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Workshops & Networking Events

RESPONSIBILITY Forum Workshop in Brussels, Belgium 11th February 2014.

The RESPONSIBILITY Project organized the RESPONSIBILITY Stakeholder Forum Workshop in Brussels on February 11th 2014. The purpose of it was to enable representatives of key stakeholders of the research community to actively participate in setting the agenda and determining the aims of the RESPONSIBILITY Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) Forum. This was a unique opportunity to contribute to the construction of an important online tool for the governance of research and innovation in Europe and beyond.

The workshop was attended by eighteen invited guests and eleven Consortium Members from the research teams of the 13 partner organizations of the RESPONSIBILITY project. The meeting was hosted at the Vertretung des Landes Nordrhein- Westfalen bei der Europäischen Union in Brussels and was welcomed by Dr.-Ing. Zaharya Menevidis, RESPONSIBILITY Project Coordinator.

The workshop used an open and participatory structure in order to allow a broad range of contributions from the stakeholders involved. It was the most appropriate way to



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approach the issue and to highlight the enabling, positive role that such stakeholders can play as well as their potential future influence on the development of the RESPONSIBILITY Forum. The workshop organizing team invited a broad variety of participants' backgrounds through a constructive approach would help to coalition-building and to find solutions to a multitude of challenges that are associated with RRI.

The discussion was primarily organized around the value of participants' knowledge on RRI and different degrees of participants' potential influences. Participants suggested questions and topics for the agenda of the Forum and of the workshop. These topics will be the basis for further sessions or discussions that other participants will be able attend.

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One of the most important considerations was the motivation of the candidates.

The forum is a participatory dialogue tool, which creates the conditions for people to motivate themselves and to organise for themselves the way they are going to work and act together. It will enable the construction of networks around the RRI theme.

First Asia Pacific Responsible Business Innovation 2014 in Kuching, Malaysia. 19th February 2014.

The 'First Asia Pacific Responsible Business Innovation Workshop 2014' was held by the RESPONSIBILITY project team of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) on 19th February, at Merdeka Palace Hotel and Suites, Kuching, Sarawak. RESPONSIBILITY stands for "Global Model and Observatory for International Responsible Research and Innovation Coordination". Dr. Rohaya Mohd Nor from the Business Faculty of Unimas and head of the Responsibility Team in Unimas was the chairperson of the workshop. The aim was to bring together various stakeholders from different background and business entities that directly or indirectly play a role in promoting, practicing or propagating Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in the context of Asia Pacific region.



As this workshop was the first to be conducted in Asia Pacific, hence its primary focus was to open a constructive dialogue with business and other stakeholders from Malaysia and other part of Asia Pacific Region and the and RESPONSIBILITY project consortium. The RESPONSIBILITY project consortium consists of 13 partners (10 institutions are from the EU countries; 3 institutions are from the non-EU countries). Through this workshop, the RESPONSIBILITY project obtained views and positions regarding certain areas that the project that will become actions implementing its strategy, on the dissemination and integration of Responsible Research and Innovation.

The workshop started with the welcome and introduction of Dr. Rohaya Mohd Nor, Workshop Chair and Dr. Zaharya Menevidis, RESPONSIBILITY project Coordinator. It was officially opened by Prof Dato' Dr Mohamad Kadim bin Suaidi, Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak who pointed out that "Technology should be built with the 3As in mind – accessible, affordable and appropriate – in order for it to be useful to society", and continued "There is no point in having technology that is a misfit and not giving benefit to us". According to him, the 3A concept is crucial in the university's research work.

At the following press conference, Dr. Rohaya revealed that RRI is a concept already accepted in Europe. "As network researcher for Unimas and other universities, we are accepted in the network and

we are invited to the consortium once we submit our proposal." Rohaya explained that Unimas is seen as important from the aspect of RRI in areas that need to be explored such as halal products. "If we are to start with the supply chain, we start at the halal concept from the mind of the scientist," she explained.



On RRI, Ms. Elena Tavlaki, the consortium's spokesperson, said the idea and concept behind it emerged from society itself – as many technologies were developing very fast and not easy to absorb but which every society was keen to follow. "So the idea is to have this new technology and innovation to evolve with society. Meaning technology has to be with the society and for the society," she stressed. "And the work has started to be complicated and we cannot work as individuals or countries alone," she added.

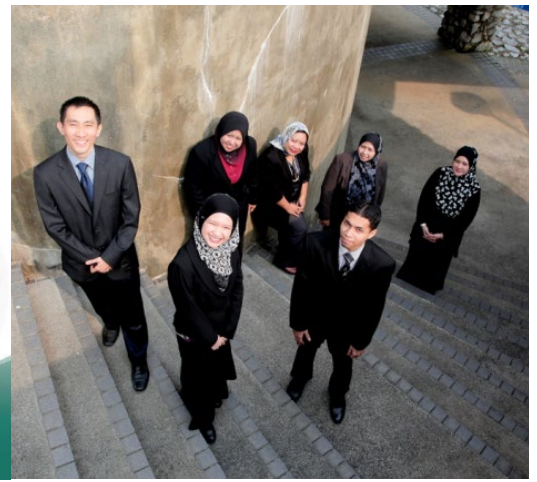
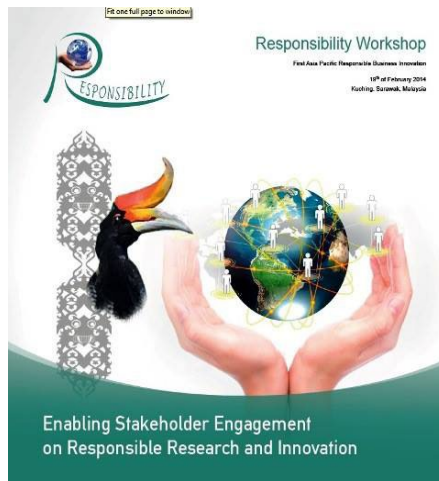
The co-ordinator for Responsibility Project Dr Zaharya Menevidis said from the engineering view, RRI is not only for Europe but for the whole world. "When we talk about responsibility, we know about the idea and learn from others. We then know the common definition and understanding among us. So this is what we hope from the workshop," he said.



The RESPONSIBILITY project aimed also to learn from invited participants and listen about business concerns and ideas, and exchange views on new proposals about RRI tools, engagement processes, operation and shared value to society. The workshop in Malaysia added value to the RESPONSIBILITY Forum and Observatory, and got access to ideas to promote business innovation through partnerships for both business and the society. As this workshop was the first to be conducted in Asia Pacific, hence its primary focus is

to encourage constructive dialogues between targeted stakeholders of RRI and RESPONSIBILITY project consortium.

The invited stakeholders as participants of the workshop were guided to identify key issues that are pertinent in the context of RRI, and supporting the notion of Responsible Business as An Enabler of Innovation. The discussions and dialogues were divided in four groups: (a) R&D and Commercialization (Governance Policies & Procedures), (b) Business Innovation and Application of RRI, (c) RRI in Science, Technology & ICT (Design, Development and Application) and (d) RRI Participation and Engagement.



The project will further utilize the workshop outcomes as a learning tool to understand concerns and issues pertinent to the construction of Responsibility Forum and Observatory. Three keynote speakers, Prof Dr Jane Cardosa, Mr Goh Su Gim and Datuk Amar Wilson Baya Dandot were invited to speak at the event. Prof Philippe Goujon from the Namur University, presented the RESPONSIBILITY Project and GREAT Project (Governance frameworks for REsponsible research and innovation) as consortium partner and project coordinator respectively. This workshop was held in conjunction with the Third Annual Meeting of Responsibility that took place at the same venue, 20th through 23rd February 2014.

RESPONSIBILITY at ESOF2014, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Dr. Aki Menevidis, RESPONSIBILITY project Co-ordinator, participated to the panel on Responsible Research and Innovation, titled “Building a governance framework for responsible research and innovation” taking place at the European Science Open Forum 2014. The ESOF2014 was organized by the European Commission in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 21 – 26 June 2014



Karen Fabbri, Policy officer at the DG for Research and Innovation of the EC, organized and introduced the panel, moderated by Quentin Cooper, BBC science journalist, and concluded by Hillary Sutcliffe, Director MATTER. The event brought together the first five RRI projects funded by the European Commission: ResAgora, Progress, Responsible-Industry, GREAT and RESPONSIBILITY projects. More information at the following link.

Forthcoming Events:

11-12.09.2014 - 4th Responsibility consortium meeting, Siena, Italy

The meeting will be hosted by the Università Di Siena -Department of Information Engineering and Mathematics- on September 11th and 12th. It will be an important occasion to discuss the results achieved so far and what needs to be done in the following months. The second day, we will have the honour to count with Santina Rocchi (DIISM Chair, UNISI), Agnes Allansdottir (Toscana Life Sciences), Chiara Mocenni (DIISM – UNISI) and Iolanda Iacono (DISPOC – UNISI) for a workshop about Opinion Dynamics, Sustainability and Social Robotics to Help Elderly People.

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