



Edition 2 | January 2018

# TCI-Network Oceania CHAIR'S NEWSLETTER

From Tracy Scott-Rimington

## Welcome

Welcome to the January 2018 news update of the TCI-Network's Oceania Chapter. Oceania Chapter news updates are forwarded to TCI's Oceania region members and anyone registering an interest in clusters for economic development in the Oceania region.

The TCI-Network: [www.tci-network.org.au](http://www.tci-network.org.au)

The TCI-Network is the global practitioners' network for competitiveness, clusters and innovation. TCI members have access to:

- Key information about clusters, competitiveness and innovation systems on a global level
- Latest trends in competitiveness strategies and cluster-based policies
- Best practices in cluster development and management
- News about cluster initiatives and competitive regions worldwide
- Expertise on methodologies for economic growth and regional development
- Assistance in global networking and internationalisation activities

Membership ranges from 200 euro for individuals, 500 euro for cluster organisations with up to five employees and developing country organisations, and 2000 euro for organisations. Go to [www.tci-network.org/membership](http://www.tci-network.org/membership) to join this unique global network.



In geopolitical terms Oceania includes all of Micronesia, Fiji, all of Polynesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, part of the Philippine Islands, Australia, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia.

## FIAL's National Cluster Programme

FIAL (Food Innovation Australia Ltd) held a series of information sessions during October 2017 to educate and inspire the sector around the benefits of developing clusters and working together. Partnering with RDA Brisbane and other cluster and network representatives provided a fantastic opportunity to advance the profile of clusters in Australia. Through matched funding, FIAL's Cluster Programme encourages businesses, public agencies, research and educational institutions to work together, to build on their competitive advantage, and address problems and opportunities that they otherwise could not address on their own.

More information about the programme can be found [here](#). Expressions of Interest close on 16 February 2018.

In 2016, FIAL published a valuable report on their insights and learnings from various European cluster initiatives. This is a useful resource, which can be accessed [here](#).



FIAL & RDA Brisbane co-host a Cluster Programme info session at The Precinct

## Quick Links

### [TCI Global Cluster Courses](#)

Courses offered around the world to help you qualify as a cluster manager or professional.

### [Clustercollaboration.eu](#)

This European cluster platform now lists and profiles over 700 clusters and provides information on international collaboration projects and cluster matchmaking events around the world. Take a look and upload your cluster if internationalism is part of your vision.

## Recap: October 2017 TCI Oceania Chapter Meetup at UTS

### TCI-Network Oceania Chapter held its annual gathering at UTS (University of Technology Sydney) thanks to the host Professor Roy Green, retiring Dean of the UTS Business School

This year's event was a smaller gathering with preparations already underway for a larger biennial event in 2018.

The day kicked off with the launch of the Cluster Programme, a first of its kind in Australia for the Food and Agribusiness sector. Mirjana Prica and Peter Shutz from **FIAL** (Food Innovation Australia Ltd) presented on the programme and shared their insights and knowledge around the benefits of clusters. FIAL is responsible for delivering the Food and Agribusiness Growth Centre Initiative on behalf of the Australian Government and is a valuable organisation member of the TCI network.

This was followed by a tour of the Creative Industries Precinct at UTS where, within a one kilometre radius, a large proportion of Australian startups are germinated.

The creative industries team talked to delegates about their big aspirations for positioning the locality around Ultimo in Sydney as the beating heart of the nation's creative industries, connecting and collaborating across regions and countries with an initiative known as **KINDRED**, a knowledge exchange positioned at the intersection of creativity, technology and commerce.

The host and retiring Dean of UTS Business school Professor Roy Green then gave an excellent tour and overview of the business school housed in the Frank Gehry designed building (pictured top).

The afternoon kicked off with a presentation by Ifor Ffowcs Williams on global trends in the world of clusters. He was followed by Professor Graham Wren from University of Strathclyde who outlined the UK's current approach to industrial policy and some of the work being undertaken by the Catapult Programme and Centre's of Excellence and their relationship and integration with existing cluster activity. European Commission guest Alessandro Rainoldi, head of the Unit S2E Team Smart Specialisations Platform, outlined current developments and the growing integration of Europe's regional clusters with the Smart Specialisations Platform.



Left to right: Richard Walker, previous Director, TCI-Network, Ifor Ffowcs-Williams, MD Cluster Navigators and Peter Schutz, Chair, FIAL



Presentation by Alessandro Rainoldi, Head of Unit S2E Team, Smart Specialisations Platform, European Commission

***"The 2017 Oceania Meetup was highly interactive and informative. Participants were able to update on the latest trends globally and discuss and debate the pros and cons of the differing approaches to clustering for growth."***

# TCI's global conference charts the pathway for stronger alliances between developed and developing countries

**More than 350 cluster practitioners from 44 countries participated in the main international conference on cluster development in the world, organized by the TCI-Network and hosted by the Chamber of Commerce of Bogota in November 2017.**

The conference focused on collaboration and complementary alliances between developed and developing countries for better policies, better business and better management practices, as well as identifying emerging cluster trends.

A Michael Porter congratulatory video (click image below) about the 20th TCI anniversary and the next 20 years of clusters was a great start to a three-day event characterised by a well-prepared programme.



THE FUTURE OF CLUSTERS THROUGH  
cross-country and cross-region collaboration



20TH TCI  
GLOBAL  
CONFERENCE

7-9 NOVEMBER 2017 · COLOMBIA

## Cluster tours

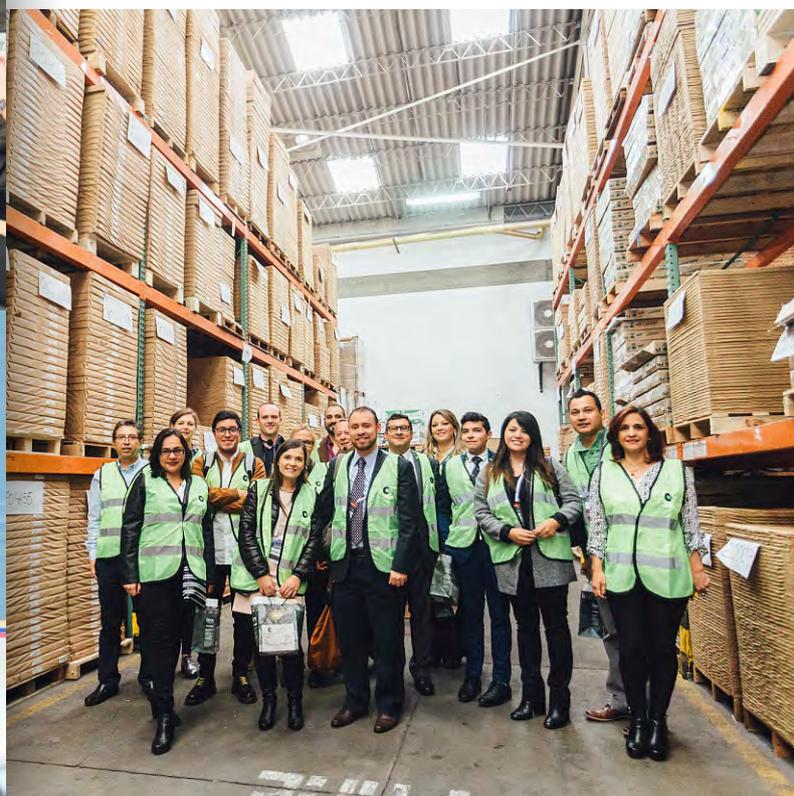
On the first day of the conference, participants had the chance to know more about the ambitious agenda of clusters in Bogota, with first-hand experience through the eight different cluster tours that the Chamber of Commerce offered, from fashion to energy to Fintech. To watch the video of the cluster tours, [click here](#).

## Plenary and breakout sessions

The next two days had a wide range of plenary and breakout sessions. Outstanding keynote speakers included Professor Ricardo Hausmann from Harvard Kennedy School, who shared his knowledge about the role of policy for development and the language of smart specialization, and Mary Walshok from the University of California, San Diego, who explained how San Diego's innovation economy and hub started.

## 20 parallel sessions

More than 30 different speakers participated in the 20 parallel sessions that took place the second and the third day of the conference, organised into various sub-themes: better practice, better business and better policy.



Mirjana Prica, MD of FIAL (Food Innovation Australia Ltd), a TCI-Network organisational member, participated in the *TCI Next 20 Years Panel* facilitated by Christian Ketels as the conference drew to a close.

**20th TCI Anniversary**

Finally, the event reflected on 20 years of TCI and the future of clusters and competitiveness with a special panel of multilateral organisations including IABD, UNIDO and World Bank.

This was followed by the launch of a special 20th TCI Anniversary Commemorative Book (see details below in pink box).

What remained the same compared to previous conferences was the high level of presentations, a dedicated TCI community and lots of networking and sharing.

All conference materials are available online:

[Presentations](#)

[Pictures](#)

[Video: Michael Porter congratulatory video](#)

[Posts on Social Media](#)



**20th TCI Global Conference 20th TCI Anniversary Commemorative Book**

Our 20th TCI Global Conference and anniversary was a memorable occasion, with high-level keynotes, workshops and anniversary celebrations reviewing TCI's past and the future of the cluster concept.

A special feature of the event was the Commemorative Book that looks back to TCI's beginnings and reviews the evolution of the network with many highlights and anecdotes.

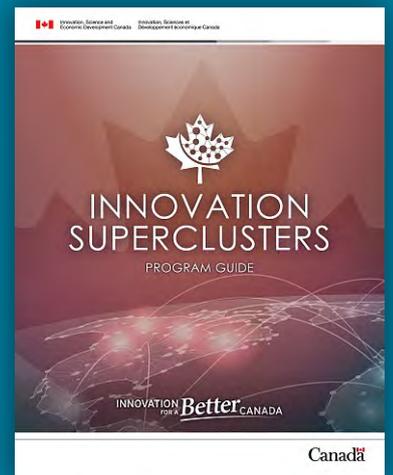
To view or download the 20th TCI Anniversary Commemorative Book [click here](#).

# Canada's new \$900m Innovation Supercluster Initiative

The **Innovation Superclusters Initiative** (ISI) is a new program to strengthen Canada's most promising clusters and accelerate economic growth in highly innovative industries, while positioning firms for global leadership.

The ISI will invite industry-led consortia to lead and to invest in bold and ambitious proposals that will supercharge their regional innovation ecosystems. By pulling in large firms, innovative small and medium-sized enterprises, industry-relevant research institutions and business leaders will come together - with partners and in new ways - to build business-led innovation superclusters at scale.

Their plans must build on shared private sector commitment - demonstrated through matched industry funding - to leverage strengths, address gaps and incentivise innovation ecosystem players to work together more strategically for the collective benefit of their clusters.





## Vale Antoni Subira, a TCI founder

Some of you may have known Antoni Subira, previous Minister for Industry in Catalonia and a founder of TCI-Network, and heard of his recent passing. His commitment to clusters for economic growth was crucial to the foundation of the TCI-Network and the reason TCI-Network HQ is in Barcelona. He was a key figure at the TCI2002 global conference in Cairns.

[Click here](#) to read a special tribute to Antoni and his legacy to the world of economic development and clusters from Michael Porter, Christian Ketels and Michael Enright.

# A replicable renewable energy industry development model

Liz Veitch, Executive Director of RDA ACT, has brought the [SERREE Model Resource Kit](#) to our attention. The kit presents replicable learnings from their SERREE (South East Region of Renewable Energy Excellence) renewable energy industry development initiative. The Resource Kit provides a pathway for other regions interested in developing their own renewable energy industry, while at the same time optimising economic development benefits - attracting local investment, jobs and business growth.

SERREE was funded over three years (2014-17) to develop an industry cluster in the southeast NSW-ACT region, and now engages a broad network of over 1,000 of the region's renewable energy stakeholders. This diverse and inclusive network includes representation from business and industry – large multi-nationals to smaller regional and allied businesses, across the three tiers of government, research, education and training institutions, and community organisations.

SERREE has developed a replicable model for renewable energy industry development on a regional-scale, encapsulating learnings on what has been done, what worked (or not) and why. Regional leaders can draw on this practical resource to develop their renewable energy industry, whilst appreciating that all regions are different, with each having a unique mix of strengths and challenges. The kit can be downloaded [here](#).

The SERREE Industry Cluster has been collaboratively supported by the Federal, NSW and ACT Governments, RDA ACT and RDA Southern Inland, and key renewable energy industry stakeholders.

## TCI2018, Toronto, 16-18 October

The Institute for Competitiveness and Prosperity will host the 21st TCI Global Conference in Toronto, Canada. TCI 2018 is expected to bring together leading economic development influencers from around the world. Attendees will be able to make unexpected connections with 400 local and global leaders from the cluster ecosystem. [Click here to know more!](#)



## TCIOceania2018

The TCI Oceania Chapter aims to convene larger events with international speakers on a biennial basis. In 2018 we hope to host a number of world class experts to share their deep knowledge and learnings of clusters under the theme "Why Clusters Matter" in the **first week of June**. Further details will be released shortly.

*"As globalisation accelerates, clusters strengthen the collaboration required for increased innovation and connectivity, crucial for upgrading the competitiveness of companies, regions and nations".* **Dr Christian Ketels, TCIOceania, Adelaide, June 2016**



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