Systemic Reflection of Innovation –

Technology Assessment in Shaping Technology

NTA4 – Fourth Conference of the „Network TA"

November 24th – 26th 2010, Berlin, Germany

Background

The Network Technology Assessment (NTA) is an organization of German speaking Scientists working in the broad field of Technology Assessment, helping to share information, to identify research topic, to initiate co-operations and to elevate the significance of TA in science and society. Every two years a conference of the NTA is held focusing on a special theme. This year the subject is „Systemic Reflection of Innovation – Technology Assessment in Shaping Technology".

Systems analysis is to help in getting a comprehensive perception and assessment of technology impacts and to develop recommendations for dealing with technologies. The systemic view is applied not only on technical but also socio-technical systems, embedding technologies in their economic, political, social or cultural background. Since the 1980 TA is mostly seen in the context of shaping technology. The systemic view since then is also widened to innovations in general.

Aims and contents of the conference

The conference NTA4 is to reflect the prospective view on systems comprehensively and to highlight chances and limitations in technology shaping and innovation politics.

Feasibility of technology implications and practical examples are to be presented, discussed and evaluated. From this basis methodological and conceptual challenges and essential future developments are to be worked out.

The scientific talks in the following three sections of the conference are to reflect three main problems dealing with systemic reflections in TA:

Section 1 is to focus on *prospective views on the systems* dealt with. Insecurity of prospective knowledge therein is augmented by the broadness and complexity of the respective systems.

Section 2 is putting scientific and technical developments into a context of their further utilization. This requires the combination of *reflecting systems* and their limitations both *technically and socially*.

Section 3 is looking for methodological solutions of the characteristic conflicts occurring when framing and analyzing systems comprehensively but also with an adequate detailedness.

A panel discussion about parliamentary TA, a poster session of young scientists and a plenary session with international experts from science and industry are completing the program of NTA4

The Conference Program

Wednesday, November 24th 2010

3 – 5 PM	**Annual Meeting of the Network TA**
6 – 8:30 PM	**Opening and Panel Discussion**

"20 Years TAB – Office for Technology Assessment at the German Parliament", with

Ulla Burchardt, MP	*chair, parliamentary commission on TA*
Wolf-Michael Catenhusen	*former under-secretary of state*
Prof. Dr. Wolfgang van den Daele	*WZB, Berlin*
Dr. Thomas Petermann	*deputy director, TAB*
Afterwards	Reception / snacks

Thursday, November 25th 2010

9 AM – 6 PM	**Scientific Talks in Parallel Sections**

Section 1: Infrastructure Innovation - Transition Management
Section 2: Key technologies – between appliance and innovation
Section 3: Systems analysis – methodological challenges for TA

6 – 7:30 PM	**Poster Section**
Afterwards	Conference Dinner / Networking

Friday, November 26th 2010

9 AM – 1 PM	**Plenary Section**, with

Dr. Rolf Frischknecht	*ESU-services GmbH, Uster (CH)*
Dr. Marianna Pierobon	*BASF, Eco-Efficiency Center, Ludwigshafen (D)*
Prof. Dr. Arie Rip	*Science, Technology, and Policy Studies (STəPS), University of Twente (NL)*
Prof. Dr. Frieder Meyer-Krahmer	*former under-secretary of state (D)*

Organizers

The conference is supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and is organized by the Institute for Technology Assessment (ITAS) at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) / Germany, in cooperation with the following institutions:

The Institute for Technology Assessment in Vienna / Austria (ITA), the Institute of Science and Technology Studies of the University of Bielefeld / Germany (IWT), the Center for Technology and Society of the Technical University of Berlin / Germany (ZTG) and the Swiss Center for Technology Assessment in Bern / Switzerland (TA-SWISS).