Seoul World Congress Meetings a Success
Ted Morton

The Research Committee organized three successful panels at the IPSA XVIth World Congress in Seoul, South Korea, August 17-21, 1997. The panels featured ten presented papers and three supplementary papers. The authors represented 6 different countries. In addition to the panelists, there were 21 participants in the first panel, 13 in the second, and 10 in the third. At the business meeting new officers were nominated for the next three-year term (see next page). Tentative plans were made for upcoming off-year meetings in Boston, Capetown and London. Finally, a resolution was unanimously adopted thanking Professor Martin Edelman for his leadership as President/Convenor of the past six years.

Upcoming Meetings

1998 August 30-September 1, Northeastern University, Boston. Contact person: Professor Michael Tolley

1999 January, University of the Western Cape, Capetown, South Africa. Contact person: Professor Jeremy Sarkin [postponed indefinitely]


2000 August 1-6, Quebec City, IPSA World Congress.

Call for Papers: 1998 Meeting in Boston

The 1998 Interim Meeting of the Research Committee on Comparative Judicial Studies will be held August 30-September 1 in Boston, Massachusetts. Our meeting will precede the annual meeting of the APSA (September 3-6). Our host will be Professor Michael Tolley of Northeastern University. The meeting will open with a reception on Sunday evening, followed by two days of panels. Several themes have already been accepted. Professors Peter Russell and David O’Brien will organize at least one panel on comparative judicial independence. Other suggested comparative themes include church-state relations, the role of interest groups in rights litigation, the role of the public prosecutor, and the relationship between economic development and judicial independence. Individuals interested in presenting papers should submit a proposal of no more than a single page as soon as possible to Professor F. L. Morton, Department of Political Science, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB T2N 1N4, CANADA; FAX 403-282-4773. Email: morton@acs.ucalgary.ca
Early call for London Meeting: The Legacy of the Common Law

Donald Jackson

As the millenium comes to an end, what better place than the Commonwealth Institute in London could we find to assess the legacy of the common law? This should be a good time to examine the contribution of the common law tradition in the countries where the British flag once flew—or still flies. The rule of law, the role of precedent and stare decisis, the adversary system, jury trials, and the absence (or presence) of embedded rights documents are only few of the possible themes. We will especially welcome scholars from present or former commonwealth countries to present their views. Rooms have been reserved at the Conference Centre of the Commonwealth Institute, located in the heart of the London borough of Kensington and Chelsea. We have already held exploratory talks with several U.K. presses about publishing selected papers from the conference. The conference will begin with a reception on Sunday evening, July 18, 1999, followed by two days of meetings. Those interested in presenting a paper are encouraged to submit a proposal by June 30, 1998 to:

Donald W. Jackson, Department of Political Science, Texas Christian University; TCU Box 297021, Fort Worth, TX 76129-0001; USA FAX: 817-921-7397; email: D.W.Jackson@tcu.edu

Book Planned on Comparative Judicial Independence

Professor Peter Russell (Toronto) and David O’Brien (Virginia) are planning a edited book on the subject of judicial independence from a comparative perspective. They have already received papers or commitments for papers on the following countries or regions: Australia, South Africa, Russia, the Islamic Middle East, Israel, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, Eastern Europe, the European Union and Central America. Scholars interested in contributing to this project should contact the principals directly. Note that at least one panel on this topic is already planned for the Boston meeting. Contacts: Professor Peter Russell, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto, 100 St. George St, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1 CANADA; Professor David O’Brien, Department of Government, 232 Cabell Hall, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22903 USA.

Final Program from the XVII World Congress in Seoul


Election of New Officers

The terms of the officers and council members of Research Committee #9 expired at the end of 1997. Neal Tate, serving as Chair of the Nominating Committee nominated new officers and council members at the Seoul World Congress. Following is the list of those nominated. Additional nominations are entertained from the members at large. If you wish to make additional nominations, or, if already nominated, you wish to withdraw your name, please contact Donald Jackson, acting Secretary, by February 15, 1998. If no additional nominations are received by that date, the following nominees will be declared elected.

Convenor/President : Professor F.L. (Ted) Morton, Department of Political Science, University of Calgary,
Conference on Human Rights Standards and Transnational Corporate Policy

The Law Department at the University of Exeter, U.K., in collaboration with the International Third World Legal Studies Association (INTERWORLSA) will host an international conference on the theme of Human Rights Standards and Transnational Corporate Policy. Under this theme the conference is expected to explore the value of human rights standards to the policy and activities of corporations both at home and abroad taking into account the increasing clamor for the infusion of ethical standards in corporate decision-making. The conference is proposed for 23-25 March 1998 at the University of Exeter. Invitations are extended to non-member academics as well as interested NGOs and transnational corporations. Prospective participants are encouraged to contribute by joining or leading discussions or by presenting thematic papers. Proposals via a 200-word summary of the proposed contribution are requested by 30 January, 1998. For details contact Dr. Michael Addo, Lecturer in Law, phone, (01392) 263263; FAX (01392) 263196; Telex 43894 EXUNIV G.

International Conference on Comparative Non-Discrimination Law

A conference on Comparative Non-Discrimination Law will be held at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands, 22-24 June, 1998. The conference endeavors to bring together and develop worldwide expertise on the subjects of discrimination, including ethnic minorities, women, the handicapped, religious minorities, homosexuals and elderly people, all of who have sometimes been allured by law’s grand promise to guarantee their equal citizenship without discrimination. Yet it remains to be seen whether law can live up to such expectations. For details contact the Conference Organizer & Secretariat.

Democratization Conference

Professor James L. Gibson of the University of Houston has made a preliminary announcement of a conference on democratization to be held at the University of Houston in November, 1999 to celebrate the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. According to
Professor Gibson, the purpose of the conference will be to take stock of what we have learned about democratization after nearly a decade of sustained effort. Specifically, the conference will be convened to assess the body of theories and hypotheses addressed in democratization research, with an eye toward consolidating our knowledge of the processes involved, and, more importantly, identifying the urgent questions and problems that remain unanswered after this decade of intensive research. A formal call for papers will be made in the Spring of 1998. If you wish to receive further information about the Conference, please send your name, mailing address, phone and fax numbers and email address to: Professor James L. Gibson, 3934 University Blvd. Houston, TX 77005, USA. email: jgibson@uh.edu