

A New Landscape: From Research Funding to Knowledge Transfer

ISTA Knowledge Transfer Management Forum Series

Organized by the International Strategic Technology Alliance (ISTA)
Hosted by Southeast University

6 November 2015

Background

Research plays a pivotal role in a country's science and technology ecosystem. Widely considered as part of the national development system, university research is usually funded by public financial resources, especially those blue sky researches and fundamental innovations involving long-term commitment without certainty of scientific advancement or breakthrough. Still, a portion of the knowledge and research talents generated from these research projects will eventually translate into economic impacts through technology commercialization, start-ups, and related knowledge transfer activities that justify public investment in a tangible way.

Along a typical university R&D value chain, research funding is seen as the driving resources from one end, whereas technology application and commercialization are part of the output at the other end of the process. Funding agencies at all levels of the government employ various assessment tools to gauge the effectiveness of the use of funds, with performance indicators linked to both recurrent/ project-based resource allocation. It goes without saying that the philosophy of a sector-wide research funding system would shape policies and practice of funding administration and research behavior in many ways. The research ecosystem is therefore a subject worthy of analysis by stakeholders in both administration and academia to holistically uphold multiple objectives in creation of knowledge and their application.

In China, science & technology and higher education policies are interconnected to leverage academic research as a driver for national innovation and economic development. Recently, China is again pressing on with new reforms that would, ideally, bring dividends of its research investment to new heights. A top-down proposition is to radically transform the research funding landscape by consolidating the research funding agencies to render the national research funding system more effective in producing high-impact research outcomes and applications. Research policies and management in other parts of the world are being referenced for insights about developing an impact-driven research ecosystem in China. It would be an opportune time for ISTA to bring together international research policy experts and knowledge transfer practitioners to enlighten the audience on the subject with their rich knowledge and best practice in a context that would be of good advisory value to the upcoming reforms in China.

The Forum

In this context, we have set the theme of the 2015 ISTA KT Management Forum series as “The New Landscape: From Research Funding to Knowledge Transfer”, to be held in conjunction with the Alliance’s 20th Anniversary General Meeting on 6 November 2015. The Forum aims to bring together university administrators and experts from both locally and abroad to share their experience and views for the audience’s better appreciation of the challenges and opportunities amidst policy reforms in research funding administration and commercialization.

Participants of the Forum will include representatives from institutional ISTA members, typically top executives overseeing R&D and knowledge/technology transfer of their respective universities, senior university directorates responsible for commercialization, and public administration officers and intermediaries who are actively involved in university-industry technology transfer.

The Programme

Time	Programme	Speaker
11:00 – 12:10	<p>The Positioning of Knowledge Transfer in Research and its Evaluation Framework</p> <p>Research Assessment under Research Excellence Framework 2014 with Impact Case Studies (Presentation file)</p> <p>Enabling University-Industry Collaboration to deliver High Quality and High Impact (Presentation file)</p>	<p>Professor Qiang SHEN <i>Institute Director Institute of Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science Aberystwyth University, UK</i></p> <p>Professor David MULLINS <i>Director External and International Relations WMG, University of Warwick, UK</i></p>
12:10 – 13:40	Lunch	
13:40 – 14:50	<p>Driving Forces for University Knowledge Transfer: Policy and Practice</p> <p>The Impact of Bayh-Dole Act on American Technology Transfer (Presentation file)</p> <p>From Research to Application: Collaborative Runway for Technology Transfer through Entrepreneurship Scheme (Presentation file)</p>	<p>Ms Lita NELSEN <i>Director Technology Licensing Office Massachusetts Institute of Technology USA</i></p> <p>Professor Paul FEIGIN <i>Vice President for Strategic Projects Technion - Israel Institute of Technology Israel</i></p>
14:50 – 15:00	Tea Break	
15:00 – 15:35	<p>Knowledge Transfer and Regional Development</p> <p>How does the Triple Helix Model contribute to National Innovation: A view from Singapore</p>	<p>Professor Timothy WHITE <i>Research Director President Office Research Strategy Co-ordination Unit Nanyang Technological University Singapore</i></p>

15:35 – 15:45 Refreshment Break

15:45 – 16:30 **Panel Discussion Session I**

Driving Knowledge Transfer with Impact in Research Universities

Moderator

Dr Alwin WONG

Director, Institute for Entrepreneurship, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Panel

Ms Lita NELSEN

Director, Technology Licensing Office, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

Professor Timothy WHITE

*Research Director, President Office, Research Strategy Co-ordination Unit,
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*

Professor ZHU Changfei

Vice President, University of Science and Technology of China, China

Professor ZHAN Yiqing

Vice President, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China

16:30 – 17:15 **Panel Discussion Session II**

The Arts & Science of Knowledge Transfer: Innovation and Practice

Moderator

Dr David AI

Director, Knowledge Transfer Office, City University of Hong Kong

Panel

Professor Paul FEIGIN

Vice President for Strategic Projects, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel

Ms Eilene Huei-Lan HSU

CEO, Operations Center for Industry Collaboration, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan

Mr Anthony FRANCIS

Chief Executive Officer, Flinders Partners Pty Ltd, Australia

17:15 – 17:30 **Closing Remarks**

ISTA members are welcome to download the presentation slides listed above. To access the protected files, please send a request to ista.secretariat@polyu.edu.hk for the password

About ISTA (www.ista-net.net)

Founded in 1995, International Strategic Technology Alliance (ISTA) is the only higher education network in China on technology transfer with strong international orientation and participation. As a unique platform for 26 renowned universities in China and the world, ISTA aims to foster cross cultural R&D collaborations, promote international networking and high-impact knowledge transfer for the sustainable development of society.

Members of ISTA:

CHINA / HONG KONG	
Beijing Normal University	Fudan University
Harbin Institute of Technology	Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Huazhong University of Science and Technology	Nanjing University
Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics	Northeastern University
Northwestern Polytechnical University	Peking University
Renmin University of China	Shanghai Jiaotong University
Sichuan University	South China University of Technology
Southeast University	Sun Yat-sen University
Tongji University	Tsinghua University
University of Science and Technology of China	University of Shanghai for Science and Technology
Wuhan University of Technology	Xian Jiaotong University
Zhejiang University	
UNITED KINGDOM	
Cardiff University	University of Warwick
UNITED STATES	
Purdue University	

About Southeast University (www.seu.edu.cn)

Southeast University (SEU), one of the oldest institutions in China dated back to 1902, is one of the top research universities directly administered by the Ministry of Education.

The engineering-focused university has a faculty of 2,659 and over 32,000 full-time students, including 14,000 postgraduates in 29 schools or departments. Located in the ancient capital city of Nanjing, Southeast University has three main campuses covering a total area of 393 hectares.

As a major technology development centre of the country, Southeast University's research funds reached RMB 1,658 million in 2014, with plausible impacts on the regional economy. According to a survey by the Jiangsu Province government, the university ranks the best in 6 indicators out of the 7 KPIs among all universities in the region.

Southeast University Science Park provides incubation for more than 300 high-tech companies, accredited by the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Education as one of first Science and Technology Practice Bases for College Student.