

ISNGI 2017

- Started in UOW in 2013 following the launch of SMART. Three further events in Vienna, Washington DC and again in Wollongong. Infrastructure research has grown enormously in those 4 years.
- The 2013 event marked the commencement of a genuine and co-ordinated global infrastructure research and policy development program about long term infrastructure systems, planning and management.
- Carried forward in subsequent years and this year gives the UK the platform to announce the formal launch of the UK Research programme UKCRIC, of which more in a moment, but also for all other global partners to bring us up to date on their progress
- Acknowledge that other founding partners are here, Prof Jim Hall from Oxford; Professor Judy Raper Deputy VC UOW and tania Brown COO to be joined later today and tomorrow by their VC and Professor Pascal Perez, Dir of Smart Research facility; Professor Margot Weijnun from TU Delft and colleagues, Prof Chris Barrett from Virginia Tech - and colleagues from many other international bodies, Auckland Transport Dave Warburton, Johnny Wong from HDB in Singapore, Prof Cynthia Mitchell from University of Technology Sydney and Professor Robert Cervero, Director of the University of California Transportation Center, USA...to name just some...!
- And thank you to ICE and its president Prof Tim Broyd for the use of this magnificent venue
- So ISNGI 2017 is another leap forward in providing a platform for infrastructure research, infrastructure that is vital to the well being of civilised communities around the world, as we are witnessing in the Caribbean and Florida as I speak, but have recently witnessed in the flooding in Houston and Bangladesh and the droughts in South and East Africa.
- Climate change and extreme weather are not the only drivers for needing improved infrastructure; changing demography, population growth, migration and resource scarcity drive us to find better holistic solutions that will provide living conditions especially in cities and urban areas that are acceptable to all. These factors are amongst those that caused us to create the UKCRIC initiative.

UKCRIC Launch

- The vision of UKCRIC is to provide leadership and support for the development and growth of a coordinated and coherent, world class, UK-based national and international infrastructure research community, which engages government, city and commercial policy makers, investors, citizens and academia in a joint venture that drives innovation and value creation in the exploitation of services provided by national infrastructure – energy, transport, water, waste and digital – which actually is the means for sharing information – some ones mobile hotspot is open!
- Investment in infrastructure is a vital component of the UK and probably any government's industrial strategy, in order to support the nation's changing needs and growth of the economy. The UK, like many developed countries around the world, is grappling with the consequences of aging and inadequate infrastructure. The annual extra cost to the UK of inadequate infrastructure is estimated to be of order £750 million pounds. This is without taking into account extreme but usually localised events, where direct costs can be in the £100M's per incident and indirect impacts much greater than that. These numbers pale when you look at the likely impact of Irma and the human impact of flooding in Bangladesh and drought in Somalia
- The government's National Infrastructure Pipeline sets out over £500 billion worth of planned investment in over 600 major projects and programmes over the next few decades. In order to maximise the value of this investment, it is vital that the latest advances in scholarship and technologies are rapidly deployed from academia to industry.
- UKCRIC currently is a collaboration of UK Universities
- Starts with nearly £300M investment in laboratories, observatories and modelling, with funding for coordination as well; you will hear more about each of these over the next 3 days and can read about them on a set of posters next door.
- Inclusive to new partners for existing and new grants from whatever sources, EPSRC to start with
- This event is the formal launch of UKCRIC which has been 3 years in gestation. Over the next year we will expand our reach and stakeholder engagement, collaborate with other research activities as UKRI forms up to provide an umbrella funding agency in the UK. The next three days will give you an indication of the scale of our ambition; it is very big, but so is the scale of the problem
- Enjoy ISNGI 2017, a unique opportunity to be engaged with a rapidly growing and vital component of the UK and other countries research programmes and to stimulate new activities that will help make the world a better and safer place to live, not just for us but for our children and grandchildren .