

Science, Technology and Multilateral Collaboration

The London Workshop on Studies of Governance of STI for Global Challenges
Imperial College, London, October 30 2012

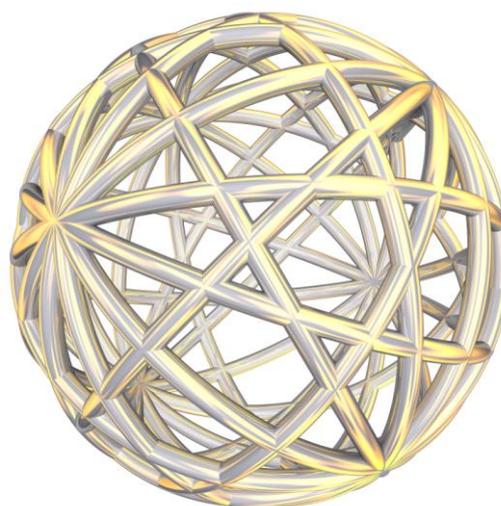
Arranged by The Imperial College, The German Development Institute, The Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research and Innovation Norway, in association with the Royal Society and the OECD

Imperial College
London



Background: The OECD STIG Project

A recent research project, under the auspices of OECD and funded and implemented by member countries, has explored International Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation for Global Challenges. Known as 'STIG', the project is one of the first systematic attempts to look both at the empirical conduct and governance of multilateral research and innovation initiatives.



The project consisted of nine empirical case studies, looking at widely different projects: from the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation work on disease eradication, to the EU's Joint Programming Initiative, to the work of the Group on Earth Observations. Five related projects produced background papers on governance themes: finance, priority setting, capacity building, implementation and intellectual property. The STIG report, *Meeting Global Challenges Through Better Governance*, has just been published by OECD.

How to establish a multilateral framework for STI policy

Global challenges require global solutions and science, technology and innovation (STI) have to play an important role in finding these. So the really important problems in future STI policy require a multilateral framework.

In developing such collaborations we have had both success (the Montreal Protocol) and catastrophic failure (Kyoto). But what discriminates between success and failure? Countries face complex choices between indigenous initiatives and collaboration, and have large volumes of collaborative agreements but no clear basis on how to set them up or manage them (the UK Foreign Office Treaty Library contains more than 150 international S&T Treaties). This complexity puts a premium on our ability to understand, develop and implement multilateral cooperative strategies and institutions.

Discussing the next step

STIG was a big step forward in addressing how collaboration is initiated and delivered, and in providing empirical and conceptual templates. Nevertheless, many conceptual and practical challenges remain, especially when we focus on global public goods and the global commons. The aim of this workshop is to discuss these issues: how can we categorise global STI problems, what are the best conceptual tools for addressing multilateral collaboration issues, and what are the institutional forms through which

collaboration can be implemented? And what might a follow-up project on policy collaboration for global challenges look like?

Location, Date, Time

The workshop will be held at the South Kensington campus of Imperial College, London, in the Boardroom at 58 Princes Gate, London SW7 2PG. It will run from 1000 to 1600 on 30th October 2012. Lunch will be provided. There is no fee.

In Association with the Royal Society Policy Lab

On the previous afternoon, 29th October 2012, The Royal Society will host a 'Policy Lab' to present and discuss STIG. This will be held from 1500 to 1700 at the Society's headquarters, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG, and will be followed by drinks. Participants are encouraged to take part in both events.

Provisional Workshop Programme:

1. Per Koch, Innovation Norway, Chair of the OECD STIG Project:
The STIG project – work and results

2. Andreas Stamm, The German Development Institute:
Global challenges and complexity – the approach in STIG

3. Keith Smith, Imperial College:
Conceptualising STI in the global commons

4. Wolfgang Polt, Joanneum Research:
Potential lines for empirical research

5. Panel Discussion:
 - Future empirical studies
 - Conceptual issues
 - Policy development
 - New forms of governance

6. Future meetings and close

CONTACT

Maryam Philpott
Innovation and Entrepreneurship Group
Business School
Imperial College
London.

Tel:
+ 44 20 7594 5484

Email:
M.Philpott@Imperial.ac.uk