



Edition 4 | March 2019

# TCI-Network Oceania CHAIR'S NEWSLETTER

From Tracy Scott-Rimington

## Welcome

Welcome to the March 2019 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.



## #TCI2018 Global Conference

**16-18 October 2018, Toronto Canada**  
**"Collaborating to Compete: Clusters in Action"**  
**"Unexpected connections"**

*"This conference really blew me away as a first time attendee. It was great to be a part of a conversation that is operating at such a robust global level."*

*"My number one conference for 2018."*

*"As a first time attendee, I could not believe the international attendance and the networking opportunities."*

**READ THE FULL REPORT ON PAGE 2 >>**

## Food Cluster Stories Update

Last newsletter we were pleased to share the successful recipients of the FIAL (Food Innovation Australia Ltd) food cluster funding programme. This edition we share a little more about these four clusters, their tips for success and their aspirations for the future: [DOWNLOAD STORIES](#)





## 21st TCI Global Conference, 16-18 October 2018, Toronto, Canada

**On 16-18 October, 330 cluster experts from across Canada and around the world met in Toronto, Canada, for the 21st TCI Global Conference organised by the Institute for Competitiveness and Prosperity, an Ontario-based economic think tank.**

Participants from 37 countries were able to share success stories of Canada and the clusters of the Toronto region, to learn about best practices from around the world and to create a forum for knowledge exchange and partnership development among international cluster leaders.

At #TCI2018, participants were able to visit 11 different cluster immersion experiences which included Advanced manufacturing, Design, Emerging Tech, Energy, Financial Services, Food, Health, Innovation Ecosystem, Low-Carbon buildings, Transportation, and Logistics and Water. After lunch, participants were able to take part in mini-charrettes that used design thinking principles to explore ideas, share best practices in different regions and identify common challenges.

Day 2 included a day of keynotes and panels featuring world-renowned experts that offered different insights around strategy for clusters, how to perform with inclusion, plans to drive innovation and investing in talent, among others. One of the highlights of the day was the panel about superclusters in Canada and European lessons learned with Minister Navdeep Bains and EU Ambassador to Canada Peteris Ustubs.

Day 3 EXCHANGE included 20+ interactive breakout sessions focused on: Designing collaborative networks for innovation; Scaling up within a cluster ecosystem; Regional economic development and inclusive prosperity; and Mobilizing talent and diversity. The day also offered for the first time a global matchmaking with over 80 C2C meetings to develop business relationships and find partners for their initiatives. Participants were encouraged to use less PowerPoints to facilitate group discussion.

The TCI Network conferences are always a great opportunity for networking. #TCI2018 was not an exception, and delegates were able to share experiences, foster interactions and develop new partnerships. Over three days, participants created new unexpected connections and shared their knowledge.

If you're looking to extend your learning on cluster best practice and share experiences at a global level, come and join the international cluster professional cohort at TCI2019 in Antwerp, Belgium, 8-10 October. More details coming soon.



Five podcasts were curated by conference host, the Institute of Competitiveness & Prosperity. If you're looking to gain a deeper understanding of the cluster process, you can listen to them [HERE](#).



[Read the full conference report](#)



[nctce.com.au](http://nctce.com.au)

## National Cleantech Conference, Sunshine Coast, 29-31 May 2019

**European Union Cluster Manager of the Year, Bianca Dragomir will provide the Keynote Address at the National Cleantech Conference (NCTC) on the Sunshine Coast, 29 - 31 May. Bianca is Director of Spain's Cleantech Cluster AVAESEN based in Valencia. She is a visionary leader and member of the European Industry 2030 Advisory Council. Her address will cover pertinent themes around future economic opportunities through a cluster approach. She will:**

- Shed light on how clusters shape the industries of the future
- Share the turnaround of Avaesen Cleantech Cluster (Spain) and its journey from a 'cluster as usual' to a 'cluster of change'
- Convey the missing keys to build a successful world-class cluster and how to create a thriving ecosystem of mutual success and growth for a plurality of stakeholders
- Bring inspiration on how Europe is creating a pan-European scaling-up mechanism through clusters
- Provide key insights and tools for Australian cleantech industry to shape open, inter-connected, multi-collaborative, innovation-driven and financially self-sustained clusters, to leverage smart investments through smart collaborations

Cleantech, clean energy, circular economy and environment sustainability clusters are encouraged to attend the NCTC this May. See [nctce.com.au](http://nctce.com.au) for more information.

*"The global industry is embarked on a journey mastering digitisation and decarbonisation. Achieving a 'well below 2C' Paris Agreement target requires a speed of decarbonisation six times faster than anything that the global community has achieved so far. We need more impact, more quickly, to accelerate this transformation. Only systemic innovation is capable to trigger this exponential change. Clusters play a crucial role in this. They are impact multipliers, brokers of innovation, smart investments boosters and engines of growth. They can catalyse change at speed and scale."*

## Brisbane Luncheon Forum 28 May

**TCI Oceania in conjunction with EDA** (Economic Development Australia Qld) will host a Brisbane luncheon forum with Bianca Dragomir on **Tuesday 28 May**. Members and friends of both organisations are encouraged to attend to hear Bianca share visionary and aspirational insights into the true power of clusters and the latest on Europe's agenda for industry modernisation and internationalisation.

**Hold this date** – more details soon.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
**CONFERENCE**  
2019 BUILDING STRONGER REGIONS

**23-24 May 2019:**  
**Innovation Along  
the Value Chain**

As a proud supporter of this conference, TCI Oceania has invited keynote speaker **Joan Marti**, Director of the Catalonian cluster programme at ACCIO, Barcelona, Spain. Joan will share his extensive insights into cluster development and especially cross-cluster collaboration or 'interclustering' for competitiveness nationally and internationally. EDA SA will also be offering a **Cluster Development Masterclass with Joan on Friday 24 May**. For more details [CLICK HERE](#).

TCI NETWORK  
**22nd GLOBAL  
CONFERENCE**  
FLANDERS  
REGION 2019

STRATEGIC CLUSTERS  
FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH  
**NEW TRENDS AND PRACTICES**  
8-10 OCTOBER ANTWERP

## #TCI2019, Antwerp Belgium, 8-10 Oct 2019

Details coming soon. Get news updates [HERE](#).

## NEDC 2019, Adelaide, 23-25 October 2019

This year's National Economic Development Conference will include a cluster theme. Details coming soon. Get the latest news [HERE](#).

# Global Cluster Initiatives

## The role of clusters in mobilising diversity and inclusive development

Following her keynote address on Talent & Diversity at TCI2018 in Toronto last October, the ECCP (European Cluster Collaboration Platform) team spoke with **Zabeen Hirji**, Global Advisor, Future of Work at Deloitte, on what role clusters can play in mobilising diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Zabeen explains the difference between diversity and inclusion, provides five accelerators clusters can use to mobilise diverse talent, and shares some inspiring examples of the benefits that accrue if we do this right. [Read article](#)

**"Diversity is being invited to the party.**

**Inclusion is being asked to dance."**

– Verna Myers, VP, Inclusion Strategy, Netflix



## Clustercollaboration.eu

Don't forget to check out the ECCP (European Cluster Collaboration Platform) offered by the European Commission. It provides networking support for clusters (organisations and members) aiming to improve their performance and increase their competitiveness through the stimulation of trans-national and international cooperation. The platform now lists and profiles nearly 1000 clusters and provides information on international collaboration projects and cluster matchmaking events around the world. Please take a look at [www.clustercollaboration.eu](http://www.clustercollaboration.eu) and **UPLOAD YOUR CLUSTER** if internationalisation is part of your agenda.

## Call for cluster initiative stories

In each edition we will publish cluster stories from around the Oceania region. If you would like yours included, send your story in 300 words or less to [tracysr@rdabrisbane.org.au](mailto:tracysr@rdabrisbane.org.au)



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## Competitiveness Chatter

Here we share some pearls of wisdom from TCI's New Zealand-based Advisory Board member and cluster guru, Ifor Ffowcs-Williams, drawing on his experience in over 50 countries. In the last six months Ifor has been sharing cluster development know-how across Australia, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, UK, Sweden and the Ukraine.

'**Innovation Precincts**', '**Innovation Districts**' and '**Innovation Hubs**' ... all reflect the tight geography of innovation. But too often place-based approaches go no further than building the physical infrastructure. That's the relatively easy bit. More complicated (and longer term) is building the knowledge infrastructure that is specific to the regional specialisations. And even more complex is building the social infrastructure, the glue amongst the stakeholders within the innovation ecosystem.

'**Advanced Manufacturing**' ... a term treasured globally. It describes how a product is made, but not what is being made. For economic developers, it's a focus as relevant as chasing rainbows. An essential question in today's global environment is: "What exactly are we advanced at, what are our region's smart specialisations?" This could be a sector niche, such as fermented foods (in Tasmania) or subsea technology (in Perth). And/or an underpinning platform capability, such as precision engineering (in Adelaide) or cold-weather proofing, as in Winnipeg, Canada where I will shortly be. I'm packing my winter woollies - with the wind chill it can be -50.

Comments welcomed! [e4@clusternavigators.com](mailto:e4@clusternavigators.com)

## TCI Oceania Committee

TCI members are invited to join our Oceania committee and participate in the planning of activities and events. Email your interest to [tracysr@rdabrisbane.org.au](mailto:tracysr@rdabrisbane.org.au)

