

Open Innovation: Issues and Challenges

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Open Innovation is the name Henry Chesbrough has given to the organization of innovation processes at the beginning of the 21st century. Open Innovation is contrasted with 'closed innovation', the model of innovation in which internal R&D and large companies predominate. In my presentation I will sketch the historical developments in the background of this so-called 'new paradigm' and will then discuss several issues and challenges in relation to open innovation. First, I will discuss some practical and organizational issues. How do companies deal with intellectual property rights in an 'open innovation' environment? How important is geographical proximity for the effective organization of 'openness'? Then, I will discuss some more fundamental issues concerning the appropriateness of the open innovation model in different institutional and sectoral contexts. To what extent is the open innovation model applicable in other sectors and countries than the ones in which it was mainly developed (i.e. the electronics and computing sector in the United States)? The presentation will be mainly based on the results of empirical research on radical innovation and industry-university collaboration in different economic sectors in The Netherlands: in chemicals, machinery & equipment, and food processing. I will argue that the open innovation idea needs to be carefully adapted to different institutional (national and regional) and sectoral environments.

Ben Dankbaar is professor of Business Administration at the Radboud University Nijmegen in The Netherlands. He also holds a chair on 'Management and Technology' at the Faculty of Science of that same university. Ben Dankbaar studied economics and social sciences at the University of Amsterdam and has a PhD in economics from the University of Maastricht. In the past, he has been employed at the University of Amsterdam, the Science Centre Berlin (Germany) and the Maastricht Economic Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (MERIT) of the University of Maastricht. He was Dean of the Nijmegen School of Management between 1999 and 2002. He was guest researcher at the Macquarie Graduate School of Management in Sydney (Australia) in 2003/2004 and at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne (Germany) in 2008/2009. Ben Dankbaar has published extensively on issues of technology and work organization, organization design, innovation management and innovation policy. He is an expert on the automobile industry. His current work is concerned with the comparative analysis of radical innovation and industry-university collaboration in a range of industries.

Lecture in English / No prior registration necessary

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