Innovation Eco-systems

Study Mission to Italy and the Netherlands

3 - 12 April 2017

Provisional Program and Preparatory Readings

Objectives

The program will combine presentations and demonstrations with extensive discussions as well as campus visits. The aim is to enable delegates to:

- Learn and understand the models and drivers behind the innovation eco-systems
- Discuss with and explore in detail with members of the systems the practicalities and opportunities
- Gain valuable insights, and first-hand experience
- Build valuable networks with other Australian tertiary education, government and peak body institutions
- Bring back new ways of working with partners, with a view to establish innovation eco-systems in Australia.

Schedule of activities

Please note that the activities listed below are subject to confirmation. A finalised version will be distributed in early 2017.

Monday, 3 April - Tuesday, 4 April 2017

Enschede, Netherlands

Presentations by representatives of University of Twente (UT) and Saxion University of Applied Sciences

These will focus on the institutions’ entrepreneurial initiatives to find solutions for the region’s pressing problems. Success factors – scale up, facilities, human capital and branding – will be highlighted along with their interdependencies, balance and the role played by government.

Main discussion points:

- Collaboration between UT and the Twente region (role of the university in the triple helix)
- High tech factory: MESA+ as production facility
- Professional Doctorates (PDEng) and Industry
- Innovation/ start-up and business acceleration: Kennispark
- Innovation and industry
- Student entrepreneurship (Student Union)
- Roundtable on the University of Twente eco-system: UT, Kennispark, student, company, municipality
- The Saxion strategy for applied research and knowledge exchange and commercialisation
- Social innovation and allied health – how institutional collaboration and government partnerships have transformed the region.
Wednesday, 5 April 2017
Enschede/Eindhoven, Netherlands

Transfer from Enschede to Eindhoven

Includes a visit to the world famous Kröller-Müller museum in the Veluwe National Park, home to around 90 paintings and 180 sketches by Vincent van Gogh, and spectacular sculptures by Moore.

Thursday, 6 April – Friday, 7 April 2017
Eindhoven, Netherlands

Welcome and presentations by representatives of the Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e)

These will include:
- Presentation and discussion about the University’s strategy and how it relates to the regional Brainport initiative
- Building the Photon Delta photonics eco-system, particularly how it was established with contribution from knowledge providers and industry
- Student-led innovation, such as prototypes of domestic drones, solar powered family cars, formic acid sustainable transportation, Robots for Care and electric touring motorcycle, and how these projects provide a basis for collaboration with the SME sector and for rapid product innovation
- Translating and transforming technological research into service innovation using mobility developments as an example.

Presentations by representatives of the Fontys University of Applied Science, Summa College, Brainport and High Tech Campus

These will include:
- Research at the Universities of Applied Science, and cooperation between higher education and vocational programs
- Case presentations on applied research and its role in socio-economic innovation
- Developing a regional eco-system after the demise of traditional manufacturing
- A visit to High Tech Campus.

Reflection
Delegates will be asked to comment on their impressions of the Eindhoven region and innovation eco-system. Particularly:
- Their take on the strategic priorities and actions
- Their opinion on what the region can learn from Australia’s experiences with the private tertiary education sector, internationalisation and regional campus development
- Their views on the opportunities for strategic partnerships between the Netherlands and Australia.

Saturday, 8 April – Sunday, 9 April 2017
Eindhoven, Netherlands/Milan, Italy

Transfer from Eindhoven, Netherlands to Milan, Italy

Free day in Milan

Delegates can choose to come on a guided tour of Leonardo Da Vinci’s Last Supper (Cenacolo Vinciano) at Milan Museum.
Monday, 10 April – Wednesday, 12 April 2017
Milan, Italy

Workshops and presentations at Politecnico di Milano

These will cover:

- The importance of the relationships with the territory: creating and maintaining an ecosystem for knowledge and innovation
- Milan as a natural hub for innovation – companies, universities, non-profit and governmental institutions at work together
- Organisational solutions #1: the role of foundations in the Italian system: why use foundations to manage large projects
- A structural collaboration between public and private institutions on common projects: Fondazione Politecnico case study
- Public/private collaborations at work: examples from Italian sectors of excellence
- Open Innovation: models for technological collaborations
- Co-design and co-production in healthcare innovation: experiences and case studies.

Study visits to Polo di Lecco and Polihub

- Organisational solutions #2: how to stimulate and develop collaboration with local entrepreneurs
- Organisational solutions #3: how to support innovation and new business ideas.

Preparatory Readings

Milan White Paper on Social Innovation Accelerating Milan’s local ecosystem for social innovation.

Netherlands nano/microtechnology research and innovation programme NanoNextNL End Term Report 2010-2016.

Financial Times ranks Eindhoven in third place in the overall ranking of its Foreign Direct Investment Index (fDi index).

European Entrepreneurial Region 2016 guide on regional innovation ecosystems.