SCANDINAVIA: THE MOST INNOVATIVE REGION IN THE FUTURE?

On the occasion of launching the anthology:
LEARNING REGIONAL INNOVATION: SCANDINAVIAN MODELS
Edited by Marianne Ekman, Björn Gustavsen, Björn T. Asheim and Öyvind Pålshaugen
you are invited to a seminar on the possibilities and opportunities of cooperation between
the Nordic countries on innovation research and innovation projects

Wednesday 8 June 2011, KTH Royal Institute of Technology
16:00 – 19:00 - Seminar
19.00 - Mingling with wine and food

Since innovation emerged as a major driving force of modern economies, there has been a growing interest in understanding innovation: its nature and underlying forces. While there is much literature on the structural characteristics of fruitful innovation systems, there is much less on how to realize the potential for innovation within such systems. In *Learning Regional Innovation: Scandinavian Models*, the focus is on the last question. A main perspective is that the creation of a fruitful dynamic between the actors within a regional innovation system is a process of learning, rather than of copying one single best practice. All actors whose contribution is needed to bring the innovation process to a fruitful conclusion need to be involved in the process. This, however, implies that innovation processes in themselves give rise to organizational challenges, often of a high complexity. How to meet them is highlighted through general analyses as well as cases from three of the Scandinavian countries – Finland, Sweden and Norway – some of them based on direct comparisons across the national boundaries. Studies of the organizational prerequisites for innovation make it possible link the issue of innovation to the currently popular "Scandinavian model" of work and co-operation. The cases indicate that there is no mechanistic "Scandinavian model", be it of work in general nor innovation in particular. What can be found is an understanding of the need to learn from each other. This understanding is part of a broader orientation towards learning reflected in the point that the Scandinavian countries show a wide diffusion of the idea of learning organization. The overall message of the anthology is that it is the organizational expression of learning in work that lies at the core of innovation in these countries.

PROGRAM

16:00   Welcome: Introduction to the book and the program for the event
           Prof. *Marianne Ekman Rising*

           <u>Part 1. Presentation of the main knowledge and perspectives from the anthology</u>
           Prof. Björn Gustavsen, Prof. Björn T. Asheim and Prof. Bengt-Åke Lundvall

17:15	Refreshments
17:45	Part 2. What can the Nordic countries learn from the Scandinavian Models? Ideas and prospects for future collaboration on innovation research and innovation programmes

Panel discussion with representatives from mangers, union, university and funding agencies. Moderator: senior researcher Öyvind Pålshaugen

19:00	Mingling, wine and food

Date: 8 June 2011, 16.00- 19.00 seminar. Mingling 19.00 – Wine and food

Place: KTH Royal Institute of Technology. Indek, Lindstedtsvägen 30. Stockholm

Registration: Please register no later than May 30, 2011. The seminar is free of charge. However, the number of seats is limited. Registrations will be served on a first come first served basis.

Researcher's workshop the 9th of June.

Some ideas for Nordic research collaboration has been discussed related to the Themes of the Anthology "Learning regional innovation". If there is interest in this subject we can arrange a workshop in order to inquire possible collaborative activities, projects etc.

Please register for the workshop in the registration link.

Time: 9 June 2011. 09.00 -12.00

Place: KTH, Indek Lindstedtsvägen 30. Room: Albert Danielson

Questions: If you have questions contact Marianne Ekman Rising at KTH marianne.ekman@indek.kth.se . Phone 467055938 or for practical issues Anna Johansson, johanan@kth.se or phone 4687908890.

Welcome

Marianne Ekman Rising, Björn Gustavsen, Björn T. Asheim and Öyvind Pålshaugen