



RESEARCHER
LINKS



University Technology Transfer and Knowledge Exchange: Strategic Directions for Sustainable Economic Growth

**2014 British Council and Thailand Research Fund Research Links Workshop:
Call for Early Career Researcher Participation**

Coordinators:

Stavros Sindakis, Bangkok University, Thailand, Stavros.s@bu.ac.th

Kristel Miller, Queen's University Belfast, United Kingdom, Kristel.miller@qub.ac.uk

In today's knowledge-based economy, universities are considered to be a key entity in the pathway to sustainable economic growth. Recent government policies and strategies identifies that the transference of knowledge and technology from universities to industry is fundamental to regional development and growth. However, difficult economic times and intense competition worldwide has meant that converting knowledge from universities into commercial opportunities, innovations, and jobs is becoming an increasingly difficult task. It requires a plethora of networks, interactions, and collaboration between government, university, and industry in order to successfully build up a sustainable innovation ecosystem. However, tripartite stakeholder interactions are complex; consisting of boundary spanning knowledge transfer and exchange with stakeholders who often have conflicting objectives and concerns. There is a need to develop understanding on how stakeholders and entities involved in university technology transfer and knowledge exchange processes can work together in harmony to foster sustainable economic development.

In this context and under the Thai-UK Researcher Links scheme, we encourage participation from early career researchers in an attempt to explore past and present strategies for university transfer and knowledge exchange within the UK and Thailand and undertake a 'lessons learned' approach to identify strategic directions to improve systems and methodologies for university technology transfer and multiple stakeholder knowledge generation, capture and transfer. We therefore welcome proposals that include but are not limited to the following topics:

- Entrepreneurship and University Technology Transfer (The relationship between university research and private sector innovation and the role of government, the mechanisms of technology transfer, the evolution of university technology transfer activities, and the creation of new firms and intermediaries to exploit university technology)
- R&D funding sources and university technology transfer: What is stimulating universities to be more entrepreneurial?

- Organisational learning and participation in university technology transfer
- Contribution of learning competencies and knowledge acquisition to sustainable entrepreneurship, resilience, and robust competitiveness
- Development of university spin-offs: The dynamics of technology transfer and networking
- Technology transfer and public policy: The role of the government in the commercialisation of academic research
- Entrepreneurial Universities and Technology Transfer: The role of universities in systems of innovation and the influence of economic, social, and political factors.
- Relationship Dynamics between University Research Centres and Industrial Firms: The Impact on Technology Transfer Activities
- Intermediating knowledge exchange between universities, businesses, government, and civil society
- Social exchange for knowledge exchange: Exploration of social learning within governments and organisations
- Institutional variety, networking, and knowledge exchange: The dynamics of the Quadruple Helix
- Motivation and barriers to participation in virtual knowledge-sharing communities of practice
- Knowledge exchange and technology transfer within a growing economy

This workshop is an opportunity for the partner institutions, companies involved in the workshop and early career participants to gain awareness and knowledge of each respective institution (i.e. Queen's University and Bangkok University) and their corresponding countries, which can be shared with colleagues and students after the workshop. Open dialogues and discussions throughout the workshops will serve as the initial stage of building collaborative international links between the participants. During the workshop, a special interest group will be set up comprising of an electronic network and forum to foster sustainable relationships. Workshop participants will be encouraged to invite colleagues interested in this area to join these groups to gradually build a larger network of researchers, which will hopefully fuel future collaborative projects between Thailand and the UK.

After the workshop, a report will be written capturing all the key issues, discussions, and areas for future research and collaboration from a research, policy, and practical perspective. This workshop aims to be a springboard for future collaborative projects between the institutions, early career researchers, and external organisations within Thailand.

We are now inviting potential early career participants from the UK or Thailand to apply to attend and present their research at this workshop, which will be held on the 5th – 7th March 2014, in Bangkok, Thailand. Proposals should be made to both Stavros Sindakis (Stavros.s@bu.ac.th) and Kristel Miller (Kristel.miller@qub.ac.uk) and should take the form of a 600 word statement. The proposal should outline your current research area, the topic that you like to present on and what benefits you would achieve from attending the workshop. Applicants for the workshop should also submit a full CV. The deadline for submissions is the 31st January 2014. All travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the Researcher Links programme.

Please note that all activities will be held in English. If you would like further information, or wish to discuss your ideas before submitting, please feel free to contact one of the workshop coordinators above.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applications must be submitted using the Researcher Links application form
 - Application must be submitted before the above deadline
 - Participants must be early career researchers: Early Career Researchers are defined as holding a PhD (or having equivalent research experience – workshop organisers define the prerequisites according to field of research/discipline) and having up to 10 years post-PhD research experience. They are equivalent to the ‘Recognised Researcher’ and sometimes ‘Experienced Researcher’ categories in the EU framework for researchers’ careers.
http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/Towards_a_European_Framework_for_Research_Careers_final.pdf
- Leading Researchers as defined by the EU Framework for researchers careers as research group leaders who are internationally recognised in their field
- Participants must have a research or academic position (either a permanent post, research contract, or fellowship etc.) at a recognised research institution either in the UK or in Thailand

Quality Assessment

- Experience and relevance of the applicant’s research area to the workshop
- Motivation and contribution to the aims of the workshop
- Description of the long-term impact expected through the participation in the workshop
- Ability to disseminate workshop’s outcomes

Selection Procedure

- Eligibility check
- Quality assessment

We look forward to receiving your exciting ideas for the 2014 Thai-UK Research Links Workshop!