

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 seek influence beyond their borders.

As globalisation weakens the ability of national governments to act unilaterally, subnational jurisdictions (towns, cities, regions) are using paradiplomacy and informal diplomacy to promote their interests internationally in such areas as trade, culture, tourism, politics, and environment.

Paradiplomacy presents challenges too. For example, local governments may lack the skills and democratic structures to exercise responsible foreign policy, and multilevel governance may complicate global decision-making, reinforcing disparities of wealth.

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

An international collaboration.

The keynote speakers are governance experts **Jon Pierre** and **Eric Clark**. This conference is a collaboration of the Centre for Democratic Network Governance (Roskilde University), the Island Studies Program (National Taiwan Normal University), and the Institution for Marine & Island Cultures (Mokpo National University).

Svalbard: The world's arctic outpost.

Svalbard is a demilitarised archipelago under Norwegian jurisdiction, but an international treaty permits commercial activity by numerous states. Longyearbyen, the world's northernmost town, gained local government in 2002. Its 2100 residents are mainly Norwegian but include citizens of 40 states.

How to participate.

To learn more about the event and how to make a presentation, visit the website below or e-mail the convenor Adam Grydehøj at **agrydehoj@islanddynamics.org**.

Abstracts are due **1 June 2012**.

To learn more, please visit:

www.islanddynamics.org/localactions.html