

MindSpace

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RESEARCH
ALLIANCE



Prepared by the GRA Nerve Centre

Vol 1 • Number 1 • May 2006

In order to occupy some of your mindscape, the GRA Nerve Centre will be sending out a short news update on a regular basis. This update will be sent to all on all the mailing lists but please feel free to share this information with anybody else in your organization.

5th Annual Meeting of GRA Principals

The Principals of the GRA met recently in Columbus, Ohio to agree on the focus for the Alliance in the coming year. All nine member organisations were represented at the meeting which was hosted by Battelle. Following some intensive brainstorming the specific focus for the year ahead has been clearly defined and ownership has been assigned for monitoring progress and report back to the next meeting of Principals. The GRA attention will be focused on ICT, Water, Energy, Indigenous Knowledge and Innovation Systems. These are regarded as cross-cutting initiatives and do not exclude any other opportunities that may arise.

People on the move ...

Dr Dirk-Meints Polter – Senior Vice President and Member of the Executive Board of Directors of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is the newly nominated Principal for his organization. Dr Polter will also join the Executive Committee of the Alliance.

Dr Polter replaces Prof Dennis Tschritzis who has retired.

Dr Gerald Stokes - Vice President International Partnerships for Battelle has been designated by his organization to be the Champion for them.

We look forward to interacting with these two very experienced new additions and to the contribution that they will make to the Alliance.

In order to make this newsletter meaningful and useful, the Nerve Centre needs your assistance. Please let us have news, comments and ideas that we can share with the GRA community.

Send your inputs to: cmalan@theinnovationhub.com

GRA on the move ...

- GRA scientists are on their way to a briefing session on the **Kalpasar project** in India. The Kalpasar project is based on creating a gigantic fresh water lake by closing the gulf of Khambhat. The GRA interest is in the Environmental Impact Assessment for the project.
- TNO have prepared an outline for a possible project on '**Can Low Cost Networking provide a solution to wider ICT network access in developing countries?**' and are looking for partners to develop this concept.
- **S&T based water scenarios for sub-Saharan Africa** are being developed for distribution to funders and other stakeholders. This project will be brought to the attention of the Board of the Global Water Research Coalition by Dr Rivka Kfir, Chief Executive of the Water Research Commission who also provided some sponsorship for this initiative.
- The **Tanzanian pilot project** to validate a herbal preparation which alleviates the symptoms of the opportunistic diseases suffered by people living with HIV/AIDS, is well underway. The report on the legal requirements is complete, the ethno-botanical study will soon get started and an impressive team of GRA scientists, associates and stakeholders has been formed.
- Thought leaders from member organisations and potential collaborators are being brought together to focus on the reducing the vulnerability and increasing the resilience of **water services** to global change in Asia and the Pacific.
- The Alliance has been invited by the World Bank to take a leading role in a **Global Forum on Building Science, Technology and Innovation Capacity for Growth and Poverty Reduction** which will take place in October.

News Snippets from our members

All the members of the GRA are involved in groundbreaking world-class research and development work. Presented here are just a few highlights from recent press releases to help us all to know a little more about each other.

Fraunhofer goes to Hollywood

Hollywood is ringing in the new age of digital cinema. The Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS is one of the research groups involved in the introduction of the new technology. Under a cooperation agreement with the Digital Cinema Initiatives DCI, a consortium of the major Hollywood studios, the Fraunhofer IIS is developing test procedures for the certification of digital projectors, servers and other hardware for the digital cinema of the future.

'Second skin' helps care for all

CSIRO scientists are creating a 'second skin' made from wool and Lycra to help protect the body against wounds and major traumas. By incorporating so-called 'smart textiles', second skin technology is an emerging biomedical field with applications in medicine, sport, occupational safety, military and emergency services. A major use of the technology is expected to be in patient care. With the success of the wearer trial, the research team has just got the go-ahead for a six-month clinical trial with about 400 participants.

VTT to Improve Information Security of European Electricity Distribution

Multifarious intentional and unintentional situations – ranging from short circuits and human errors to hackers and terrorists exploiting security vulnerabilities in control

systems - can paralyse Large Critical Complex Infrastructures (LCCIs). VTT is playing a key role in an EU project aimed at protecting the critical infrastructure of European society.

The project focuses on, e.g. preventing information security threats to the telecommunications systems of European electricity distribution networks. The project aims at improving the reliability, security and dependability of these systems.

Battelle Global Energy Technology Strategy Program Releases Comprehensive Analysis

In a keynote speech at the Fifth Annual Conference on Carbon Capture and Sequestration, James J. Dooley, Senior Scientist at the Joint Global Change Research Institute (founded by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the University of Maryland), unveiled a detailed analysis of the potentially critical role that carbon dioxide capture and storage technologies may play in addressing global climate change. The analysis is a synthesis of more than 10 years of cutting-edge research at Battelle on carbon dioxide capture and storage technologies.

The report Carbon Dioxide Capture and Geologic Storage: A Core Element of a Global Energy Technology Strategy to Address Climate Change, documents the tremendous potential value that Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technologies offer society as it confronts the challenge of addressing climate change.