 't Hart (University of Amsterdam), Kris E. Inwood (University of Guelph), Min Ma (Central China Normal University), Pablo Martín Aceña (University of Alcalá), Tetsuji Okazaki (University of Tokyo), Irina Potkina (Institute of Russian History RAS), Knut Sogner (Norwegian School of Management).

Another very important decision was the selection of the host city for the 2015 WEHC. After the presentations of the potential organizers and an extensive discussion of the proposals, the Executive Committee decided by ballot that the World Economic History Congress in 2015 will take place in Kyoto!

Thirdly, I would like to introduce shortly the CLIO-INFRA project. In 2010, the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) awarded a subsidy to the project CLIO-INFRA, of which Jan Luiten van Zanden was the main applicant and for which the International Institute for Social History (IISH) fulfills the secretarial function. Under the title of CLIO-INFRA, a set of interconnected databases will be set up containing worldwide data on social, economic, and institutional indicators for the past five centuries, with special attention to the past 200 years. These indicators will allow research into long-term development of worldwide economic growth and inequality. The Executive Committee of the IEHA serves as *Stakeholder Committee* within this project which advises the *Steering Committee* of the CLIO-INFRA project. For more information, please visit <http://www.clio-infra.eu/>.

Since the last meeting of the Executive Committee in November 2010, the IEHA Office was mainly occupied with the pre-evaluation of the session proposals of the second round for the WEHC 2012, the preparation of a report that compares the three bids for the WEHC in 2015, prepared the EC meeting in Milan, and handled the submission for the dissertation competition.

In addition, the first results of the questionnaire project on the situation of economic history worldwide are published now on the IEHA homepage: <http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/ieha/>.

As another project, we had started the initiative 'pioneer tutoring' at the WEHC in Utrecht, in which we interviewed young scholars from countries where economic history does not have a broad personnel base both before and during the congress about their situation and the one of our field in their country. Given that this initiative received a lot of interest, we decided to expand it into a mentoring initiative providing intercontinental communication with other (mostly senior) scholars beyond world

congresses. This is framed now by a larger research project by the German Ministry of Science and Technology, which is organized by a leading economist of university education studies, Professor Kerstin Pull. The project manager and expert of this project is Julia Muschallik (both University of Tübingen).

I thank Valeria Prayon and Franziska Tollnek for their excellent work for the IEHA office, the leaders of the national associations for their quick responses, and the Executive Committees members and the African Local Organizing Committee for their hard work.

I wish you all a happy and successful new year and I am looking forward to an exciting World Economic History Congress 2012!

With kind regards,

Joerg Baten
Secretary General