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Annual Conference 2007

Welcome from the chair of conference

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**Royal
Geographical
Society**

with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

Welcome to the 2007 Annual Conference of the RGS with IBG. The programme is both full and extremely varied, so I hope that both speakers and other attendees enjoy what will undoubtedly be a stimulating programme.

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The conference theme is **Sustainability and Quality of Life**: a juxtaposition that is increasingly central to all our lives as the twenty first century progresses. Whilst the many and varied sessions all relate to this theme to some degree, the sub-themes for the next three days (Sustainable Cities, Development and Environment, Landscape Design) highlight some particularly pressing aspects. I hope that presentations and ensuing discussions will widen our perspectives and reveal new and exciting theoretical approaches and empirical findings to demonstrate the important work being undertaken by geographers on these issues.

As Conference Chair I am particularly delighted to welcome my guests. Anthony Giddens, who gives the opening conference address, is a life peer, was director of the LSE between 1997 and 2003, and whose development of the 'third way' political approach has been so influential in recent British politics. I should like to thank and welcome the plenary speakers, David Gibbs, Peter Head, Matt Kondolf and Beth Meyer, and also Michael Redclift, who has organised a plenary panel session. These plenary sessions address both challenging and important themes from a context that embraces the breadth of the geography discipline and beyond.

Finally, I give very special thanks to all the staff of the RGS who have been involved in different ways in organising the event, but particularly Catherine Souch, Kathryn Thomson and David Over, who joined with Linda McDowell, Keith Richards, Katie Willis and myself to form the 'conference core team'.

Many thanks to you all and please enjoy the next three days.

Angela Gurnell, King's College London