



CIB TG85: R&D Investment and Impact

Outcomes of Webex 7 - 27th November 2012 (6 – 7 pm Brisbane, Australia time)

Attendees: Bakens, Wim; Bougrain, Frédéric; Hampson, Keith (Coordinator); Haugbølle, Kim; Heyblom, Tom; Kraatz, Judy; Sanchez, Adriana; and Shen, Geoffrey (Speaker).

Apologies: Airaksinen, Miimu; Bottura Barros, Mercia; Bröchner, Jan; Cardoso, Francisco; Chapman, Robert; Chi, Seokho; Cunningham, Peter; Dewulf, Geert; Kadefors, Anna; Kashikar, Arun; Lehtiranta, Liisa; Leiringer, Roine; Mikkonen, Virpi; Nenonen, Suvi; Nüsse, Gregor; Robinson, Aminah; Slaughter, Sarah; Staub, Alexandra; Thomas, Ken; Støre Valen, Marit; and Wilkinson, Suzanne.

PRESENTATION – Geoffrey Shen, Department of Building and Real Estate, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong - [R&D Funding in Hong Kong](#) (click to view)

- The Universities Grant Council (UGC) was founded in 1965 by the government to provide funds to eight higher education institutions in Hong Kong through the Research Grant Council (RGC). In 1991, the Research Grant Council (RGC) was established as a subsidiary of the UGC to oversee research funding.
- The eight universities funded by the UGC are: City University of Hong Kong (CityU), Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU), Lingnan University (LU), the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd), the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), and the University of Hong Kong (HKU).
- In general, research funds are drawn from 4 type of funding sources:
 - Block grants (i.e. recurrent grants and other UGC grants).
 - Earmarked Research Grants:
 - General Research Fund (GRF) which substituted the Competitive Earmarked Research Grant (CERG) under a competitive grant scheme for the eight higher education institutions. The grant applications are reviewed by a small council (5-8 members) and if successful, funded. The application success rate is approximately 20% and the accepted budgets are in the order of one million HKD (USD \$130,000) over 3 years. These small scale projects have no overhead charges for the universities.
The GRF which is equivalent to the Australian Research Council, has increased funds steadily since 1991 moving from \$100 to almost HKD \$700 million per year (USD \$12 - \$90 million). Poly U receives approximately 15% of the total funds. In recent years the GRF has allocated HKD \$40 million (USD \$5 million) towards *civil engineering, surveying, building and construction*, of which PolyU received approximately 40%.
 - Direct Allocation Grants (DAG) is a smaller fund allocating an average of HKD \$60 million per annum (1995 - 2012). Poly U receives approximately 15% of the total funds allocated by this grant scheme.
 - Collaborative Research Fund (CRF) was established in the year 2000 to fund medium scale projects. The scale of funding under this scheme is between HKD \$5 - \$6 million (USD \$645,000 – \$775,000) for four to five years. Under this scheme two or more universities must collaborate to obtain the grant. The CRF allocated a total of HKD \$60 million in 2011, distributed among 10 projects.
 - Other Earmarked Research Grants.
 - Other Funding Schemes and Activities:

- Theme Based Research Scheme (TBRS) was established in 2010 to fund large scale projects with budgets between HKD \$30 and \$60 million (USD \$4 to \$8 million). Under this scheme, several universities apply as group.
- Public Policy Research (PPR) was established in 2003 to fund projects in the scale of HKD \$500,000 (USD \$64,500) for a period of one to two years. PPR has allocated HKD \$8 to \$12 million (USD \$1 – \$1.5 million) (2003-2012) per annum.
- PhD Fellowship (HKPF) established in 2009 aims to bring international talent to Hong Kong, granting 135 positions per year choosing from over 5,000 applicants (2012 round ending December 31st).
- Other schemes and activities.
- Other Government and Private Funds.
 - Industry Funds have varied wildly in the past 15 years and currently accounts for 1-2% of the total funds allocated to research activities.
 - Other sources.
- The total UGC funded institutions has varied from HKD \$15 to \$25 (1991 - 2011) billion which is equivalent to 1% – 1.5% of the total GDP. For the same period, the total funds allocated to research have varied between \$4 and \$7 billion HKD/year (20 - 30% from total UGC expenditures).
- PolyU's total income amounts to HKD \$4 - \$5 billion per annum, 50% of which originates from public funds (mainly UGC) and 2 – 8% from donation. Currently, less than 0.2% originates in the private industry.

Discussion

- Construction Industry Council recently started to provide funds for academic research but at a very small scale.
- The in-kind contribution from the industry is not accounted for in the statistics above.
- The low industry contribution to research is partially due to a shrinking manufacturing industry and the lack of other types such as pharmaceutical industry.
- Public funds are limited to the UGC and the RGC, any other source (even if coming from a department of the government) is accounted as industry funds.

TG85 PUBLICATIONS

General

WBC13 Individual papers

- Authors will be contacted individually regarding their attendance. Currently, we are targeting an afternoon session with the attendants, followed by a WebEx session with the members that are not able to attend. A dinner for the attending members will be planned.
- First paper submission now closed.

CIB TG85 Book

- Once the contracts with the publisher are finalised the abstracts of the individual chapters will be uploaded to the SBEnrc website.
- Summary of writing guidelines will be sent to all authors.

CIB TG85 Industry Publication

- Industry relevant case studies will be used to create a 20-page industry focused publication to be released at the WBC13 (~2 pages per case study). This publication will be made available to all congress attendees.
- The matrix sent earlier to the members will be used as a quick reference for the editors of the industry publication to select a representative sample of case studies that includes all dimensions and regions. Members were asked to populate the matrix using the case studies that will be discussed in their chapter.
- Potential copyrights conflicts will be clarified with Taylor and Francis in the coming weeks.

KEY DATES

- **14 Dec 2012** – 1st TG85 chapter draft due
- **5 February 2013** – TG85 WebEx 8
- **22 Feb 2013** – WBC13 final papers due
- **20 April 2013** – Final edited chapters targeted back to authors
- **5-9 May 2013** – WBC13 in sunny Brisbane!

NEXT MEETING

- Tuesday, 5th February 2013 at 11 pm Brisbane Time.

Feel free to print multiple copies off and mount on your office wall, home office, bathroom mirror etc ... !

Good luck!

CIB WBC13 and TG85 Publication Timelines

