

ARC GOVNET - DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN 2005

Stream 1: proposed priority activities for GLOBAL, INTERNATIONAL & TRANSNATIONAL program

Stream leader: Professor Charles Sampford, Griffith University.

It is proposed to email all members of the program to see which conferences they are likely to attend, assess whether they would like to have a strategic planning meeting attached, inquire as to what topics they would like discussed at the annual GovNet conference late in 2005, and suggest any appropriate international guests.

Visits by convenor to Australian cities where members can readily be consulted (not a budget cost as Convenor does this in the normal course of his duties).

Strategic planning meeting with members of the group and Professor Ramesh Thakur, Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, who will visit in about July or August to examine potential joint research proposals (costs to include contribution to Thakur's visit, catering and subsidy for interstate attendees).

One day workshop in association with the annual GovNet conference on a topic following consultation with members (costs to include catering, international visitor, and subsidised attendance of interstate GovNet members (with a higher subsidy for PhD students).

Stream 2: proposed priority activities for ASIA-PACIFIC GOVERNANCE program

Stream leader: Professor Andrew MacIntyre, ASPEG, Australian National University.

Two themes have been proposed as initial focal points for the Asia-Pacific stream.

1. Governance and political reform in China. Of all the major governance questions facing the Asia-Pacific region, this is the one on which most turns. It is proposed that an initial workshop be convened that brings together network members in Australia and overseas, as well as specialists in China.

2. Development assistance strategies in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. This is an increasingly prominent policy priority that cuts across normal disciplinary boundaries. It is proposed that a fresh and potentially revealing way to approach this issue is to compare Australian and Japanese strategies. Senior Australian and Japanese officials have expressed strong interest.

More recently, a third possible theme proposed by network members is a focus on governance aspects of comparative capitalist development and regulation in Asia.

The modest budget means that hard choices will be unavoidable. This is further complicated by the geographic dispersal of members. An important principle in the allocation of stream funds will be serving as many members of the stream as possible. Among other things, this will require innovative approaches to cost-sharing (eg. partial co-funding of travel) and to forms of participation (eg. teleconferencing).

In addition to stream-specific research activities, the Asia-Pacific stream is also responsible for managing a *capacity building* role for Govnet. Funding of up to \$54,000 has been allocated for this task. It is proposed that a part-time project grant specialist be engaged to support network members pursuing research projects relating to governance capacity building in the Asia-Pacific stream.

Stream 3: proposed priority activities for PUBLIC GOVERNANCE program
Stream leader: Professor John Wanna, ANZSOG research chair, Australian National University

[John Wanna to supply details]

Stream 4: proposed priority activities for CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & REGULATION program
Stream leader: Professor Peter Grabosky, RegNet, Australian National University.

Regnet holds weekly seminars in Canberra on a variety of issues including many aspects of corporate governance and regulation. The GovNet website (under Events) has a link to the Regnet website

http://regnet.anu.edu.au/events/past_events/index.php

This provides a list of seminars planned for 2005 and also previous seminars. There is a significant public lecture on 30 May by Professor Malcolm Sparrow (Harvard) on the topic “Undoing Harm”.

Professor Jan McMillen from the Centre for Gambling Research is planning a one-day workshop on gambling regulation, to highlight the research that she and her colleagues have been undertaking; this may be attached to either the annual conference of the National Association for Gambling Studies (this year in Alice Springs) or the annual Regnet conference in Canberra.

Professor Hilary Charlesworth will bring a distinguished international speaker to a conference on “Assessing the Human Rights Act” in late June 2005.

Beyond the ACT, other Stream activities will include a major conference, organised by Professor Anona Armstrong at Victoria University: “Beyond Fragmented Government: Governance in the Public Sector” on 15-17 August 2005, at the Victoria University City Campus, level 12, 300 Flinders St, Melbourne. This is the second conference on governance in the public sector organised by the Centre for International Corporate Governance Research. Sponsorship has been received from the Victorian Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

The conference focuses on three main themes: integration and integrity ; new models of governance ; and global integration (FTAs, regulation and trust).

Call for papers, see

<http://www.businessandlaw.vu.edu.au/cicgr/psconference.asp>

Stream 5: proposed priority activities for CIVIL SOCIETY GOVERNANCE program (professions, religious institutions and NGOs)

Stream leader: Associate Professor Jeanette Kennett, CAPPE, Australian National University

The major focus for 2005 will be on the theme of *Ethics, Governance and the Professions*. A key concern here will be to focus on how professional standards, governance and regulatory frameworks are faring across a range of professions (including law, medicine, journalism, accounting, engineering) and how they may be better addressed, in the context of professional practice within large corporations.

This will involve providing some analysis of the proper nature of particular professional roles and practice; of gaining some understanding of the operation and values of the large organisations within which many professionals are embedded, and; then providing some descriptive and normative analysis of the impact of latter upon the former. In what ways might traditional methods of regulation need to be tailored to the corporate setting?

Another key area for examination will be Professionalism in the Global Context. In examining the effect of shifts toward a global context on professionalism we will look also at technological/electronic environments. These contexts represent a rapidly growing, relatively new global context within which a range of professional activity is now being undertaken and with respect to which proper governance and regulatory arrangements face new and distinctive challenges.

CAPPE is planning an ARC linkage grant application on employee autonomy and workplace rights.

A workshop will focus on the nature of professional roles and regulation of the professions, in the new contexts within which professional practice is now undertaken. Papers will form the basis for an edited collection and perhaps a special issue of the AJPAE. We will follow up the workshop with a conference late in 2005 (probably as a stream of the annual GovNet conference). We will support attendance by all members of the stream.

Other activities:

A further specialised conference is being planned featuring representatives of regulatory bodies for early 2006.

Preparation of policy papers in specific professional areas: eg, monitoring surgeons' performance.

Further development of links with a range of professional and regulatory bodies, including the Professional Standards Council.

Occasional joint seminars with other members of GovNet located in Canberra.

Working papers to be placed on the CAPPE website and linked to GovNet site.

Mailing list, e-bulletin, to provide coverage and publicity for all stream activities by members inside and outside CAPPE.

Cross-Cutting Themes

Up to two themes, cutting across the interests of the above Streams, may be funded each year. The initial themes for launching in late 2005 are likely to be

as follows: New Thinking about Policy and Service Delivery; and New Thinking about Democracy.

Contact: Professor John Wanna.

Annual Conference

The first GovNet annual conference was held in conjunction with the annual RegNet conference at the Australian National University on 6-8 December 2004. A GovNet members meeting was held in conjunction with the conference, including presentations by Stream leaders.

The next annual conference will be held at the end of 2005, organised through CAPPE at the Australian National University.

Strengthening the Network

Approaching new members, especially in cities other than Canberra and Brisbane.

Promote electronic and other communication between members of the network. This would largely be done through the website and workshops.

Building links to major international networks.

Promote academic and practitioner exchanges.

Developing a realistic code of ethics for governance researchers.

Managing the Network

Staff have been assigned to the management tasks required for network administration and development.

Website

It is a high priority to continuously improve and update the information for members and end-users available on the GovNet website. This information should be accessible in a user-friendly way.

Priority will be given to providing information about events, information about how to contact project leaders, information about how to suggest new areas or topics, information about members interested in various topics, and linkages to other relevant websites.

Part-time staff have been appointed with responsibility for managing the website and improving the scope of information.

Public Forums and Debates

- Socratic Forums are being planned on controversial policy issues. These will be organised through a bi-partisan steering group to ensure a balanced approach.
- Media commentary on public issues by GovNet members is encouraged (although public comments are always made as individuals rather than as members of GovNet). Consideration may be given to sponsoring media training if there is sufficient interest.

Research Methodology

Exchange of information on interdisciplinary methodology and large scale humanities and social sciences research.

Exchange information and practices in governance research.

Enriching the experience of postgraduate (RHD) students

The network will ensure that RHD students have access to membership benefits and access to information about events and opportunities.

Some events will allow for RHD presentations and for reduced fees for attendance.

Executive Meetings

Meetings of the stream leaders and senior managerial staff are held from time to time, with teleconferences arranged on specific issues as required.