

## Newsletter for 2013

In the past year, the new IEHA Secretariat has completed the transition to our new base in LSE in London and we have been collaborating with the Kyoto local Organizing Committee (LOC) to prepare for the upcoming World Congress, to be held for the first time in Asia in August, 2015. The IEHA held an Executive Committee (EC) meeting in Kyoto on November 7-8<sup>th</sup>, 2013, to evaluate session proposals submitted in the first round, to meet with the Japanese LOC, visit the prospective Congress venue and discuss other association matters. This Newsletter is to provide you a brief report on the EC meeting and other related activities.

### The Outcome of Session Proposals Submitted in the First Round

The proposals from the first call for sessions, launched in March 2013, officially kicked-off preparation for the XVIIth World Congress. We were very pleased with the unprecedented number of session proposals - a total of 150 – submitted by the closing date of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. The submissions overall were of high quality, broad in themes and approaches and geographic representation. All submitted proposals were immediately circulated to the entire EC. After careful deliberation and individual discussion of each at the Kyoto EC meeting in November, the EC accepted 71 sessions out of the 150 submissions. We invited 40 to consider re-submission in the second round. Whilst everyone is extremely pleased and encouraged by the high number of good quality proposals, the task of having to turn away many good ones in this round – due to the space constraint at the Congress and the need to ensure second round submissions being given equal chance – is far less pleasing.

The Japanese LOC have already opened the second round of online submissions at their World Congress website (<http://www.wehc2015.org/>) with the submission deadline set for July 31<sup>st</sup> 2014. We strongly encourage your high quality submissions, which will be carefully reviewed in the next EC meeting to be held in Amsterdam in Oct. 31-Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> this year. Given the breadth of themes and approaches, it is difficult to offer any simple and standard advice for good submissions in the second round. As a general rule, proposals written with care and thought with more specific indications of participants, and where appropriate, with themes that have more international appeal are clearly encouraged. We suggest you to also take a look at session proposals already accepted in the first round on the Congress website as it could help you avoid complete overlap with accepted sessions and also identify themes, areas or approaches that are still neglected. Please note that all submissions in the second round (including the ones invited to resubmit) will be examined equally as new submissions by the EC in the Amsterdam meeting in Oct. 31-Nov.1<sup>st</sup>. Announcements of the EC decisions on your proposals submitted in the second round will be made after the Amsterdam meeting.

Finally, in the coming months, please look out for open calls for poster sessions and submission of dissertation prizes and other updates on the Congress website <http://www.wehc2015.org/>.

The following EC members will evaluate dissertation submissions:

Early modern: Mathieu Arnoux (chair), Jan-Luiten van Zanden and Tirthankar Roy

Long 19<sup>th</sup> Century: Martin Shanahan (chair), Salomon Kalmanovicz, Min Ma, Irina Potkina

20<sup>th</sup> century: Catherine Schenk (chair), Franco Amatori, Price Fishback, Pablo Martin Aceña

The following EC members will evaluate the Poster Session submissions:

Marjolen t'Hart (chair), Kris Inwood, Knut Sogner

#### Preparation of World Congress in Kyoto:

At the Kyoto EC meeting, Tetsuji Okazaki, the chair of LOC, briefed the EC on the World Congress preparations. The Congress venue, the spectacular Kyoto International Conference Centre LOC has been reserved, providing 15 rooms for con-current sessions, a large hall for plenary sessions and additional space for poster sessions. Given the record number of sessions and the interest so far, the LOC will look into possibilities for booking additional rooms should that be necessary. He was pleased to report that fund-raising is currently on target, with additional efforts to seek funding and sponsorship for contingencies.

Other members of the LOC also answered EC members' queries on matters of Congress preparation, ranging from website to logistical matters. Overall, the EC is extremely impressed by the high degree of organization, professionalism and dedication of the Japanese LOC. The entire Japanese LOC membership including those based in Tokyo and two former Japanese EC members of IEHA (Osamu Saito and Kaoru Sugihara) came to Kyoto during the EC meeting period. The IEHA secretariat would like to take this opportunity to thank Sayako Kanda, Ei Murakami, Tomoko Shiroyama, Masayuki Tanimoto, Chiaki Yamamoto for providing a very pleasant and productive environment for our EC meeting.

#### The Congress Venue

On November 8th, the EC visited our Congress venue, the Kyoto International Congress Center. The Venue boasts stunning architecture, beautiful surroundings and state of the art facilities. With self-contained internal space, cafeteria, café and ample hallways and corners, the Venue offers an ideal setting for informal interaction, for posters and other scholarly activities (all insulated from the summer heat!). There is ample outdoor space including a beautiful Japanese garden (see the photos below). All of us left the venue highly impressed.

#### IEHA Matters

The EC meeting highlighted the healthy growth of IEHA membership during the past couple of years and the strong financial position that IEHA currently enjoys thanks to the member contributions and other sources. Beyond working with the Kyoto LOC on the World Congress, the IEHA secretariat will be involved in two major activities before the Amsterdam EC meeting October 31-November 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. Firstly, the election of new EC members to replace those whose terms expire in 2015. The second will be the selection of the next World Congress venue in 2018. An official open call to invite bids will be issued in the coming month.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to recognise the hard work of the IEHA bureau and EC members, the contributions from our member associations, and the additional financial

support from Economic History Society (EHS) to the IEHA Secretariat. I express personal gratitude to my LSE colleagues including Stephen Broadberry, Tirthankar Roy, Leandro Prados de La Escosura (LSE visiting professor in 2013) and LSE Phd students, Judy Stephenson and Xun Yan. My special thanks go to my colleague Leigh Gardner who, amongst other things, offered invaluable help to the Kyoto EC meeting.

With best wishes for the Year of the Horse.

Debin Ma

Secretary General  
International Economic History Association (IEHA)

IEHA web: <http://www.ieha-wehc.org/>

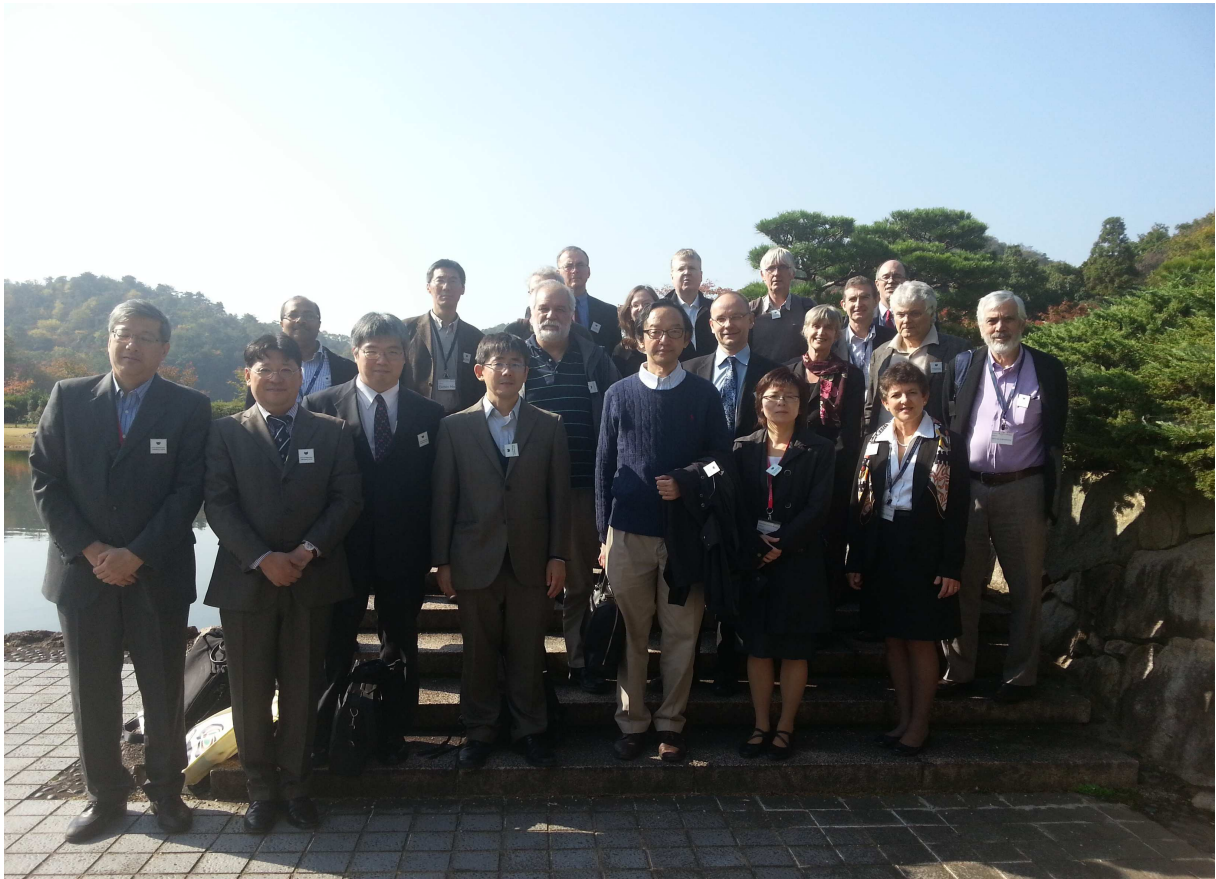


Photo 1: a group photo of EC members and Japanese Local Organizers taken at the Garden area of the Conference Center.



Photo 2: IEHA EC members testing the facilities in one of the conference rooms.