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TCI Newsletter January 2014

Message from the President

Dear TCI friends,

Welcome to the first TCI newsletter of the year 2014. I hope you had a relaxing break, and already a good first couple of weeks back at work. The break over the holidays is always an opportunity to reflect more broadly on the issues one works on.

For TCI, the pipeline of upcoming events is growing – updates are as always in the newsletter and on our website. First will be an event in India, where TCI is supporting the local organizers and UNIDO. Further events in the first half of the year will take place in Northern Ireland (March/April – workshop of the interest group on cluster effort evaluation), Australia (May – workshop of our colleagues in the region), and Switzerland (June – conference on ICT clusters).

For the second half of the year we will then focus on our global conference in Mexico (November) with other potential events in the US and Europe being discussed. And we have already a few interesting events in mind for 2015… **If you have an event that you would like to inform other TCI members about, or where you suggest TCI should become involved as a partner**, please get in touch with Leire Oiarbide (loiarbide@tci-network.org).

TCI is also working on a range of other activities: With a web developer we are working on a **new website** that will provide a fresh design and better functionality. We are working with one of our members to organize a new **peer review, and will launch other members-only services as well**.

We are also **extending our collaboration with the academic community**; in addition to our monthly listing of **academic articles on clusters and competitiveness** (thank you Michael Keller and Philippe Gugler, University of Fribourg!), the **TCI Network has entered a collaboration with the "Competitiveness Review"**, where Philippe and myself have become editors and a number of other TCI Network members have agreed to serve in the editorial board. More on that in the next newsletter.

Internally, we have within the Board set up a small executive committee to work closely with the colleagues in the TCI secretariat in Barcelona while our CEO Patricia Valdenebro is on maternity leave. **If you want to get engaged in any of our activities or have suggestions**, please contact Jacqueline Glarner (jglarner@tci-network.org).

For me, the first weeks of the year already offered a number of opportunities to engage with issues that many of you are also dealing with in your own work:

· **Cities;** the World Bank is thinking about pulling together some of its activities on cities as an economic development driver; I had the chance to participate in a discussion of their ideas. Clusters and competitiveness feature prominently in this debate, which has gotten a lot of traction across a number of institutions recently. Watch that space.

· **Innovation policy;** the Swedish Innovation Agency Vinnova, one of TCI's organizational members, has launched a new program that challenges networks of firms and research institutions in related industries to develop strategic agendas and create platforms for collaboration to implement them; I have the pleasure of being in the selection committee. Ultimately the idea is to 'outsource' much more of the funding decisions for specific research projects from government to the actors in the clusters and innovation systems themselves. Innovative idea to push the envelope of innovation policy.

· **Cluster Mapping;** a consortium involving a number of TCI members including the research group I associated with in Stockholm has started its work on the **new phase of the European Cluster Observatory**. The work plan is ambitious with a number of new types of analysis and reports in the work plan already for the coming months. In parallel, the group I work with in the US has finalized a review of the cluster definitions and is working on a soon-to-be launched revamp of the US cluster mapping website. Our ambition is to get the European and US cluster mapping teams together later this year. If you are working on cluster mapping in your country and would be interested to join, contact me at cketels@tci-network.org.

Finallly, **it is my pleasure to introduce to you a new organizational member that has joined our network: Foundation for MSME Clusters, India.** I would like to welcome them. We are grateful for your support, and happy to have you engaged with the TCI Network.

For now, I would like to wish you all the best for 2014, and hope to see you at one of our events throughout the year.

Best wishes from Stockholm,

Christian Ketels, TCI President

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Renew your 2014 membership before 31 March
TCI members have received a message to renew their membership for 2014. We hope to count on your engagement also during this year and look forward to collaborating in projects and areas of interest we are working on.

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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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Changing Paradigm of Cluster Development Approach, 20-22 February 2014, New Delhi, India
TCI is collaborating with UNIDO, FMC and CII India in an international conference to be held on 20-22 February 2014 in New Delhi, India. The conference has been designed to create numerous options of cross learning and evolve a policy framework suiting the needs of a country.

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TCI Conference High Tech & Clusters, Bern, 25-27 June 2014: website online
The TCI Conference on High Tech & Clusters will be held in Bern, Switzerland, on 25-27 June 2014. Hosted by tcbe.ch ICT Cluster Bern, Switzerland, the event will focus on matchmaking between companies woking in the field of high tech. The organizers have opened a call for speakers.

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TCI Global Conference, Monterrey, 10-13 November 2014: the host's cluster strategy
The organizing committee of the 2014 TCI Global Conference is intensifying preperations for the event, defining contents and managing initial logistics. This month, TCI Board member Manuel Montoya, General Manager of the Automotive Cluster of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, shares his insights into the host's cluster strategies.

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Trust development in clusters: findings of a study

We are pleased to present the result of a reseach carried out by Giedrius Jucevicius and Rita Juceviciene on trust development in clusters. Research findings will be presented in more depth during the TCI 2014 Global Conference in Monterrey.

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A Modern Industrial Policy Agenda to Spur Growth, by Marco A. Llinás

This article by Marco A. Llinás is based on the chapter on Structural Policy Change of the Colombian National Competitiveness Report 2013-2014. Marco A. Llinás is Vice-President of the Colombian Private Council on Competitiveness and representative of Colombia in the TCI Latin American Chapter.

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International conference „New cluster policies for Central Europe and beyond", Brussels, 17 February

TCI member Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum is organizing an international conference on „New cluster policies for Central Europe and beyond", Brussels, 17 February. Registrations are now open!

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China Executive Tour with TCI member SPI

TCI organizational member SPI - Portuguese Innovation Society organizes a China Executive Tour 2014 in Beijing and Guiyang on 13-20 April 2014. TCI members enjoy a special discount.

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Cooperation between cleantech clusters in the Baltic Sea Region

The Baltic Sea Cluster Development Centre (BSCDC) connects clusters in the Baltic Sea Region with the purposes of improving excellence in cluster development and creating bridges and channels for cluster company's internationalization efforts. On 12 December 2013, BSCDC called upon its network to discuss the benefits and opportunities for advancing cooperation between cleantech clusters in the Baltic Sea Region. TCI member Lars Albæk, Cluster Development Manager of at he BSCDC, summarises the main findins of the meeting.

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New TCI organizational member from India: Foundation for MSME Clusters

We are pleased to welcome The Foundation for MSME Clusters (FMC) based in New Delhi, India, as a new TCI organizational member. FMC is organizing the conference on "Changing Paradigm of Cluster Development Approach" to be held on 20-22 February 2014 in New Delhi, India.

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Academic articles on clusters - 7

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