



TCI Newsletter

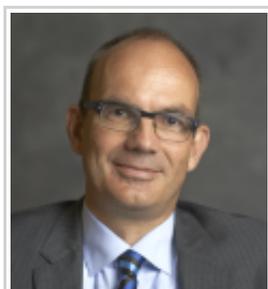
News from the global practitioners network for competitiveness, clusters and innovation



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Message from the President

Dear TCI friends,

This month's newsletter provides a rich snapshot of what defines the TCI Network: Information, events, and opportunities for collaboration in a global practitioners' network for cluster-based economic development.

A number of articles provide updates on the reality of cluster-based economic development in Denmark, Germany, and the US. There is a lot to learn from the international mix of approaches; the Danish and German efforts in particular clearly rank among the most advanced cluster policies globally. But there is also a clear message that successful cluster efforts need to be aligned with the individual economic and institutional context in the country in which they are taking place. Examples from abroad are great as an inspiration but problematic if they are seen as a blueprint that can be easily copied.

Apart from these country-specific articles we include our usual [monthly selection of academic articles about clusters](#). TCI wants to provide a bridge between academic research and cluster practice. For practitioners, our aim is to provide access to new ideas and research findings. For academics, we ultimately also want to be a partner that provides opportunities to learn about issues that matter in practice. [The Competitiveness Review](#), the journal that my colleague Philippe Gugler and myself lead as co-editors since early this year, aims to become a platform for this type of interaction.

The newsletter also covers TCI-related events that have recently happened or are in the pipeline. Just last week I had the chance to provide a short message to a [conference in India](#) hosted by our new member MSME Foundation in collaboration with TCI. Karin Gjerløw Høidahl, my colleague on the TCI Board from our member Innovation Norway, was there in person. The next upcoming TCI events will now take place in [Australia](#) and Switzerland. In Australia our board member Richard Walker has taken the initiative to bring TCI members and other interest participants together to discuss the potential of cluster-based approaches as Australia's industry is increasingly decimated. In Bern our long-term member Christoph Beer is preparing an [event for ICT clusters and the companies they represent](#); a new type of

event for the TCI network, and thus an important opportunity to learn whether this type of activity is of interest.

TCI provides a lot to a general audience but it also has created a **number of activities that are exclusive to our members** (which also benefit from **lower fees** to attend all of the conferences mentioned above). One example is the **interest group on assessing the impact of cluster-based programs and policies**. This remains a key issue – without clear data on impact cluster-based programs have ultimately limited credibility and, equally important, can't be managed for better performance.

There are more activities for TCI members – from peer reviews to the opportunity to engage TCI in projects and new activities on professional development, mentoring, and other matching activities. Have this in mind as you renew your membership in these weeks, or when you receive this newsletter as someone who is interested in cluster-based economic development but not yet a TCI member.

Finally, it is my pleasure to introduce to you a **new organizational member** that has joined our network: [Optimal Solutions Group](#), United States. I would like to welcome them. We are grateful for your support, and happy to have you engaged with the TCI Network.

Best wishes from Sterzing in Südtirol/Alto Adige,
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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Economic development beyond GDP - Article by Christian Ketels

Measuring the success of a company is pretty straightforward –ultimately it is about profitability. But what about regions or nations? Do we only care about GDP? The discussion of this question is not new, but has recently gotten a new impetus. In the US, there is a growing perception that overall GDP trends mask very heterogeneous developments across different parts of the income distribution. In Europe, more of the focus has traditionally been on the

neglect of environmental sustainability as a component of performance. This short piece aims to lay out some of the arguments, and aims to explore whether engaging with them is relevant for organizations like cluster initiatives active in economic development.

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Hans Eirik Melandsø joins the TCI secretariat

We are pleased to announce that Hans Eirik Melandsø, senior advisor of TCI member Innovation Norway, will work as a part of the TCI secretariat for a period of four months. He started in mid-February and will mainly work on the contents for upcoming TCI conferences (High Tech & Clusters, Bern and TCI Global Conference, Monterrey) and on service development for members.

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Changing Paradigm of Cluster Development: Learning from Global Experiences

The International Conference on 'Changing Paradigms of Cluster Development: Learning from Global Experiences' was organized by the Foundation from MSME Clusters (FMC), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and TCI Network with the objective to share international experiences and provide insights for designing

effective national and regional cluster focused development policies and implementation frameworks.

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TCI Australasian Cluster Conference, Sydney, 30 May: Registrations still open!

The TCI Network Oceania Chapter organizes a one-day cluster conference in collaboration with Regional Development Australia, Brisbane. The event will be held in Sydney on 30 May 2014 on the theme of "How clusters can reinvigorate Australian regions & industry". Cluster practitioners, economic developers, government economic and industry policy makers are invited to share their knowledge and experiences. Registrations are now open. TCI members enjoy a reduced fee.

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TCI Conference High Tech & Clusters, Bern, 25-27 June 2014

The TCI Conference on High Tech and 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 working in the field of high tech. Register now and benefit from an early

bird fee!

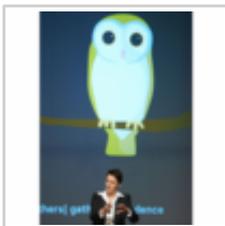
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TCI Global Conference, Monterrey, 10-13 Nov. 2014: Call for papers about to be published

The organizing committee of the 17th TCI Global Conference that will be held in Monterrey, Mexico, on 10-13 November 2014 is finishing preparations for the call for papers and the registrations. Have a look at the website of the conference: www.tci2014.org and stay tuned through our communication channels for latest updates!

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Next meeting of the TCI Cluster Evaluation Working Group, 31 March - 1 April

Following a first meeting back in June last year and the presentation during the TCI Global Conference in Kolding in September, the TCI Cluster Evaluation Group is planning a further meeting. TCI Board member Madeline Smith, who leads this group, gives us more details about the event.

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Leading-Edge Clusters in Germany – Review and Outlook

In this article, the Project Management Juelich - Forschungszentrum Juelich GmbH gives an overview of the federal programme for leading-edge clusters in Germany.

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The New Danish Cluster Landscape

In December 2013, the Danish Council for Technology and Innovation under The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation granted funding for 22 national Innovation Networks for the period 2014-2018. This means that the national infrastructure for clusters and networks are now established for the next four years. Focus will be on further strengthening cluster excellence and internationalisation. In this article, Morten Solgaard Thomsen from the Danish

Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation summarises the main features of the Danish cluster landscape.

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Articles on the economic impact of clusters

In responding to an industry leader's question asking for evidence that industries involved in clusters perform better than those not involved, TCI Board member Richard Walker undertook a literature search and found the following references. The paper by Solvell on Building the Cluster Commons is a comprehensive evaluation of cluster organisations. A paper on this topic is being prepared at present and will be listed on the TCI website.

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Academic articles on clusters - 8

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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New TCI organizational member from the U.S.: Optimal Solutions Group

We are pleased to welcome Optimal Solutions Group from the United States to the TCI Network and look forward to working with them!

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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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