

**The Competitiveness Institute**  
**VIII General Assembly**  
**Hong Kong , 11 th November 2005, 9.00 am**  
**Ballroom Shangri-La**  
**Minutes of the Assembly**

Alberto Pezzi opens the 8th General Assembly of The Competitiveness Institute by presenting and reading the minutes of last year General Assembly in Ottawa. The Minutes are approved by unanimity.

President Alec Hansen gives a personal overview over his presidency in TCI in the past two years in TCI, showing the positive experiences but also the difficulties encountered. He encourages the new president and all TCI members to keep up the energy level they have shown in the last year seen that there are still some big challenges before them. He reviews the missions and objectives of TCI, saying that they are markers for the next two years, but opening up and focus more on competitiveness and not limit to cluster. He shows the actual membership, explaining that there are still few renewals during the year and that the majority signs up for the conference. He gives a breakdown for the conference participants.

President Alec Hansen explains the activities of TCI in the last year – the DC Forum launched in October, internal developments TCI tried to expand the activities of regional conferences and the Cluster Knowledge Services but was not able so far to receive revenue from this activity.

Mateja Dermastia give the Treasurers Report, showing the ups and downs of the incomes generated through membership throughout the years and the subsidies received. The part of membership fee revenues had slightly improve in 2005, but as the subsidies received so far stopped the result looks less favorite. Higher costs reflect that 2004 had been a year of mayor investment into the Cluster Knowledge Service and the website as well as higher travel costs. These results mainly out of a higher number of meetings held during the year. 2003 had lived a raise of cost for the additional salary expenses, as for the first time, TCI had a full time employee.

The Treasurer exposes the cost structure, explaining that costs for office administration has risen and that the main problem is that income did not raise in the same amount. As for the budget for 2006 she expresses the hope of receiving again some kind of subsidy to stabilize the TCI finances. The expenses for personal and travel will raise again, but the employment of the new TCI director should reflect in the recruitment of new members and new donations.

President Alec Hansen gives a short introduction to the new TCI director Kristofer Erlandsson who outlines his understanding and strategy of TCI for the next two years. He sees that the situation cannot be stable if the only income is through the organization of the annual conference. TCI has a strong brand name, but also raising competitors.

His plans include changing the structure of the membership fees and the system to raise them. Internal efficiency is one of his mayor goals, as well as retaining old members, offering them more value.

On long term strategy he seem the opportunity to broaden up TCI concept of competitiveness. His action plan foresees a high priority in fundraising, building up new activities on regional and thematic level.

Vice-President Alan Koziarski is no longer able to serve the institute for professional reasons. In the following year special advisors will be introduced for the region Asia Pacific and his position will be replaced officially during the General Assembly at next annual conference.

Vicepresident Alec Hansen opens the session for questions from the plenary.

Richard Walker proposes to charge for the newsletter as they do in Australia. Bob Breault asks Kristofer Erlandsson to focus also on Marketing needs and to start earlier promoting the conference.

Jim Bitomsky suggests to get existing members to commit themselves to TCI and use their networks for activities.

Lars Eklund makes the announcement that Elisabeth Waelbroeck-Rocha will come back as temporary treasurer to advice the Board of Directors. Emiliano Duch criticizes the financial situation of TCI especially for the high expenses. He sees that this is a problem of management not of lower incomes. He asks for a motion to endorse the new president to solve the situation in all respects taking all necessary actions. This motion is voted with unanimity.

Pamela McRaeWilliams asks to ensure that the Academic area becomes more included into the network and the activities of TCI. She and Trish Brimblecombe volunteer to help in adding more academic components.

Elisabeth Waelbroeck-Rocha reminds that TCI is a network and that they have succeeded in many goals in the last years but not concerning bringing in the companies and that there is mayor activity needed to mobilize them and have them participate in the conference. Regarding the critical income situation, she sees that part of it is due, that TCI does not yet provide the information members require and proposes to have a survey among the members.

President Lars Eklund closes the General Assembly thanking for the confidence, thanking especially Alec Hansen, Ifor Ffowcs-Williams and Emiliano Duch. He announces that first points of his program will be presented in the conference closure.

70 participants to the General Assembly