

Executive Report of the 13th Summer Institute and Creation of the Ecuadorian Chapter of Regional Science

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From July 23-25, 2014, the *13th Summer Institute of the PRSCO 2014* was held in the city of Loja, Ecuador. On this particular occasion, the theme of the Summer Institute was: “Economy, Society and the Environment: Territorial and Regional Development”. It was an event that was attended by 300 people and with speakers from a broad spectrum of countries: Bangladesh, Malaysia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Spain, the United States, Japan, Indonesia, and Mexico



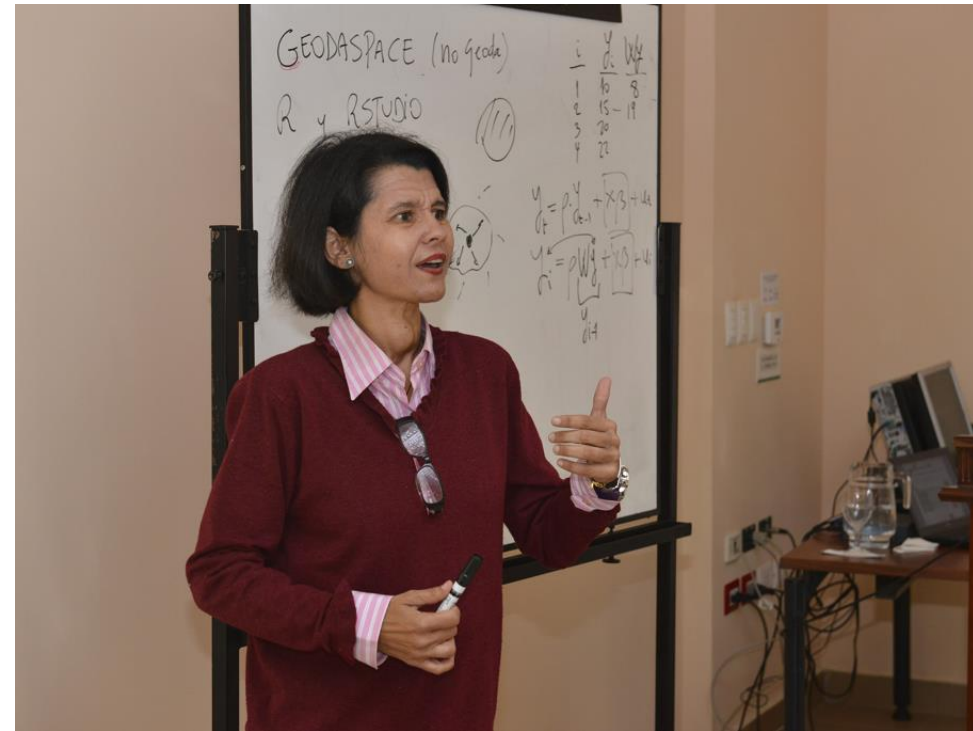
Geography, patrimony (cultural heritage), regional disparities, regional development policies, regional science methodologies, urban-regional planning, and Asia-Pacific relations were the core thematic axes of the conference. In total, 148 abstracts were submitted-128 of which were approved by the Scientific Committee for the event.



The overarching aim of the conference papers was to contribute to the international scientific community by producing studies, proposals and initiatives that were directly related to the field of regional science. With the aim of promoting the study of regional science as well as developing networks, facilitating exchanges among young researchers and jointly disseminating research, a special institute was subsequently established, namely *The Summer Institute for New Researchers in Regional Development*. This second event was attended by undergraduate students as well as recent graduates- namely those who had graduated within the last five years



During the event, there were important keynote speeches by renowned international academics and researchers: Geoffrey Hewings (from the *Regional Economics Laboratory* at the *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*), Michael Piore (from the *Department of Economics* at *Massachusetts Institute of Technology- MIT*), Coro Chasco Irigoyen (from the *Department of Applied Economics- Universidad Autónoma de Madrid*), Jean Claude Thill (*President* of the *Regional Science Association International*), and Luis Rizzo (from the *Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning- ILPES-CEPAL*).



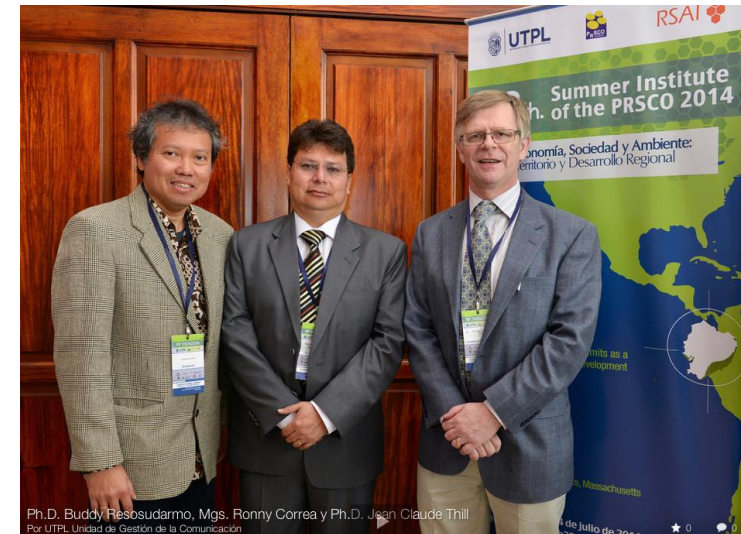
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In a subsequent meeting that was attended Jean Claude Thill (RSAI President), Budy Resosudarmo (PRSCO President) and Jose Barbosa (Rector of the *Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja*), as well as other professors, researchers, and representatives from the field of public policy, a *Letter of Intent* was signed. In this letter, 72 signatories (people and institutions) officially declared their interest to form part of the said association and agreed to implement the activities that would be necessary for the consolidation of the *Ecuadorian Chapter of Regional Science*



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During one of the parallel conferences, members of the Department of Economics at the *Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja*, under the guidance of the *Regional Science Association International* (RSAI) and two of its sections, The *Pacific Regional Science Conference Organization* (PRSCO) and the *Regional Science Association of the Americas* (RSAMERICAS), coordinated together the creation of the *Ecuadorian Association of Regional Science* (AECR).