

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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The Competitiveness Institute (TCI) reaches out to Oceania

Wellington (24/05/2006) – The newly formed Competitiveness Institute – Oceania (TCI-O) chapter was formally launched at the New Zealand Trade and Enterprise annual cluster conference, “Driving Local Competitiveness” in Wellington on Wednesday 24th May 2006.

TCI has a global membership base of more than 500 leading practitioners and economic development organisations from all levels of governments and the private sector, coming from more than 52 countries. By sharing knowledge and experience members gain access to leading insights and expertise and the most recent global developments on economic development and regional competitiveness.

“The new TCI-O chapter will focus its efforts on extending the TCI network in the Oceania region” said Tracy Scott-Rimington, Regional Chair of The Competitiveness Institute – Oceania. “We promote the use of clustering concepts to build economic capacity within industries and regions, nurture global investment and trade alliances, strengthen innovation systems and promote entrepreneurship and regional branding”

“Those interested in enhancing regional competitiveness and economic development in the Oceania region can expect to see at least two major conferences in the region each year focusing on competitiveness methodologies and real life examples drawn from the global network of the TCI membership base” President Lars Eklund said from Sweden. “The Oceania chapter will issue a regular newsletter updating members of best practice initiatives in their region”.

TCI is an international organisation that has established a reputation for leading discussion on industry and regional competitiveness policy and practice. “We are now taking this invaluable network and information to a greater audience through the establishment of regional chapters throughout the world”, President Lars Eklund said.

Executive Board members of TCI-O include:

Tracy Scott-Rimington, Chair (Cairns Region Economic Development Corporation, Cairns, Qld)

Richard Walker, Vice-Chair (ShireConsults, Oyster Bay, NSW)

Steve Arnott (Department of Industry and Resources, Perth, WA)

Dr Patrice Braun (Centre for Regional Innovation & Competitiveness, University of Ballarat, Victoria)

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Bruce Gadd (New Zealand Trade & Enterprise, Wellington, NZ)

Rodin Genoff, (City of Playford, SA)

Prof Julian Lowe (University of Ballarat, Victoria)

Frank Wyatt (Enterprising Partnerships Pty Ltd, SA)

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The Competitiveness Institute (TCI) offers information on clusters and competitive regions worldwide. We use multiple arenas in real life and on the net for exchange of ideas, knowledge and experiences on methodologies for economic growth. We work on clusters, innovation systems, promotion of entrepreneurship and regional branding.

TCI – the global network for regional competitiveness www.competitiveness.org