15th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference
July 5-8, 2009

"Taking up the Global Challenge: Analysing the implementation of
innovations and governance for Sustainable Development"

CALL FOR PAPERS

Track nr 4A: *Innovation and Transition management*

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Sustainable Innovation

There is a strong need to influence both speed and direction of innovation and technological change. In this conference call, when using the concept of technological change, we do not refer to technology development in the narrow sense, but to the development of technology in interaction with the system in which the technology is embedded. We call this joined and interactive process the *innovation proces*s. An innovation can be defined as the successful combination of hardware, software, and orgware, where orgware refers to the various components of the innovation system.

Increasing the speed of innovation is important, since innovation is a key determinant for long term economic growth and development. Increasing the innovation speed at a national level is a highly complicated process, yet influencing the innovation *direction* is even harder.

The necessity to shape innovation processes can be demonstrated by the fact that apart from the advantage of creating economic growth and societal benefits, current use of technologies often have severe negative side effects. Quite often these negative side effects are related to the impact of technology on the natural environment. The relation between technology and the environment is complex and paradoxical. On the one hand, technologies use resources and impose environmental stress. On the other hand, technologies can also lead to a more efficient use of resources, less stress on the environment and even cleaning of the environment. The latter is often referred to as sustainable technology development or sustainable innovation.

Technology development is not an autonomous process and, therefore, management of technological change is necessary. The design and implementation of these management processes is a key issue in many national environmental and innovation policy programs.

Transition Management

Transitions are transformation processes in which society changes in a fundamental way over a generation or more. Transition management refers to policy efforts by governments to stimulate and facilitate these transformation processes. Transition management involves sensitivity to existing dynamics and regular adjustment of goals to overcome the conflict between long-term ambition and short-term concerns (Rotmans et al., 2001). For this conference we are

interested in the management of transition processes towards a more sustainable society.

Scope and focus

The key questions that we would like to address during this conference are:

- What can we learn from different policy and firm attempts to stimulate sustainable innovation processes?
- What management and governance models have lead to an increase in sustainable innovation processes?
- In what way do successful sustainable innovation policies differ from normal innovation policies?
- How do sustainable innovation policies differ from normal environmental policies?
- What theoretical models are suitable to create insight in the drivers and barriers of sustainable innovation?
- How can these theoretical models be applied in real policy and management contexts? What are examples of good practices in this area?
- What experiences are available with transition management?
- What theoretical models (apart from the often used multi level model) can we use to create insight in the dynamics of transition processes?
- How does sustainable innovation policy relate to transition management?

We are especially interested in empirical analyses of sustainable innovation (policy) processes and transition management practices to shed light on the questions stated above.

Please look at the detailed instructions and deadlines for submitting your abstract and paper, using the Submission & guidelines button at the left side.