

# 2014 Report

## of the CAS Representative to the International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES)

The #1 item on the current CAS-ICCEES agenda is the upcoming **IX ICCEES World Congress, in Japan 3-8 August, 2015**. It will be hosted by Kanda University in Makuhari, a waterfront business district along the bayshore just outside central Tokyo.

The ICCEES World Congress, held once every five years, is a prestigious and collegial venue for connecting in person with scholars of Central and East European studies from around the world. It is interdisciplinary, with virtually all the humanities and social sciences represented. Participants include established scholars and graduate students. After the Congress, thematic volumes of collected papers are published.

Since the cost of international travel can present a challenge to students, at last year's CAS AGM I floated the idea of seeking **funding assistance for Canadian Ph.D. students** who might want to participate in the 2015 World Congress. With a go-ahead from the Executive, I looked into several options:

- Though Canadian banks do not support scholarly conferences outside of Canada, some credit unions have less stringent requirements for modest funding assistance to their own members.
- Canadian universities support participation in international conferences, often through their Faculties of Graduate Studies.
- I have identified two anonymous private sources who are willing, through CAS, to match university funding for Ph.D. students up to \$1000 (2 x \$1000).

Any other ideas, suggestions or pledges of support could go a long way toward encouraging our young scholars to participate in the World Congress.

### **What should student members of CAS who are interested in attending the ICCEES World Congress do?**

- #1 – Submit your proposal ASAP; it costs nothing, and the **official deadline is 31 May 2014** (with maybe a little leeway...). See the guidelines for proposals at: **<http://src-h.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/iccees2015/>**
- #2 – Once the proposal is accepted, in August, apply for funding from your home institution;
- #3 – After obtaining partial funding, apply for a matching grant from CAS.

### **What can CAS professor-members do?**

- Submit your own proposal for a paper or a panel to the above website.
- Encourage your graduate students to submit proposals. Let them know about funding sources.
- If you know of graduate students working in other fields of Central and East European studies, tell them about the 2015 World Congress and about the benefits of CAS membership.

The forthcoming IX ICCEES World Congress in Japan will be a great opportunity for conference experience, international connections and scholarly publication.

Respectfully submitted,

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