

ITRC Fast Track Analysis dissemination conference – 24 Jan 2012

Date: Tuesday 24th January 2012
Timing: 09.00 start, 14.00 finish
Location: Lecture Hall, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London, SW1H 9JJ (<http://www.imeche.org/about-us/location>)

To register to attend please contact the ITRC Programme Manager, Ben Kidd at benjamin.kidd@ouce.ox.ac.uk

Background

National infrastructure systems (energy, transport, water, waste and ICT) in advanced economies face serious challenges. The National Infrastructure Plan (NIP), the first iteration of which was published in October 2010 and the second in November 2011, acknowledges that a step change is needed in the level of investment in UK infrastructure, to secure our future energy supply, mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and drive forward economic growth. These reports, as well as others such as the 2011 Engineering the Future and 2009 Council for Science and Technology reports, identified significant vulnerabilities, capacity limitations and a number of national infrastructure components nearing the end of their useful life. They also highlight serious fragmentation in the arrangements for infrastructure provision in the UK. There is an urgent need to reduce carbon emissions from infrastructure, to respond to future demographic, social and lifestyle changes and to build resilience to intensifying impacts of climate change.

The transformation of national infrastructure must be efficient whilst minimising the associated risks, and will need to be underpinned by a long-term, cross-sectoral approach to understanding national infrastructure performance under a range of possible futures. The ITRC will provide the theoretical research, models and practical decision support tools to enable strategic analysis and planning of a national infrastructure system fit for the 21st Century.

The ITRC project programme includes co-production with stakeholders of integrated transition strategies, through three cycles of integrated assessment across the 5 year programme. The first of these cycles is the Fast Track Analysis (FTA) which is being undertaken during the first year of the programme. Working with early activities in development of a spatial multi-sector national modelling framework, it involves scoping possible futures for infrastructure in the UK, the drivers for change and the sources of uncertainty. It also includes examination of the evolution of governance (policy, regulatory, funding) arrangements for infrastructure provision in the UK, and how they may need to be modified to enable infrastructure transitions.

This half day conference will disseminate the results from the Fast Track Analysis. It will:

- present the new conceptual framework that has been developed for long term strategic analysis of national infrastructure systems
- provide a cross-sectoral overview of UK infrastructure sectors (energy, transport, water, waste, ICT), future prospects, risks and opportunities
- review governance arrangements and future challenges for national infrastructure provision
- identify high level drivers of change within the UK's infrastructure systems, including the demands of a changing population, economic growth and increasing energy costs
- present preliminary results from analysis of future infrastructure demand
- present cross-sectoral strategies for national infrastructure provision and preliminary assessment of these strategies
- update on how the ITRC will be continuing its research programme to build upon the lessons identified from the Fast Track Analysis

Agenda

09.00 Welcome from IMechE

Dr Tim Fox, IMechE

09.10 Keynote speech – Infrastructure Governance & Planning

Prof Brian Collins, UCL & Infrastructure UK Engineering and Interdependency Expert Group

09.30 Introduction to the Work Programme and outputs of the UK Infrastructure Transitions Research Consortium

Prof Jim Hall, Oxford University

09.40 ITRC complex systems concepts and methodologies

Dr Justin Henriques, Oxford University

10.00 ITRC Fast Track Analysis – emerging messages about UK National Infrastructure

Prof Robert Nicholls, University of Southampton

10.25 ITRC Researcher Panel Q&A

Prof Jim Hall, Oxford University

Prof Robert Nicholls, University of Southampton

Dr Nick Eyre, Oxford University

Prof Chris Kilsby, University of Newcastle

Dr Geoff Watson, University of Southampton

Prof John Preston, University of Southampton

Prof Cliff Jones, University of Newcastle

Prof Jim Watson, University of Sussex

Prof Pete Tyler, University of Cambridge

Prof Mark Birkin, University of Leeds

11.00 Refreshment break

11.40 ITRC Stakeholder Panel reflection on the Fast Track Analysis and future challenges in infrastructure provision

Prof Tim Broyd, Halcrow & Chair of ITRC Expert Advisory Panel

Rosemary Albinson, BP

Dr Marie Pierre-Whaley, Northumbrian Water

Colin Harris, Arup

Akshay Kaul, Infrastructure UK, Treasury

Garry Bowditch, SMART Infrastructure Facility (Australia)

12.50 ITRC programme – next steps and future outputs

Prof Jim Hall, Oxford University

13.20 Close & buffet lunch

Further information on the ITRC can be found at www.itrc.org.uk