

TCI General Assembly 2015

4 November 2015

First Call 17.30 pm, Second Call 18.00 pm

EXCO Daegu Exhibition & Convention Center

No.90, Yutongdanji-ro, Buk-gu, 41515 Daegu, South Korea

Meeting Minutes

TCI members present:

50 members present.

Proceedings:

President Christian Ketels declares the General Assembly formally constituted in second call at 18.00 p.m. (quorum under first call not met).

CEO Patricia Valdenebro presents the agenda as stated in the call for General Assembly of 21 September 2015:

1. Approval of last Assembly's minutes.
2. Annual report of activities.
3. Approval of accounts: 2014 annual accounts, 2015 forecast and 2016 budget.
4. Election of Members of the Board.
5. Questions and other matters.

1. Approval of last Assembly's minutes.

Minutes of 2014 General Assembly meeting are approved by unanimity.

2. Annual report of activities.

President Christian Ketels presents the **membership** base in 2015, which remained stable with a core of 61 organizations and 462 active members in 50 countries, with overall online outreach of 450,000. The global reach is continuously being expanded with conferences and activities, this year in Korea, Colombia, Australia, Argentina and Poland, with more than 1,100 participants in total. Apart from global and regional conferences, other possibilities of having thematic conferences are under exploration. Additionally, TCI continues to support the members in the implementation of cluster policies and programs in an effective way, by for example facilitating peer review activities among members. Furthermore, this year a new program on mentoring to support professional cluster management has been initiated. Efforts in better showcasing the benefits of a cluster approach resulting in better economic development for regions and higher competitiveness for companies are being carried out through the website and social media channels. TCI continues its way as a network of linked organizations, where members take ownership of activities.

Christian Ketels takes the opportunity to remember two important persons to the network: Rauli Sorvari (Finland), who passed away last year, and who will remain in our minds; and Director Werner Pammingner (Upper Austria), who has been father two weeks ago.

Membership. CEO Patricia Valdenebro takes the floor and informs about the new classification of members used that aims at better representing the variety and nature of organizations working on clusters and competitiveness.: development agencies, governments, councils of competitiveness, cluster programs/regions/cluster networks, universities and institutes of competitiveness, cluster organisations, consulting companies and other private companies She also informs about the implementation of the new special fee for cluster organizations under 5 employees, which aims at involving more cluster organizations as organizational members of the network. In total, 19 new members joined the network in 2015, 58% cluster organizations and 21% universities and institutes of competitiveness.

Mobilizing membership. Patricia Valdenebro presents some activities carried out in collaboration with members throughout the year. The first one was an **Input Paper on European Cluster Policy** elaborated in consultation with

TCI members in the beginning of the year. The objective was to contribute as a network of practitioners to the discussions about the next stage of cluster policy in Europe and to give a voice to practitioners towards the European Commission. This input paper led a group of members responsible of the design of regional cluster policy programs to present a joint proposal for the Interreg Europe program. The project proposal is led by SPRI-Basque Development Agency and involves other 7 regions. The proposal is still under evaluation by the European Commission, and an answer is expected by December 2015. If the project comes to a good end, the results and outcomes will be disseminated through TCI conferences and communications channels.

Reflecting on implementation of cluster policy. Another activity was the **TCI Peer Review** run by ACCIO-Catalan Government with the aim of getting feedback from experts in the Network on the work and methodology on cluster policy over the last 10 years in Catalonia and on the launch of the new evaluation system starting in 2016. The experience resulted in new mutual learning both for the host and for the guests.

Generating cluster policy learning through evaluation of clusters. The **TCI Cluster Evaluation Group** further progresses mobilizing 28 practitioners from 12 countries in the last workshop held in Poland last March. The main focus of the discussion was the human element of clusters and benchmarking.

Developing professional management of cluster initiatives and cluster programs. A new activity that aims at involving more cluster organizations and cluster managers is the **TCI Mentoring Program** with 7 on-going mentorships and 18 mentors. The mentorships are carried out in a monthly basis, and the main themes, such as management of cluster programs and evaluation, vary depending on the interest of mentees.

Growing the field of clusters and competitiveness through online hub of academic and practical knowledge. Patricia Valdenebro highlights the efforts on better **showcasing the value of clusters** through online hub of academic and practical knowledge. A series of videos of interviews to cluster practitioners was initiated in 2015, with the aim of better explaining the benefit members get by working with clusters. During the conference, there will be a stand/studio in which everybody is welcome to tell their cluster stories. Furthermore, academic articles on clusters and competitiveness are compiled on a monthly basis and presentations from TCI conferences are uploaded and open to everyone in SlideShare.

Regional Chapters. Another important part of the activity refers to the two TCI Regional Chapters. In the framework of the **TCI Latin American Chapter**, the 8th TCI Latin American Cluster Conference took place in Medellin, Colombia, in June with 400 participants. Another two seminars took place in Cordoba, Argentina and Lambayeque, Peru, with the aim of widening the chapter and getting more members/countries involved. In the framework of the **TCI Oceania Chapter**, the 2nd TCI Australasian Cluster Conference took place in Sydney in June, gathering 60 cluster practitioners. Another gathering with a more thematic approach on food and agro business took place in Queensland in September.

Conferences in 2016. Patricia Valdenebro announces the two main activities planned for 2016: the 19th TCI Global Conference that will take place on 7-10 November 2016 in Eindhoven, The Netherlands, and the 9th TCI Latin American Cluster Conference to be held in Temuco, Chile, on 14-17 June 2016.

3. Approval of accounts: 2014 annual accounts, 2015 forecast and 2016 budget.

Treasurer Alberto Pezzi presents the annual accounts. He informs about the positive result of 9.500€ in 2014, which reinforces the positive trend of the last years. Regarding the breakdown of revenues, almost 2/3 of the incomes came from membership fees, and the rest from activities. As for the expenses, and following the same distribution of previous years, almost 2/3 correspond to administration expenses of the office in Barcelona.

Alberto Pezzi informs about the expected balanced outcome for 2015, with a small surplus of 3.000€. The decrease in membership revenues corresponds mainly to the newly adopted reduced fee for cluster organizations under 5 employees approved last year. Regarding expenses, he highlights the substantial reduction in office operation, thanks to ACCIO that is hosting the Secretariat free of charge in their building in Barcelona since October 2014.

Alberto Pezzi presents a budget of 220.000€ for 2016, with a slight increase in revenues and expenses.

He asks for the formal approval of the accounts.

The annual accounts 2014, the forecast 2015 and the budget for 2016 are approved unanimously.

4. Election of Members of the Board.

Election of President

CEO Patricia Valdenebro informs that President Christian Ketels completes his mandate in the 2015 General Assembly. She explains that the Board has asked Christian Ketels to consider his reappointment. Christian Ketels' candidature for reelection as President 2015-2017 is presented to the General Assembly for a vote.

Christian Ketels is re-elected President 2015-2017 by unanimity.

Partial Renewal of the Board of Directors

President Christian Ketels informs that 3 members of the board step down: Karin Gjerløw Høidahl, whose term ends and will not present to reelection as she has moved from TCI member Innovation Norway to another employer; Lotte Langkilde, due also to change of employment; and Richard Walker who has decided to leave the Board for personal reasons. He thanks them for their contribution to TCI during the past years.

CEO Patricia Valdenebro informs that five Directors will complete their current mandate in 2015: Alberto Pezzi (Treasurer), Karin Gjerløw Høidahl, Frédéric Miribel, Manuel Montoya and Werner Pamminger. As mentioned, Karin Gjerløw Høidahl had announced her decision to leave the TCI Board. The other directors finishing their mandate have offered to stand for another term.

In addition to directors standing for reelection, three new candidates will be presented to the General Assembly for a vote: Vincent Dugré, Tracy Scott-Rimington and James Wilson.

The following 7 candidates to the Board of Directors are presented to the General Assembly for a vote:

Alberto Pezzi, Candidate to Treasurer 2015-2018
Frédéric Miribel, Candidate to Director 2015-2018
Manuel Montoya, Candidate to Director 2015-2018
Werner Pamminger, Candidate to Director 2015-2018
Vincent Dugré, Candidate to Director 2015-2018
Tracy Scott-Rimington, Candidate to Director 2015-2018
James Wilson, Candidate to Director 2015-2018

Candidates are voted one by one.

*Alberto Pezzi is re-elected Treasurer 2015-2018 unanimously
Frédéric Miribel is re-elected Director 2015-2018 unanimously
Manuel Montoya is re-elected Director 2015-2018 unanimously
Werner Pamminger is re-elected Director 2015-2018 unanimously
Vincent Dugré is elected Director 2015-2018 unanimously
Tracy Scott-Rimington is elected Director 2015-2018 unanimously
James Wilson is elected Director 2015-2018 unanimously*

The final composition of the elected Board is:

Christian Ketels, President 2015-2017
Klaus Haasis, Secretary 2013-2016
Alberto Pezzi, Treasurer 2015-2018
Jaime Echeverri, Director 2013-2016
Madeline Smith, Director 2013-2016
Chong In Lim, Director 2014-2017
Danka Milojković, Director 2014-2017
Thomas Sommer, Director 2014-2017
Yasin Naku Ziraba, Director 2014-2017
Frédéric Miribel, Director 2015-2018
Manuel Montoya, Director 2015-2018
Werner Pamminger, Director 2015-2018
Vincent Dugré, Director 2015-2018
Tracy Scott-Rimington, Director 2015-2018
James Wilson, Director 2015-2018

Christian Ketels thanks all the Directors for their time and effort dedicated to the TCI Network and he welcomes the new Directors.

5. Questions and other matters.

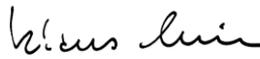
Ifor Ffowcs Williams together with Bob Breault, both members of the Board of Advisors, explain that were in Chihuahua Mexico 19 years ago and have since then been present in all the TCI Global Conferences. They take the opportunity to thank the Board and the Secretariat for the great job done.

Thanking the audience and TCI members, the President closes the assembly at 19.00 pm.

In Daegu, South Korea, on 4 November 2015.



Christian Ketels
President



Klaus Haasis
Secretary