



Saint-Dié des Vosges

October 20th 2011

## ***Direction Scientifique***

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The last *International Festival of Geography of Saint-Dié des Vosges*, centered on « *Pluralist Africa: Paradoxes and Ambitions* », has been a great success despite an unpredictable weather. The 22nd FIG has gone, hail to the 23rd *International Festival of Geography of Saint-Dié des Vosges*! Its new theme – which has to be finalized by our Steering Committee - will be:

**« The Importance / Value of Landscapes »**

**or**

**« What do you see? »**

***How Geographers view Landscapes***

**It will be held from October 11th to 14th 2012**

In « *A season in Hell* », young French poet of the 19th century, Arthur Rimbaud, tells the story of one of his « *folies* » : « *For ages I boasted of possessing all possible landscapes (...) I defined vertigos* ». How can one escape this vertigo if not by discovering landscapes of the real world ? The day he turned 24, Rimbaud hit the road, crossed the Vosges mountains and sailed from Genova to Africa, a continent our FIG has just left. He travelled and even considered making a photo-reportage on Abyssinia for the Paris Société de Géographie. He had now become a geographer and could fit his teenager's dreams into the real world. Let's materialize once again this dream of his next year at Saint-Dié. We do not intend to neglect the dreamlike dimension of panoramas but we won't neglect the fact that these panoramas also have an ecological or market value, that they can be a major stake in national ambitions... No one in Saint-Dié can forget the horrendous battles the French and Germans fought for the « *Ligne bleue des Vosges* », the mountains overlooking the city. Landscapes inherited, protected, owned, built, destroyed, rehabilitated represent a fundamental basis of our Geography. This is why, during three days, our attention will be focused on them.

In order to give sense to the multiplicity of suggestions we expect from you, we would like to point out a few potential paths, which we will consolidate, together with all other suggestions, within our « *Itineraries* » :

*\* The making of and genesis of landscapes. We intend to delve into « beautiful » landscapes » as well as « ordinary » ones. We wish to analyze the history of landscapes until the present times.*

*\* The values of landscapes, whether environmental (nature vs. culture, ecosystemic services), economic (among which tourism and real estate), cultural and social.*

*\* The regional development question seems to us crucial : how to build, set up, manage contemporary landscapes, locally as well as on an international scale. The place of human actors and of regulations will be considered, as well as landscape management, so crucial for « Europe ».*

*\* Virtual landscapes and landscapes of the future must also focus our concern. Geolocalization and geovisualization provide us with multiple new representations that we have to analyze (video games, architecture softwares...). We also expect more unexpected landscapes analysis (nocturnal, under water,... )*

## Turkey will be our guest country

Topics concerning our guest country can obviously, but not necessarily, be linked to the above mentioned themes.

**This is why – besides our roundtables, which will be managed by our Steering Committee - we urge you to make one or more suggestions of interventions which could take several forms :**

- ⤴ *One or two 1 hour long conferences which could also double up with a « café géographique » (also 1 hour), 1 hour interventions in a school (primary or secondary upon invitation by our colleagues from the Saint-Dié des Vosges schools), or an out of town conference if need be.*
- ⤴ *Presentation of a newly released book related to this year's theme or to our guest country (30 to 45 minutes)*
- ⤴ *Commentated food tasting (1 hour in our Food Fair)*
- ⤴ *Scientific poster (exhibition by habilitated labs : only one poster per research unit)*
- ⤴ *Presentation at the Geomatic salon.*

Our rules are very simple: we have to be at the same time scientifically to the point and open to the widest audience possible. Our Scientific Direction, which relies on the 40 or so members of our Steering Committee, retain the right to short-list, among the very many proposals we expect from you, those which will enable us to thematically and spatially balance our final program. Our Scientific Direction can also invite scientists and experts selected under the guidance from our Steering Committee to fill in our different Itineraries.

We would appreciate if you could spread out this information as widely as possible and we expect to receive your proposals before the 15 of January 2012 at the latest.

*Your interventions should take the form of :*

- ⤴ *A one page text presented in the specific form available on the FIG website (city of Saint-Dié des Vosges). Please note that, in the case a proposal would be made by several authors, we will select the first author on the list.*
- ⤴ *If your proposal is accepted in our final programme, we will officially let you know from the beginning of May. But we will most probably get in touch with you for a confirmation of your proposal(s). We retain the right of filming contributions selected and making them available on the Net. We also retain the right of requesting you for a written text.*
- ⤴ *Please let us know your eventual technical requirements (which will be vetted by the FIG technical services).*
- ⤴ *Please remember that no technical support is available for « cafés géographiques » and books presentations.*

Your participation to the FIG will depend upon your acceptance of these conditions.

Your proposals should be forwarded to our scientific secretariat:

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**Tel : (33) 3 29 52 66. Email : [jlattmann@ville-saintdie.fr](mailto:jlattmann@ville-saintdie.fr)**

Yours faithfully,

Bertrand Lemartinel (Université de Perpignan Via Domitia) et Louis Marrou (Université de La Rochelle)  
Scientific Directors