Technology and Innovation for the Development of Small Islands: An Update in an Age of Climate Change

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Social dynamics of economic performance, innovation & creativity in city regions

- $2.5 M National Project led by Dr. David Wolfe, Munk Centre, University of Toronto
  - The Innovation Systems Research Network (ISRN)

- Success in new economy depends on ability of region to create conditions for innovation & creativity
  - Harnessing Universities, Colleges, R&D Capacity
  - Attracting and Retaining Knowledge Workers
  - Creating Governance Capacity for Success: More than Government
  - Networks / Collaboration / Trust amongst key actors – private, public, NGO, education & training, key to success
• Innovation is not limited to new technology

• Innovation can occur in any firm, in any sector and in all aspects of an enterprise’s operation

• http://innovationnl.ca
“An innovation is the implementation of a new or significantly improved product (good or service), or process, a new marketing method, or a new organisational method in business practices, workplace organisation or external relations” (OECD 2005: 46)
Innovation is a social process

Innovation is **NOT** a linear process!

**Firms do not innovate in isolation** (Nauwelaers 2011: 468)
Quadruple Helix

Postsecondary Institutions

All Levels of Government

INNOVATION

Business/Industry

Citizens/Civil Society
Culture of Innovation

Employees are encouraged to take risks

Ask questions

Accept feedback

Seek novel solutions

Take time to be creative

Collaborate and engage in team work

Share knowledge
Lessons for Small Island Innovation in an Era of Climate Change (1)

Adaptation and Mitigation:

Match needs and trends with strengths – Memorial University examples

- Smart Ice
- C-CORE
- Too Big to Ignore
- Sustainable Northern Coastal Communities Initiative
- COASTS: Cold Ocean and Arctic Science, Technology and Society
Bridging Institutions, Platforms, Supports:

Create vehicles for interaction:

• Centres and Institutes (Harris Centre; Institute of Island Studies)
• Virtual connectors: Yaffle
• Locations: the Battery
• Best Practices: Public Engagement, Knowledge Mobilization, Community-Based Research
Partnerships and Networks:

- Ocean Frontier Institute: Dal, MUN, UPEI; national and international partners (industry, governments, research institutes / universities)
- North Atlantic Forum, international island networks, Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation
- Industry Associations
Lessons for Small Island Innovation in an Era of Climate Change (4)

Execution:

- Good management skills (in all sectors)
- Value and cultivate entrepreneurship
- Embrace new entrants (internal and external)
- Subsidiarity: governance capacity at the right level for the right job
- A sense of urgency
- Continuity; overcome “that was them, this is us”
- Dare
Thank You!