



The Fifth Workshop on
**Social Capital and Development Trends in
the Swedish and Japanese Countryside**

18th-19th August, 2008, Jönköping, Sweden
(With post-workshop excursion 20th-21st August)

Call for Papers

Title and Abstract Submission Deadline: 1st May, 2008
Finished Papers Submission Deadline: 31st July, 2008

BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

The countryside of Sweden, Japan and rest of the developed world is showing contradictory tendencies. On the one hand, many rural areas are becoming popular as residential areas and the climate changes are generating increased demand on renewable energy, thereby creating new markets for agriculture production. On the other hand, agriculture in the developed world is becoming more efficient, which means fewer jobs in agriculture. Today in Sweden, less than five per cent of the rural population is employed in primary sector industries. Due to, among others, lack of jobs and leisure activities, large rural areas are suffering from out-migration of especially young people. On the one hand countryside has nature, space and sometimes enterprising people, on the other hand countryside suffers from low accessibility to markets.

The globalized knowledge economy and the changes in agricultural policies are producing new prospects and problems for countryside. Policy makers are launching entrepreneurship and innovation as tools for regional renewal and development.

However, policy actions are often missing insights on the role of *social capital* – human networks and the values being spread in them – as a determining factor for success or failure.

The objective of the workshop is to discuss common topics of rural regions of Sweden and Japan, with the concept of social capital as common denominator. This workshop is the fifth workshop with this theme. The former workshops were held in Östersund, Sweden, 2004, Nichinan, Tottori, Japan, 2005, Vindeln, Sweden, 2006 and Kitami, Hokkaido, Japan 2007. The workshop of 2008 will be held in “Sweden’s Rural Capital”, Jönköping, and will continue the fruitful discussions on rural development issues and the role of social capital. The workshop will be co-arranged and co-located with the Nordic Council of Minister’s conference “Rural Entrepreneurship in the Nordic Countries” and a joint excursion takes place after the workshop.

Topics of interest in this workshop include (but are not limited to):

- Social capital in business life, government and civil society
- Policies for rural development
- Community governance and partnerships
- Commons and their management
- Local engagement, social economy and the third sector
- Sustainable management of natural resources
- Tourism’s role in rural development
- Climate changes’ threats and opportunities for the countryside

PARTICIPANTS

The workshop is open for participants from universities, research institutes, government, practitioners, developers, and for people being interested in rural development and social capital.

VENUE

Södra Vätternbygdens Folkhögskola (preliminary), Jönköping, Sweden.

ABSTRACTS

Abstracts should contain maximum 300 words, be written in English and in MS Word. The abstracts should include title, author(s), affiliation, complete address, telephone number and e-mail address. Send your abstracts to hanswes@infra.kth.se and to katarina.blaman@ihh.hj.se

PUBLICATION

Selected papers from the workshop will be published as proceedings.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1st May: Deadline for abstract submission
- 30th May: Information on acceptance of abstracts
- 31st July: Deadline for submission of finished papers
- 18th-19th August: Workshop
- 20th-21st August: Post-workshop excursion

COSTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Travel costs to and from Jönköping are paid by the participants. Meals and accommodation for the Japanese participants, during the period 17-21 August, are covered by the organizers. Other participants' meals are covered by the organizers 18-21 August, accommodation costs are paid by the participants themselves.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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Prof. Hans Westlund (Jönköping International Business School and KTH (Royal Institute of Technology))

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