

14th Economics of Infrastructures Conference

Entrepreneurship and Regulation in Infrastructures Delft, 26 - 27 May 2011

Opening keynote by **Prof.Dr. Theo Toonen**, Dean Faculty Technology, Policy & Management, TU Delft: "If entrepreneurship is everything, maybe it's nothing?". Keynote private entrepreneurship: **Dr. Jörg Jasper**, Energie Baden Württemberg AG, Berlin. Keynote political entrepreneurship: **expert tbc**. Keynote social entrepreneurship: **Mahabir Pun**, Founder Nepal Wireless Networking Project, Nepal.

16 Interactive workshops in 4 parallel tracks bringing together representatives from industry, government and academia addressing contemporary entrepreneurial and regulatory issues in the domains of **telecommunications, internet, electricity, gas, water, infrastructure planning and rail transport**.

Theme

Infrastructures (including telecom, electricity, gas, water, railroads) have been significantly restructured during the past three decades. Formerly these sectors have been perceived as utilities that received special governmental supervision and support in order to provide essential services to society pursuant to politically determined objectives. Public ownership and regulated monopolies have been very common in order to guarantee adequate service levels and pricing schemes. Nowadays infrastructures are increasingly positioned as commercial economic sectors that need to efficiently satisfy customers' needs and expectations. Accordingly, competition is introduced, private interests are emphasized for instance by private ownership and the roles and responsibilities of governments are redefined.

The actual facilitation of these processes of fundamental change highly depends on the efforts of so-called entrepreneurs 'to make things happen'. These entrepreneurs apply innovative approaches and mobilize support to provide services to society. The restructuring of infrastructures involves different kinds of entrepreneurship related to economic, political and social processes of change.

Economic or commercial entrepreneurship is related to the business opportunities for private firms to provide new services to customers or develop efficient production processes resulting in lower costs and prices. The telecom sector is a good example, as are recent initiatives for the introduction of electric vehicles and the development of a network of charging points.

Political entrepreneurship is related to the opportunities to adapt the role of government to a new political mindset and to emerging technological and market opportunities. The introduction of reform and the establishment of sector specific regulators and regulatory instruments in telecom and energy fits into this category. Recent opportunities for political entrepreneurs include the 'greening' of infrastructures, the development of international regulatory frameworks, like in the EU, and the stimulation of innovations such as smart energy grids.

Social entrepreneurship is related to non-commercial, non-profit-making, and sometimes even para-governmental service delivery. Sometimes these activities are community driven, like for instance the development of local wireless communication networks or wind power facilities. Very often these consumer driven activities lead to service provision in areas not considered profitable by commercial firms.

The reform of infrastructures is critically dependent on these three forms of entrepreneurship. But tensions arise in the change process, in developing public resources through increasingly private means. How to create a regulatory environment in which economic, political and social entrepreneurs mutually re-enforce each other? How to deal with possible conflicts between them? Will the co-ordination of entrepreneurial activities deemed necessary for an efficient outcome emerge? How to delegate public responsibilities to private partners on the one hand and establish transparency about the costs and benefits

and the related pricing strategies on the other?

These and other questions will be addressed in our 14th Economics of Infrastructures conference by eminent keynote speakers and in various thematic workshops bringing together representatives from industry, government and academia.

Location

On Thursday May 26th 2011 and Friday May 27th 2011 the Conference will be held at the Faculty TPM of the Delft University of Technology, Jaffalaan 5, 2628 BX Delft.

The Organizing Committee:

Dr.ir. Wolter Lemstra (Conference Chair)

Prof.dr. John Groenwegen (Chair Economics of Infrastructures)

Dr. Rolf Künneke (Associate Professor Economics of Infrastructures)

Prisca Koelman (Conference Management)