Reports from Breakout Groups

Question 1: How best can we take advantage of the existing network?

- Continued Communication outside or workshops to maintain momentum
  - People exchange between centers
  - Use tools like Skype
  - Mutual supportive review process throughout
- Study of Common and Contrasting themes and methodologies between CoEs and in practice
  - Appoint chair/coordinator to facilitate exchange around common features/themes
- Create knowledge base
  - Review methodologies and literature around the themes from outside of the CoEs
  - Institutionalize what groups can offer one another
- Prioritize themes with guidance from document outlining Volvo's strategic priorities
- Identify “good examples” (and bad examples)
  - Through literature review and from experiences of other CoEs
- Partnership between research and environments
- Focus on implementation (project driven)
- Define each CoE’s position and definition of sustainability (factoring in possible cultural differences/interpretations)

Question 2: As a network of CoEs, how do we define and deliver education and training outcomes?

- Defining the target audience for education and training.
  - PhD Students
  - Decision-makers (public sector)
  - City planners and engineers
  - “Training trainers”
- Developing interdisciplinary curricula/modules
  - Basic training for professionals
  - Cutting-edge training
- Enhancing education for students
- International seminars
- “Equal exchanges”
  - High Income-Low Income and Low Income-High Income Countries
  - Low Income-Low Income Countries
- Internet interactions
  - Online journal
  - Downloadable data/resources, modules

Question 3: How do we do implementation and deployment?

Ideas

- Engaging with government
- Understanding contexts and policy thinking, timelines
- Local and vs national levels
- Reconciling long term visions vs short term gains
• Brokering policies – need to have a story that this idea fits into
• knowing the people you are working with
• Demonstration projects
• Visibility enhancements
• Working with media
• Publishing articles, newspapers, etc

Who to work with?
• Professionals
• Politicians
• Mayors
• Ministers
• Bureaucrats
• Beneficiaries/Stakeholders
• Key donors and outside players

Problems
• Change is not always wanted
• Our funding is for research rather than implementation
• Academic Integrity
  • What is the legitimacy of intervention?
  • How do we retain academic integrity?

Question 4: What is missing in the CoE portfolio?

Group 1:
• Alternatives to transportation such as telecommunication
• Freight and globalization
  – Possible focus on service industry
• Enabling and supporting NGOs
• Managing the transition to sustainability
  – Understanding the *process*
• Examining the gap in modeling alternatives (down with the 4-step model)

Group 2:

Focus
• South America
• Themes
  – Energy
  – Information Technology
  – Demand Analysis
  – Freight and Logistics

Disciplines
• Social Sciences
  – e.g. Anthropology
• Public Health
  – e.g. Air Quality

Themes
• Social Equity
• Problem Solving Tools
• Safety

Group 3:
• Policy / Public Administrators
• Safety Experts
• Philosophers/Methodologists, esp. experts who can spot patterns and linkages
• Political Scientists / Financial Engineers / Urban Economists
• Historians / Geographers
  – Cities grow over time
• Labor Relations /Personnel in Transit
  – No ability to optimize transit
• Freight traffic specialists
• Marketing and Journalism Specialists

**Question 5: What can VREF do to further strengthen the CoE community and what instruments do you suggest?**

Group 1:
• FUNDING!
• Supporting cross-center collaboration outside of workshops
  – Student/faculty exchange and joint projects
• Finding ways to involve politicians and industry in a meaningful way
  – Breaking the Ivory Tower
• Supporting institutional memory

Group 2:
• Funding for cross-center projects
  – Replicating research
  – Student-led case studies
• Cross-center PhD training early in program
• Continuation beyond current CoE’s
  – Advocacy with other funding foundations to include urban issues

Group 3:
• Building an overall story
  – Multilateral agencies
  – Sister Cities
• Intermittent contact
  – E.g.: Facebook
• Sustained interactions via travel grants
  – Sabbaticals, visits, etc.
• Sub-networks
  – Low carbon transport collaboration
• Small project grants
  – Like former Columbia U. experience