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SPECIAL ISSUE

Changing Geographies of Human Mobility on Urban and National Scales

I am very pleased and honored to send out this special issue, “Changing Geographies of Human Mobility on Urban and National Scales,” of *Geographical Review of Japan*, the English organ of the Association of Japanese Geographers, Japan’s largest geographical organization. This issue marks the first anniversary of the change of the journal from a printed format to a website journal.

This special issue consists mainly of presentations given at sessions sponsored by the Global Change and Human Mobility Commission of the International Geographical Union (IGU) at the 4th International Conference on Population Geographies held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong on July 10-13, 2007. This commission started as the Global Change and Human Mobility Study Group, which was established and recognized at the International Geographical Congress (IGC) held in 2000 in Seoul, South Korea. In addition, at the IGC held at Glasgow in the United Kingdom in 2004, this study group was elevated to a commission and recognized as such. From the year 2000 we have shortened the organization’s title, “Global Change and Human Mobility”, and called it “Globility”.

Globility has been carrying out its activities under the outstanding leadership of Italy’s Armando Montanari, who originally was at the University of G. d’Annunzio and since 2007 has been at the Sapienza University of Rome. He devoted careful preparations and efforts to the establishment of this organization, and since 2000 has served as its Chair. During the same period as well I have been the Secretary of the organization and have been serving as the manager of its official website

<http://www.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/geo/globility/>. This website has also carried the information of members participating in the commission's activities. As of September 2008 the commission has 98 members in 45 countries.

Globility has to date held a conference at least once a year. The main conferences held have been in April 2001 at Loreto Aprutino, Italy; in March 2002 in Los Angeles, the United States; in August 2002 in Durban, South Africa; in September 2002 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; in April 2003 in Palma de Mallorca, Spain; in August 2004 in Glasgow, United Kingdom; in December 2005 in Pescara, Italy; in July 2006 in Brisbane, Australia; in July 2007 in Hong Kong, China, and in August 2008 in Tunis, Tunisia. The followings are the main scholarly results collected from the presentations at these conferences. In addition to Montanari (2002), Ishikawa and Montanari (2003) and Vandermotten et al. (2004), there was an issue of the *Belgian Journal of Geography* (*BELGEO* 2005, No.1-2), with Guest Editors A. Montanari and Pere A. Salvá Tomás, entitled "Human mobility in a globalizing world." There was also a special issue of the Croatian journal *Migracijske i etničke teme* (*Migration and Ethnic Themes*), (Vol.22, No.1-2, 2006), with A. Montanari as Guest Editor, entitled "New forms of human mobility on the local and national scales". In other words, this special issue is the sixth time in which the major results of the Globility commission have been published, and it is the third time in which they have been published in a journal's special issue. An introduction to these results can be found by clicking on the Publication Flyers link on the official website given above. We would be happy if this information is useful for those persons interested in these results.

The Globility commission was established with strong consideration given to the appearance of new currents and great changes in human mobility that grew out of opportunities from the major events that occurred in the last ten years of the 20th century, such as the collapse of the East-West cold war system symbolized by the unification of East and West Germany and the breakup of the former Soviet Union; the expansion of the EU; and the Asian currency crisis. Human mobility is an indicator that shows globalization in concrete terms, and it also is a mirror that reflects the connections between the various nations and regions of the world. In this sense, the name that Chair Montanari gave to the study group "Global Changes and Human Mobility" was superbly apt.

I have participated in almost all the major Globility meetings held since 2001. The members of Globility were mainly from Europe, but it has spread throughout the world; at each meeting participants join from all over the world, and there are very lively

research presentations. My frank impression from having heard these presentations is that the spatial patterns of human mobility seen in the contemporary world and the factors that give rise to such patterns are extremely diverse and complex. English is the language mainly used for all the related conferences of the IGU, such as the IGC, Regional Conferences, as well as Commission-sponsored meetings, but there are a relatively large number of participants from non-English-speaking countries, and this is a good opportunity to learn the real situation regarding various population movements in each region of the world, information that we cannot get from just the existing literature in English on the subject. Globility activities up to now have shared these tendencies, and have dug out the human mobility in many forms across all regions of the contemporary world.

From "Introduction to the special issue"

Guest Editor Yoshitaka Ishikawa

This special issue includes the following six papers, which were presented at the Hong Kong Meeting in July 2007 sponsored by IGU Commission on Global Change and Human Mobility (Globility).

Josefina Domínguez Mujica and Raquel Guerra Talavera: The demographic transition and immigration flows in Spain: a close relationship

Barbara Staniscia: Migration of women to Eastern Italy: towards an Adriatic model?

Zaiga Krisjane, Maris Berzins and Andris Bauls: New labor migration trends: evidence from Latvia

Zhongdong Ma and Guowei Zhou: Isolated or compensated: the Impact of temporary migration of adult children on the wellbeing of the elderly in rural China

Hiroo Kamiya and Chul Woo Lee: International marriage migrants to rural areas in South Korea and Japan: a comparative analysis

Ryogo Abe: Gendered labor migration from the Philippines to Japan: mapping "Philippine Pub space" into the Japanese context

You can read and save these papers at the following website:

<http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/geogrevjapanb/81/1/ contents>