

CALL FOR PANELS

FOURTH EAST ASIAN CONFERENCE ON

SLAVIC EURASIAN STUDIES

Image of the region in Eurasian Studies

4-5 September 2012

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies
Kolkata

Based on the discussions between the Executive Council members of International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES) and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) in Delhi on June 13, 2011 and members of Japanese Council for Russian and East European Studies (JCREES), the Korean Association of Slavic Studies (KASS), the Chinese Association for East European, Russian and Central Asian Studies (CAERCA) and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies in Beijing on August 27, 2011, it was decided that the Fourth East Asian Conference on Slavic Eurasian Studies will be organized by MAKAIAS on 4-5 September 2012 in Kolkata. The theme of the conference is **Image of the region in Eurasian Studies**.

General guidelines

- All proposals/panels need to be scholarly in nature. Panels approved by the three Slavic Eurasian Studies associations of East Asia (Japan, Korea and China) and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata will be included in the Conference programme.
- It is desirable that each panel should comprise of a maximum of four presentations, a chairperson and one discussant. Panels should include participants from more than one country.
- Panels/papers should be categorized into four-history and historiography, political science and international relations, economics, culture. The category of a panel should be indicated along with the panel proposals.
- The official languages of the Conference are English and Russian. All abstracts, proposals and correspondence will necessarily be in English.
- Participants requiring letters of invitation for visa purposes may please write with full passport details to MAKAIAS by **May 15, 2012**. The Institute will have to obtain necessary clearance for the conference from Government of India by submitting all documents (with passport details and contact details of participants) at least 3 months before the conference.
- **Participants are requested to make their own arrangements for accommodation.** Information about two hotels in Salt Lake area close to MAKAIAS is as follows: (**The Sojourn**, Plot No. KB 23; Sector III , Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700098, West Bengal, India; **Ph** : +91-(033)-2335-1462 (6 lines) / 2208 / 2209; **Fax**: +91-(033)-2335-1590; **Email** : info@hotelthesojourn.com) and **Hyatt Regency**, JA 1, Sector 3, Salt Lake City, Kolkata 700098, Ph: 91-33-23351234; e-mail: india.reservations@hyatt.com. Rates for **HYATT REGENCY** and **THE SOJOURN** are \$US 110 and \$US 90 (approximately).

Proposals for panels

- Arrangements for parallel panels in two conference halls are preferred. Besides the inaugural panel and valedictory session, three panels in each conference hall on an individual day may be held. This makes it a total of 12 working panels, plus one inaugural panel and a valedictory session. Additionally, a round table of one-hour duration may be held on the second day to facilitate interaction with young researchers and students.
- Each working panel will be of maximum of 120 minutes duration (15-20 minutes for each presentation and 20 minutes for the observations from the chair and the discussant and 20 minutes for Q&A).
- Each panel should include 250-word abstracts of the papers concerned and brief bio-notes (of about 100 words) of the contributors.
- Proposals will include the title of the panel, the titles of the presentations, the names of the paper presenters along with academic affiliations and contact details (including fax numbers, phone numbers and e-mail addresses). **Passport details need to be indicated and relevant scanned pages of the passport need to be submitted.**

Guidelines for individual proposals

- All proposals need to be scholarly in nature and relevant to the field of Eurasian studies
- Proposals will have to be submitted electronically to rc4@makaias.gov.in, suchandanachatterjee@makaias.gov.in and anitasengupta@makaias.gov.in
- Each proposal should include an abstract of 250 words that should be submitted by **15th June 2012**. However, the titles of the panels and individual presentations along with a 100-word bio-note are expected by **May 15, 2012**. **The subject heading in mails may be mentioned as Fourth East Asian Conference on Slavic Eurasian Studies.**
- Passport details of participants with full contact details and scanned pages of the passport need to be submitted along with the proposals.
- Participants requiring letters of invitation for visa purposes may please write with full passport details to MAKAIAS by **May 15, 2012**. The Institute will have to obtain necessary clearance for the conference from respective ministries of Government of India by submitting all documents (with passport details and contact details of participants) at least 3 months before the conference.
- Individual proposals should indicate power point presentations or slide presentations.
- The programme, panels and abstracts of the papers will be uploaded in the MAKAIAS website.

Concept note

Image of the region in Eurasian Studies

The revived interest in 'the region' as a category of research indicates the growing importance of not only spatial characteristics but also human settings that qualify this spatial characteristic. This comes into play not just in the geographical determination of 'regions' but also in its designation as a separate entity. It finds its most interesting manifestation in changed designations, emanating from a selective use of geographical knowledge, that follow political transformations. What is interesting is that while there is obviously a geography of space, distance, time, terrain and weather, there is also a geography of imagination. As one of the most imagined spaces on the global map Eurasia has been variously perceived and constructed in different epochs. An examination of these is interesting in terms of understanding how definitions of the region are evolving and its reflections in studies of the region. The focus of the present seminar is on the ways in which Eurasian studies have evolved in various Asian centres of research.

While there is interest in Eurasia as a geopolitical entity, the features of Eurasia's cultural environment are not lost sight of. Parallel discourses about cultural interconnections and tangled histories in an Asiatic space have surfaced. In the entire gamut of post-Soviet studies about 'regionology', the emphasis is not merely on binary relationships and divergent patterns and challenges encountered by the post-Soviet states of Eurasia but also about diverse community patterns, institutional arrangements that have played a prominent role in imparting dynamism to the region. The discussion has also shifted to a mosaic of trans-national phenomena in the entire Eurasian neighbourhood. A multitude of images about a Eurasian ecumene has produced a great deal of interest in comparable situations in regions such as South Asia.

The idea that gained ground within the format of regionology is how regions reinvented themselves through an envisioning of spatial entities like Slavic Eurasia, Central Eurasia, Central Asia or Inner Asia. Today, each of these spatial connotations are critical components of debates that have emerged within the realm of history, historiography, historical geography, international relations, social anthropology etc. In the regional discourse, the emphasis is on future possibilities rather than missed opportunities. *Krais* and *okrugs* show more involvement and there is a tendency for new regional partnerships.

The present seminar will try to deal with some of these variables, taking into consideration the multiple settings of Eurasia—the Slavic, the Mongol, the Turkic, the Chinese, the nomadic, the sedentary and also the cosmopolitan.

The Fourth East Asian Regional Conference on Eurasian Studies is being organized by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata which is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Please respond with a title, brief bio-note of 100 words and passport details within May 15, 2012 to Suchandana Chatterjee and Anita Sengupta at rc4@makaias.gov.in, suchandana_chatterjee@makaias.gov.in and anitasengupta@makaias.gov.in.