

## Report of the Gender and Gender Commission on the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Geographical Congress Beijing, 21-25 August 2016 (by Shirlena Huang)

I am glad to report that at the Beijing IGC, the Gender Commission has been renewed for another 4 years (4 other Commissions were placed on probation).

Our Commission organized a dozen sessions, three jointly (with the Population Commission, Urban Commission and Political Geography Commission) at the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Geographical Congress in Beijing. There were almost 40 presenters across all the sessions (although some sessions had a few no-shows) cutting across a range of gender issues. Many of the sessions were well-attended and generated lively discussion (**see Photo 1**). The sessions included Mapping Changing Landscapes of Care in Asia: Towards Gendered Theoretical and Empirical Frameworks; Addressing Gendered Insecurities in the Urban Global South; Gendered Rights: Space, Culture and Society (2 sessions); Gendered Aspects of Migration and Multiculturalism (2 sessions); Island Bodies; Women in Rural India; Gendered Inequalities and Empowerment: Men and Women in the Public and Private Sphere; Understanding Contemporary Dynamics of International Student Mobilities (with the Population Commission); A Woman's Place is in the City! (with the Urban Geography Commission) and Migration, Gender, Citizenship (with the Political Geography Commission).

We also held a Business meeting at which just over 20 current members and interested new young scholars from a wide range of countries, including Canada, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, People's Republic of China, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, UK and USA, attended (**see Photos 2a & 2b**). The highlight of the Business Meeting was the launch of YES!, our Commission's group for Young and Emerging Scholars (if you are interested to be part of this initiative, please contact Kamalini Ramdas at [geokr@nus.edu.sg](mailto:geokr@nus.edu.sg)).

At the Closing Ceremony on Thursday 25 August, Professor Maria-Dolors Garcia Ramon, our Commission's founding secretary, received the *Lauréat d'Honneur* by the IGU. She received the award for her outstanding research career, especially in Geography and Gender, as well as for her sustained collaboration with international academic institutions, in particular the International Geographical Union. Maria-Dolors is only the 5<sup>th</sup> woman to be so accorded this honour (**see Photo 3**).



**Photo 1:** The audience listening to Elaine Ho presenting her paper in the session on “Gendered Aspects of Migration and Multiculturalism”.



**Photo 2a:** Shirlena Huang (outgoing Chair of the Gender Commission) highlighting the Commission's mission, activities and plans at the Commission's Business Meeting, Beijing.



**IGU Gender and Geography Commission Business Meeting  
33<sup>rd</sup> International Geographical Congress  
Beijing, 24 August 2016**

**Photo 2b:** Gender Commission Business Meeting – one for the album.



**Photo 3:** Maria-Dolors Garcia-Ramon addressing the audience after receiving the *Lauréat d'Honneur* at the Closing Ceremony of the Beijing IGC. The commendation was read and the award was presented to her by Vladimir Kolosov, outgoing President of the IGU.