

Dr. Fu-Chuan Lai
President of Chinese Regional Science
Association (CRSA)-Taiwan
Research Center for Humanities and Social
Sciences
ACADEMIA SINICA
Nakang, Taipei 11529, Taiwan

10 September 2018

Dear Dr. Fu-Chuan Lai,

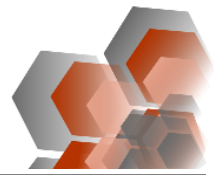
On behalf of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) Council, please allow me to convey our appreciation to colleagues at the CRSA-Taiwan for their contributions to regional science through participation in various RSAI conferences, as well as expanding the membership of the Association for the last 25 years, particularly in Asia and the Pacific region.

Since its beginnings, the RSAI has undergone significant growth through the establishment of numerous regional/country sections. Its reach now covers Europe and North America as well as some regions in Latin America, Asia and Africa. In the last five years, RSAI has established sections in Bulgaria, Ecuador, Thailand and Morocco. The RSAI currently has 30 sections throughout the world. By further forming new sections in other regions/countries, the knowledge of regional science and the RSAI itself as an organisation will continue to expand. The Association realises the strength in this approach and will proceed in pursuing it. Nevertheless, the Association is yet to cover half the world and thus has forgone important opportunities to further develop the knowledge of regional science and to better contribute to improving global welfare.

Hence, the purpose of this letter is to invite colleagues at the CRSA-Taiwan to further collaborate in expanding our coverage of Asia, particularly in China. As China constitutes a significant region in Asia, doing so will allow the Association to significantly strengthen and broaden our knowledge in regional science, as well as provide opportunities to improve the welfare of people in Asia. We are confident that friends at the CRSA-Taiwan are on the same page as the Association regarding this issue.

Our friends in regional science related fields in China have also positively responded to the Association's intentions, as they have expressed strong wishes to join the Association and contribute in developing the knowledge of regional science. However, the Chinese government has a policy related to China-Taiwan co-existence in an international organization, which is applicable to all organisations based in China. This has prevented the Regional Science Association of China (RSAC) and its members from fully joining the RSAI, despite various attempted strategies in the last 15 years.

To overcome this particular issue, based on the outcome of the RSAI Council meeting on 30 August 2018 in Cork-Ireland and with this letter, the RSAI Council requests the support from colleagues at the CRSA-Taiwan to voluntarily change the name of CRSA-



Taiwan by replacing the word “Taiwan” with “Taipei” or another term. As the RSAI Council understands it, only with this change can the RSAC fully become part of the RSAI while maintaining the current structure of the RSAI organization.

Without disrespecting the opinions of colleagues at the CRSA, we would also like to mention a request of this nature has occurred in other international organizations such as the IMF, World Bank, WTO and the Summer and Winter Olympics. Another example involves the International Geographical Union (IGU), in which the Taiwan section is now called “Chinese-Taipei”.

The RSAI Council has a great expectation that our colleagues at the CRSA-Taiwan will agree to do so, since we all fully understand the importance of covering China within the RSAI. For this willingness, the RSAI Council will highly praise and acknowledge friends from Taiwan for their contributions in resolving this China-Taiwan co-existence issue.

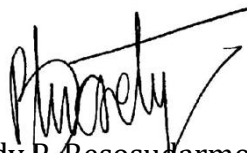
If there is more information needed regarding this request, please contact me and Tomas Dentinho at rsai@apdr.pt.

Since the RSAI Council will have its next meeting in early November 2018, the Council does expect to receive the response of your organization to this request by 20 October 2018. Otherwise the Council will assume colleagues at the CRSA-Taiwan agree to this request.

Finally, on behalf of the RSAI Council, I would like to stress that everyone at the RSAI Council would like to strengthen our friendship and collaboration with colleagues at the CRSA-Taiwan.

Looking forward to seeing friends at the CRSA-Taiwan in future RSAI activities.

Sincerely Yours,



Budy P. Resosudarmo
President of the RSAI