

The Competitiveness Institute
VII General Assembly
Ottawa (Canada), 19th September 2003, 9.00 am
Minutes of the Assembly

TCI President Alec Hansen opens the 7th General Assembly of The Competitiveness Institute and introduces the Executive Committee as a global group. There is a formal apology for TCI Secretary Alberto Pezzi who could not be here due to the arrival of his baby daughter.

Approval of the minutes:

Minutes are approved and seconded by the members of TCI. Minutes are available for download at

www.competitiveness.org/article/articleview/4/1/1/

The Presidents Report

Explanation of TCI activities:

Alec Hansen explains the new vision and strategy of TCI 2004. (See slide: 7, 8) Cluster-based development concepts are generally accepted and effectively applied among practitioners, policy makers, donor agencies and business leaders worldwide, with TCI serving as the forum for dialogue and knowledge sharing among thought leaders in the field. Alec Hansen explains the modification of the mission (slide 9) and the reordering of the TCI objectives (slide 10). There are no changes needed for the bylaws of TCI.

Increase in TCI activities:

The newsletter has direct correlation with the number of web activities and hits. The newsletter mailing list has increased from 1500 in 2002 to 2500 in 2003. Other key activities include the CKS (Cluster Knowledge Services), which was presented by Franziska Blunck and Ciara Howie at 17.00 on Tuesday. This service will continue to be promoted for use in the TCI community. Alec Hansen expresses his wish to increase the number on the mailing list further. Alec Hansen explains the need to find more sponsors such as VINNOVA.

Regional conferences:

Alec Hansen announces the arrival of TCI regional conferences (slide)
Special mention to Robert Breault. More volunteers are required in order to make regional conferences possible.

Future Conferences

The meeting for the 8th annual conference is announced and will be held in the afternoon. Presentation by Hong Kong committee. Calls for proposals for the 2006 will also be heard on this afternoon.

Need for strategic plan:

Alec Hansen explains that Franziska Blunck is the only full time employee of TCI and asks for any help that members can contribute. He explains that TCI Executive Committee is very operational but would like to establish another committee whose primary focus would be Europe.

Boston Board of Advisors meeting:

Alec Hansen explains the purpose and results of the Executive Committee in Boston in February 2004.

There were various strategy levels established which Alec Hansen explains to the TCI members. Evaluation of conference events (see slides for strategy areas 1,2 and 3 of General Assembly Presentation)

The Treasurer's report:

Mateja Dermastia explains the 2003 and 2004 income statements. After the breakdown she shows that TCI is facing a budget deficit of 6000 euro. She continues by demonstrating the income and expenditure chart showing an increase (see slides of General Assembly Presentation)

Questions:

Alec Hansen asks for any questions.

Pierre Paul Proulx from Montreal, Ottawa. Would like to make a proposal to thank and commend the authors of the Cluster Policies Whitebook. Explains that since 1988 he has been working on these issues and expresses his satisfaction on the quality of the document.

Alec Hansen proposes measures of way to commend the authors and suggest a similar award to that given to Stuart Rosenfeld.

Emiliano Duch, Spain. Expresses his regret with regards to member attendance at the General Assembly. It is a very important part about the life of The Competitiveness Institute and should be given more prominence in next years.

Attendance:

There were 30 members in attendance.