

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, September 21 st 2011	
Time	Agenda
2.30 pm	Registration
3.00pm	Welcome Remarks by Assoc. Prof. Rashila Ramli Director of IKON
3.10pm	Introduction to Assistant Prof. Dr. Jaroslaw Suchoples IKON's Associate Research Fellow by Prof. Dr. Paul J. Lim Head of Centre for European Studies, IKON
3.20pm	Presentation by Assistant Prof. Dr. Jaroslaw Suchoples "Central Europe and the Process of European Integration: Hopes, Realities and Challenges"
4.00pm	Q & A Sesssion
5.00 pm	Coffee/Tea served / end of session



IKON Seminar Series 09/2011
Centre for European Studies
Institute Of Occidental Studies (IKON)
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

**"CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN
INTEGRATION: HOPES, REALITIES AND CHALLENGES"**

by

Assistant Prof. Dr. Jaroslaw Suchoples
Institute of History and International Relations,
University of Szczecin (Poland)

on

21st September 2011
3.00pm - 5.00pm

Venue:

Bilik Mesyuarat IKON
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia



Institute of Occidental Studies (IKON)
Level 5, ATMA Building
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia
Tel: +603-8921 3782 Fax: +603-8921 3443
Email : pghikon@ukm.my
Web : www.ikon.ukm.my

ABSTRACT

“CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: HOPES, REALITIES AND CHALLENGES”

On 1 May 2004, ten, mainly Central European countries became formally members of the European Union. This accession to the EU should be seen, in the context of, at least, three factors, which influence the attitude of new members towards the idea of European integration: hopes – connected with the past, existing realities – being a function of the presence, and challenges – important for projecting of the future.

Firstly, their long historical experience – foreign occupation, dependency on mighty neighbours and lack of possibilities for national and individual development as well as the complaint of the exclusion from the mainstream of the civilization – caused that after 1989/1990, they were urgently looking for some security, stability and progress. In opinions of their leaderships and societies this goal could be reached only through the membership of the EU and also NATO (in the military dimension).

However, the membership of Central Europe in the EU and the NATO (reached couple years before joining the EU) did not appear to be the end of this region's history. Therefore, new members of the European Union soon realized that efficient use of chances offered by the European Union depended on their pragmatic approach towards procedures and rules as well as co-operation between member states of the EU possible.

In quite recent years, Central European countries as members of the European Union face important challenges, which, probably, define not only their future, but also the future of all the European community. Questions concerning relations between small and big members of the EU, its politico-administrative efficiency and power, financial aspects of the positive equalization of the living standards between its old and new members, definition of directions of the foreign policy of the European Union, new dimensions of the security like, for instance, safe and stable energy supplies directly touch Central Europe and cannot be solved without her active and constructive participation in the European decision making process.

It is also possible to maintain that, today, majority of their citizens understand and accept the fact that their hopes from times before Central Europe's accession to the EU can be fulfilled only through the adjustment to realities of the co-operation of twenty seven member countries of this organization and giving the co-ordinated response to troublesome – often unexpected – challenges of our times and the future.

About the Speaker

Since September 2008, he has been Assistant Professor at the Institute of History and International Relations (Chair for the Comparative History of Europe), University of Szczecin (Poland). The rest of his professional life is in the following:

January 2008 – March 2009	Project participant (an exhibition “Wir Berliner!; the Poles in Berlin from the 18th century”) Centre of Historical Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Berlin (Germany).
2007-2008	Assistant Professor, Institute of History and International Relations, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (Poland).
2003-2005	Lecturer and Researcher, Otto Suhr Institute for Political Science, Sub Department of Baltic Countries, Free University of Berlin (Germany).
2003-2005	Assistant (with a doctoral degree), Chair of History, Willy Brandt Centre for German and European Studies, University of Wrocław (Poland).
2003-2004	Lecturer, Nordeuropa Institute, Humboldt University of Berlin (Germany).
2001-2002	Visiting Researcher, Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley (USA).
2000-2001	Analyst (main specialist) of the Polish Institute of International Affairs in Warsaw (Poland).
1998-1999	Lecturer of the Institute History, University of Gdańsk (Poland).
1998	Head of a bibliographical project, Library of Parliament, Helsinki (Finland).
1996-1998	Translator of historical books, editorial house “Otava” o/y, Helsinki (Finland).
1997	Participant of the International Summer School of Political Science and International Relations in Krynica (organised by the Batory Foundation – the Polish branch of the Soros Foundation), finished with honours (Poland).
1996-1997	Lecturer of the Institute of Renvall, University of Helsinki (Finland).
1995-1996	Assistant of the Chairman. Sword Ltd. Printing House (Gdańsk, Poland).
1992-1993	Assistant of the Vice-Governor of the Gdańsk Province (Poland).

He obtained his doctoral degree cum laude approbatur in 1999-2000 at the Department of University of Helsinki (Finland) but he began his doctoral studies earlier at the Institute of History, University of Gdańsk (Poland) from 1994 onwards.

He has received awards, grants and honours from institutions in Poland, Germany, Finland and from IKON, Associate Research Fellow since 2009. We are finally receiving him here in IKON. Until now, he was a name.

He has a four-paged long of publications in Polish, German and English which will not be enumerated