

Local Actions in a Global Context

Paradiplomacy by Subnational Jurisdictions

15-17 January 2013, Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway

Developments in local governance.

Local Actions in a Global Context explores how subnational jurisdictions use paradiplomacy to seek influence beyond their borders.

Globalisation has diluted the sovereignty of national governments. At the same time, subnational jurisdictions (towns, cities, and regions) are increasingly using paradiplomacy and informal diplomacy to interact with the world on their own terms in areas like trade, culture, tourism, and environment.

Yet paradiplomacy presents both concerns and opportunities. Local governments may lack the skills and structures to engage in responsible foreign policy. Multilevel governance could also complicate international decision-making and reinforce disparities of wealth.

This conference considers: The implications of non-sovereign jurisdictions exercising foreign policy, the apparatuses of paradiplomacy (for instance, tourism offices and trade boards), and the nature of interactions between subnational jurisdictions and other actors.

Svalbard: The world's arctic outpost.

The Svalbard archipelago is a demilitarised arctic territory under Norwegian jurisdiction. Numerous states, however, are entitled to carry out commercial activities in the islands.

Longyearbyen, the world's northernmost town, received local government in 2002. Although mainly Norwegian, its 2100 residents include citizens of 40 countries.

Jon Pierre is keynote speaker. This conference is a collaboration of the Centre for Democratic Network Governance (Roskilde University), the Island Studies Program (National Taiwan Normal University), and the Institute of Marine and Island Cultures (Mokpo National University).

How to participate.

To learn more and find out how to attend or propose a presentation, visit the website below or e-mail the convenor Adam Grydehøj at agydehoj@islanddynamics.org. Abstracts are due 1 June 2012 at the latest.

To learn more, please visit:

www.islanddynamics.org/localactions.html

