

INFORMAL ISRS MEETING AT THE 4TH ISIE ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE

Time: 2014/11/18, 12:30-13:30

Place: Melbourne Exhibition Center, Clarendon Room D

Participants:

- Prof. Tsuyoshi Fujita, NIES, Japan
- Prof. Hung-Suck Park, university of Ulsan, Korea
- Mr. Graham Aid, Linköping University, Sweden
- Mr. Wouter Spekkink, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- Dr. Sarah King, CSIRO, Australia
- Dr. Glen Corder, Sustainable Mineral Institute, University of Queensland, Australia
- Dr. Minoru Fujii, NIES, Japan
- Prof. Tian Jinping, School of Environment, Tsinghua University, China
- Dr. Biji Kurup, Environmental Engineers International Pty Ltd, Australia
- Dr. Jose Carlos Lázaro da Silva Filho, University Federal do Ceará (UFC), Brazil
- Ms. Amanda Hill, Aalborg University, Denmark
- Dr. Magnus Fröhling, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany
- Dr. Takuya Togawa, NIES, Japan
- Dr. Satoshi Ohnishi, NIES, Japan
- Dr. Huijuan Dong, NIES, Japan
- Dr. Liang Dong, NIES, Japan
- Mr. Mohommad Taskhin, Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany

Introduction

During the 4th ISIE Asia-Pacific conference members to the EID/IS-section organized an informal meeting with several people interested in the field of Industrial Symbiosis. After an introductory round, the 17 attendees of the meeting (from 9 countries) discussed the themes to be addressed during 11th Industrial Symbiosis Research Symposium (ISRS), and how we can stimulate more collaboration between IS scholars from different regions of the world. In relation to the latter point, the attendees also discussed opportunities to promote our work beyond academic circles. This brief report was compiled by Dong Liang, Graham Aid, Wouter Spekkink and Ohnishi Satoshi.

11th ISRS in Switzerland

The 11th ISRS will take place in July 2015 in Switzerland and is already being prepared by Guillaume Massard and Suren Erkman. It was announced that Guillaume has suggested two main themes to be discussed during the symposium, namely (1) facilitation and networking to bring together businesses and identify bankable IS opportunities, and (2) how to finance shared business models. Please note that both themes are still tentative. Site visits to IS projects in Switzerland will also be included in the program. During the informal IS meeting it was also suggested that we might dedicate some time to the stimulation of collaboration between IS scholars from different regions of the world. The possibilities for this will be discussed with the organizers of the next ISRS. To support the ISRS organization some telecommuting will probably be required.

Collaboration between IS scholars from different regions of the world

A major topic of discussion was the lack of collaboration between IS scholars from different regions of the world. For example, although collaboration already takes place between China, Japan and Korea on the one hand, and several European countries on the other hand, collaboration between these two major groups is still lacking. Concretely, three main avenues for increased collaboration were mentioned.

The first avenue concerns the possibility to perform comparative studies of IS in different regions of the world. The discussants recognized that the research and practice of IS is approached quite differently across the world, and that it would be important to acknowledge that diversity in comparative studies. The different approaches that we take to studying IS provides challenges for collaborative research activities, such as the difficulty of developing common frameworks and reconciling our different methodological approaches. However, it also offers great opportunities, such

as the possibility to complement each other's work and making use of each other's strengths.

A second avenue for stronger collaboration between IS scholars is writing joint papers. Concretely, this may take the form of a special issue in a journal that publishes regularly on IS. It could be helpful to have an extended meeting where we discuss the contents of the special issue. It may be possible to organize such a meeting before or after the next ISIE Asia-Pacific Conference (2016) in Nagoya, Japan. This may be combined with a site visit to Fukushima, where interesting projects aimed at the revitalization of the area are currently taking place.

A third avenue would be to jointly promote IS at international organizations, such as the World Bank, UNIDO, and UN-ESCAP. In this context it was mentioned that in many international and political platforms people are talking about topics that are within the domain of Industrial Ecology, but that Industrial Ecologists are still rarely involved. To change this situation, we need to promote our activities more proactively and highlight what we are doing in various political circles. It was recognized that achieving this requires our combined efforts. One concrete activity that was suggested is to write a joint declaration as input for the COP21 meeting in Paris.

Other concrete opportunities for increased interaction between IS scholars are to organize excursions to IS practices around the world, to organize workshops for intensive discussion on various specific topics, and to simply exchange experiences on IS stimulation programs of various countries on a more formal basis.

Other issues

Besides the main topics for discussion mentioned above, the attendees to the IS meeting exchanged several experiences and ideas on IS in their countries. It was also observed that the section hasn't been able to get policy makers and business representatives actively involved in the community. Some of the avenues for stronger collaboration among IS scholars that are mentioned in the foregoing may also offer opportunities to get policy makers and business representatives involved.