



# TCI Newsletter

News from the global practitioners network for competitiveness, clusters and innovation



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### Message from the President

Dear TCI friends,

Summer is approaching, and with it in the Northern hemisphere not only higher temperatures but also a lot of work activity before many people go on vacation.

This is also true for TCI where the secretariat and our colleagues in Monterrey continue to work hard on finalizing the program for the [2014 TCI conference](#). Have a look at the articles in this month's newsletter, register, and see what presentation you might want to make to contribute to the debate and learning. I know the November date of the conference still seems far way but if you wait until after the summer it will be around the corner all too soon.

Another piece keeping us busy is the TCI website. Lots of good stuff is already available there, from the global cluster initiative database to updates from all parts of the world to information about TCI activities. But the site design and functionality have become somewhat stale and outdated; the five years since we have done the last revamp have been an eternity in website development. So in July you are going to see a brand-new website when you type the trusted [www.tci-network.org](http://www.tci-network.org) into your browser. More engaging, more user-friendly, and hopefully more of an asset to you and the broader global community of people and organizations interested in cluster-based economic development for which this site is a key virtual connection.

My own travels in the worlds of competitiveness and clusters over the last few weeks have taken me to different parts of the Baltic Sea Region, to Brussels, and – currently – to the US. While the differences are many across these different locations, there is a common sense that we are in a difficult and somewhat transitory time: the economic outlook looks muted; my annual report on the Baltic Sea Region (if you are interested in that part of the world), for example, talks about a 'new normal' of lower growth rates even in this for Europe quite strong region. In the US the situation is somewhat better because the macroeconomic context seems less stable. But here, too, there is unease about whether there might be a secular slowdown of innovation and thus trend growth as well as a systematic increase in inequality with deep consequences for the social and political fabric of society. While cluster-based economic development is not 'the' answer to any of these complex problems, it is part of a policy agenda that aims directly to strengthen our ability to generate sustainable and meaningful growth. It is not all there is, but it is part of what will really matter over time.

In the US I am this week focused on the work that we have done in our Harvard-led consortium on a redesigned US

cluster portal, accessible at [www.clustermapping.us](http://www.clustermapping.us). Today, I talked at a training session for the site about our motivation and approach to cluster mapping. Very interesting discussions, especially about how to capture new emerging clusters and themes like renewable energy; a topic I briefly touched upon in last month's newsletter. We clearly can and need to do more in this direction, even when recognizing the limitations of both existing data and industry classification and of the nascent and often very location-specific character of these new clusters. Let me know if you would be interested to engage in a more structured discussion of how to crack this problem.

The next two days I will then have a chance to inform different groups in Washington, D.C. about the site and our thoughts on cluster-based economic development. Obviously I will mention the TCI Network, especially when meeting the grantees of the US federally-sponsored cluster and cluster-related programs at their annual meeting. Hopefully you will then have a chance to meet a good number of our US colleagues at the [2014 TCI conference in Mexico](#). The only drawback: my panel at the cluster managers meeting collides with the US-Germany match at the World Cup in Brazil. May the better team win...

Finally, I am happy to welcome the [Government of South Australia - Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy](#) as a new TCI member.

Best wishes from Boston and the Harvard Business School campus,

Christian Ketels, TCI President

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### TCI 2014 Monterrey: Last days to submit your abstract!

The deadline for submitting presentations for the TCI global conference to be held in Monterrey, Mexico, on 10-13 November 2014 ends 30 June. Have a look at the preliminary program which includes the keynote speakers already confirmed!

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### TCI 2014 Monterrey: Cluster tours

During the Monterrey TCI 2014 Conference, you will be able to participate in one of cluster tours. Cluster tours are a 1-day event where conference delegates will get an in-depth understanding of the clusters they visit. The tours start at 08.00 in the morning and end around 17.00.

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### TCI 2014 Monterrey: Cluster strategy in Nuevo Leon

Cluster strategies in the world have been gaining activity and strengthening their structures to counterfeit global competition. The State of Nuevo Leon has created different policies to boost the economic development in our state. One of the most important strategies has been the creation of Clusters in strategic sectors.

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### How clusters can reinvigorate Australian regions and industry

The TCI Oceania Chapter organized the TCI Australasian Cluster Conference on the theme of "How clusters can reinvigorate Australian regions & industry" and held in Sydney on 30 May. TCI Board member Richard Walker summarizes the main findings of the event.

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### Material TCI Australasian Cluster Conference, Sydney, 30 May

The TCI Network Oceania Chapter organized a one-day cluster conference in collaboration with Regional Development Australia, Brisbane. The event was held in Sydney on 30 May 2014 on the theme of "How clusters can reinvigorate Australian regions & industry". Around 80 cluster practitioners, economic developers, government economic and industry policy makers shared their knowledge and experiences.

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### New TCI website to be launched in July

TCI has always been aware of the importance of digital tools in facilitating communication among its members, so that they can easily network and get direct access to latest information on cluster based economic development. In order to keep up with the latest trends, we are currently working on a newly designed website to be launched in July. Stay tuned!

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### Experiencing TCI from the inside, by Hans Eirik Melandsø

Hans Eirik Melandsø, senior advisor of TCI member Innovation Norway, has been working at the TCI secretariat for a period of four months. We would like to thank him for his valuable contribution. In this article, Hans Eirik gives a short account of his stay.

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### New TCI organizational member from Australia

This month, we are pleased to welcome the Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy of the Government of South Australia as a new organizational member. We look forward to working with them in the framework of our activities!

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### Not a TCI member? Join the global network of cluster practitioners now!

TCI members have contributed to bring this global practitioners network for competitiveness, clusters and innovation where it stands today as an organization - more than 60 organizational members, a direct network of 4,000 individuals, close to 9.000 contacts across 111 countries in the wider community, and a significant presence in key cluster policy advisory groups. Join us now and start benefiting from this unique network.

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### Dubai's Multimodal Transportation and Logistics Cluster

The Department of Economic Development, of the Government of the Emirate of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates has taken the work on Dubai's Multimodal Transportation and Logistics Cluster and enhancing Dubai's global competitiveness as a transportation and logistics hub to new levels for the past three years. In this article and attached presentation, Gayane Afrikian, Senior Economic Policy Adviser in this Department, introduces this cluster, the creation of cluster platform for stakeholders collaboration and the efforts by stakeholders for joint policies and strategy.

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### "Days of Clusters" in Turkey, 30-31 October 2014

The 5th Balkan & Black Sea Conference "DAYS OF CLUSTERS 2014" will be held from 30th to 31st of October 2014 in Tekirdağ, Marmara Sea, Turkey. The mission of this year conference is creation of the Balkan & Black Sea cluster synergy through the public-private dialogue building and regional cluster best practice.

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### Academic articles on clusters - 12

The TCI Network seeks to develop tighter bridges between the practitioners in our network and the academic community working on clusters. As a first step, we will regularly post listings of new academic articles on clusters and competitiveness on our website. A further selection is available [here](#).

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### Cluster agenda for 2014

We are pleased to list cluster related conferences we have identified at a global level. Let us know about the cluster related events in your regions and countries - we will be happy to share them among the global TCI community.

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### Cluster training: a selection of courses

There is an increasing demand for professionals who possess the special qualifications needed for the competent management of clusters. In order to cover this need, various courses are offered around the world. TCI is pleased to present a selection of it.

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# TCI supporting organizations



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