



UPDATE No. 85

For members *first*

April 2009

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Dear Member and Reader,

After India made a great start of this year's list of conference events (see report on the ISBA conference in Chennai in last SPICE Update) meanwhile Russia brought an Innovation Forum in St. Petersburg together and Saudi Arabia organized the first business incubation forum of the country with a truly global set of speakers.

But this is now all. infoDev called for expressions of interest for completing its training program for business incubation

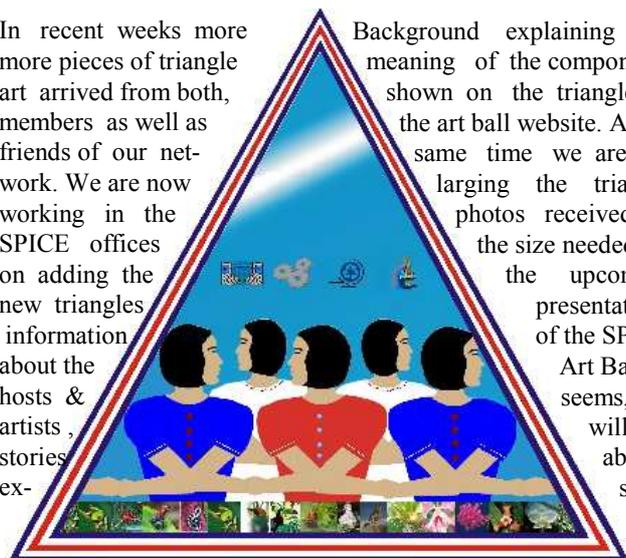
management and invited incubator client companies to apply for the first time to become a "Global Forum 2009 Innovator" at the Third Global Forum of infoDev to be held in Florianopolis, Brazil in October this year.

But before that the Global Summit of Business Incubation Associations will be held at the International NBIA conference in Kansas City, USA in May 2009 where the complete SPICE Art Ball will be presented first time.

SPICE Art Ball approaching its completion

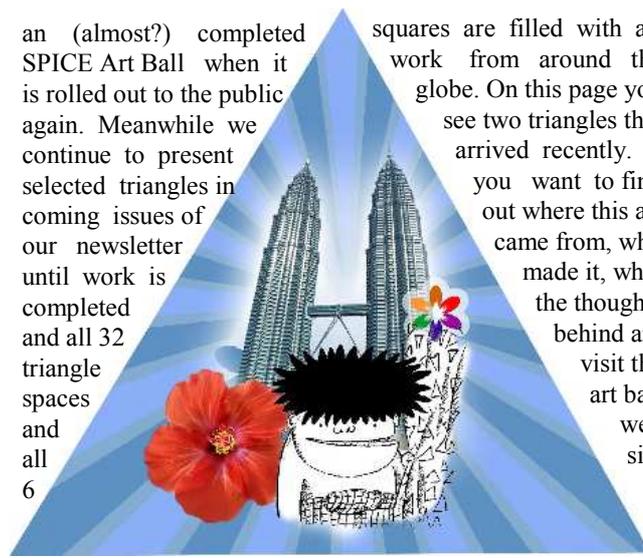
http://www.art-ball.net/spice_art_ball.php

In recent weeks more more pieces of triangle art arrived from both, members as well as friends of our network. We are now working in the SPICE offices on adding the new triangles information about the hosts & artists, stories ex-



Background explaining the meaning of the components shown on the triangles to the art ball website. At the same time we are enlarging the triangle photos received to the size needed for the upcoming presentations of the SPICE Art Ball. It seems, we will be able to show

an (almost?) completed SPICE Art Ball when it is rolled out to the public again. Meanwhile we continue to present selected triangles in coming issues of our newsletter until work is completed and all 32 triangle spaces and all 6



squares are filled with art work from around the globe. On this page you see two triangles that arrived recently. If you want to find out where this art came from, who made it, what the thoughts behind are visit the art ball web site

Third Global Fom on Business Incubation- become a "Global Forum Innovator"

The date and venue for infoDev's Third Global forum has been changed to October 16-20, 2009 and Florianopolis, Brazil. For details, check <http://idisc.infodev.org/en/index.html>. Also for the Forum infoDev has announced a competition. This offers an excellent chance to (former) incubator clients and for the hosting incubators. Apply to be a **2009 Global Forum Innovator** and remind the deadline for applications: **April 13, 2009**.

Successful applicants will be named 2009 Global Forum Innovators and have their stories highlighted at the 3rd infoDev Global Forum on Business Incubation as well as on iDISC, infoDev's incubation support center (<http://idisc.infodev.org/en/>) For more detail: <http://idisc.infodev.org/en/index.html>. For questions, contact Samiha Boulos at sboulos@worldbank.org, using "Global Forum Innovator" as the subject line.

Become a "Global Forum 2009 Innovator? Read more on page 3

First Fom on Business Incubation in Saudi Arabia

The First International Technology Incubation Forum of Saudi Arabia was held March 16-17, 2009 in Riyadh with an impressive list of experienced speakers from all continents and much interest on the national level.

The Forum was followed by a 2-day infoDev Incubation Manager Training Workshop focused on Incubator marketing and the 8th MENAinc Workshop, both held at the BADIR-ICT Technology Incubator. *See article on page 2and 3*

Innovation Forum in St. Petersburg

The Innovation Forum in St. Petersburg combined conference sessions with a high-tech exhibition that not only showed innovative products from Russia, but also from other countries. Namely Germany was presented by a number of companies.

After the opening of the conference by the governor of St. Petersburg, Ms. Valentina Matvienko was an international roundtable discussed the importance of innovative businesses for regional economic development. Moderated by **Heinz Fiedler**, President of SPICE Group, participants of the roundtable were experienced practitioners: **Bagrat Yengibaryan** from Arme-



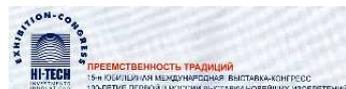
Janis Stabulnieks from Latvia, **Igor Kuprienko** Finland, and **Anatoly Grishanovich** from Belarus. Russian was provided to the panel by **Sergey Poliakov**, Executive Director of the Russian Fund for SME development and **Slava Khodko**, North West Russia Economic Development Agency.



The river Neva still was frozen during the Innovation Forum offering excellent opportunities for crossing the water by foot where in summer people in boots enjoy a different kind of

passage. Also other attractions of Russia received the deserved attention: Russian pickled vegetables fresh from the market hall or food and drinks at a SPICE Meeting overlooking the river Neva at night

Contact: Slava Khodko
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First Forum on Business Incubation in Saudi Arabia



The International Technology Incubation Forum was held March 16-17, 2009 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in the Kingdom Tower (see left picture) with an impressive row of experienced speakers from all continents. The Forum was followed by a two-day Incubation Manager Training Workshop and the 8th MENAinc Workshop, both held at the BADIR-ICT Technology Incubator. The theme of this First Saudi Arabian International Technology Incubation Forum was

“Business Incubation Bridging the Link between Innovation and Technology Entrepreneurship”. And achieved its goals to:

- raise awareness and understanding of business incubation.
- share business incubation experiences internationally, and
- provide a forum for government, financial institutions, universities, research institutions, corporate business and chambers of commerce to discuss with international business incubation experts the issues of technology business.



The Forum was opened by H.E. Dr. Al-Suwaiyel, President of KACST, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology. Inspiring speakers at the forefront of the industry shared their experiences, for example Valerie D’Costa, *infoDev* Program Manager, Dinah Adkins, President of the National Business Incubator Association, USA, David Martin, Managing Director of M-CAM USA, and more than 30 additional international, regional and local speakers from all continents.

The topics of keynote presentations and workshop panels or sessions included:

- Technology Incubation for the 21st Century
- Technology incubation as a tool for commercialization.
- Incubation Models for the Arabic World
- Lessons from Policy Makers and Stakeholders
- Technology Commercialization and Intellectual Property
- Financing Technology Commercialization

The Forum's main target audience was nationals of Saudi Arabia and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, but other

international participants also were welcome. Participants represented existing and potential business incubators, business development policy makers; university and research institution managers; senior executives from government, financial institutions, corporate business and chambers of commerce; inventors, researchers, technology entrepreneurs and business people. Engaged discussions during the conference sessions as well as throughout the coffee breaks and lunches showed the high interest the innovation and entrepreneurship support receives in Saudi Arabia and the region.



The conference also offered an opportunity to visit ElGhameria and take a look into the history and culture of Saudi Arabia – from historical market life to camel riding and tea in the palace.

Further information: contact Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Hargan. BA-DIR-ICT Technologygy Incubator, e-mail aalhar-gan@badir.com.sa and website www.incubationforum.com

How to become a “Global Forum 2009 Innovator”

infoDev is seeking 15-20 successful entrepreneurs working on innovations in agriculture, information technology, tourism and sustainable energy / clean technology. The criteria:

- *Innovation* – Has your business provided exciting, new solutions to difficult issues or unmet needs in your community? Has your business customized an existing technology or product for use in your community?
- *Leadership* – How have your personal attributes contributed to the success of your business? What are the lessons you can share with other entrepreneurs?
- *Incubation* – How has your business benefited from a business incubator? How have you contributed to the incubator and/or to other businesses being incubated?

- *Sustainable Future* – How does your business help build a sustainable future in your community? (e.g. by developing new products and services for sectors such as agriculture, IT, tourism, renewable energy and/or by creating skilled jobs in the community, including for women and youth)

Deadline for applications: April 13, 2009

Application: <http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=cEdvLXVrNk9JdVNCMUIWUlhkZjlmQmc6MA>.

Please complete all required forms no later than. Applicants will be notified of their standing two weeks after the application deadline.

Please direct any questions to sboulous(@worldbank.org, using “Global Forum Innovator” as the subject line.

Burning Issues of Business Incubation

Business incubators are different. Indeed, successful business incubators have been carefully adapted to their specific environment and make use of the local resources and potentials. At the upcoming NBIA conference (Kansas City, April 19-21, 2009) the Preconference Institute workshops are dealing with burning issues of business incubation:

Developing a Successful Incubator presented by successful industry veterans, this workshop covers facility design, incubator business plans, organizational structure, staffing and compensation, and marketing and client recruitment.

Serving Client Companies focuses on the services that produce successful graduate companies.

Successful Incubator Management in Changing Times explores how to remain flexible in changing times and respond to new opportunities.

Building a Winning Pipeline. Featuring one of North America’s most successful client outreach programs, this workshop offers a multifaceted approach that evolves with changes in the economy, target industries, information technology and more.

Tools for Building a Rock-Solid, Fundable Business presents the evaluation tools and the subsequent strategies that will lead start-up businesses to success.

Visit www.nbia.org/nbia_events/conf2009/ for more information and to register.

Women Incubation

infoDev's International Work Group on Women Business Incubation will hold first Workshop

The International Work Group on Women Incubation will hold its first workshop in Kyrgyzstan, April 13+14, 2009. The host of this workshop is **Zamira Akbagysheva** Congress of Women of Kyrgyz Republic and also project leader of this infoDev project. Other key participants are the members of the Project Steering Group: Rositsa Djambazova, Bulgaria for the ECA region, Noelia de Leon, Costa Rica for LAC, Mbarou Mbaye for AFRICA, Soukaina Rahmani, (for Nejiba Khalfallah), Tunisia for MENA, and Annuar Saffar, Malaysia for ASIA. As infoDev facilitator for this workgroup also Heinz Fiedler, Germany will attend the workshop

This workshop will present the first results of the work done so far to collect information about experiences from business incubators and other organizations active in supporting women to start their businesses. The event also will provide the opportunity for discussing the challenges found and to find out the communalities and differences between the regions. Last not least the workshop will agree on the next steps of work to come for being ready to present more results and possibly first proposals for the measures to be taken at infoDev's third Global Forum in Brazil (October 26 – 30, 2009)

Contact: Zamira Akbagysheva, congresswomen@intranet.kg

Kyrgyzstan: Woman Entrepreneur Steers Fish Production Company to Success

Established in 2004, the Business Incubator of the Congress of Women (CWKR) is the first women-focused business incubator in the Kyrgyz Republic. The incubator has organized events to bring together important thinkers and change agents who contribute to the social and economic development of Kyrgyzstan.

The entrepreneur Ms. Niyazalieva Toktobubu Seiitalievna said about the incubator: *"The business Incubator of the Congress of Women of the Kyrgyz Republic gave me a second chance, and made my wings grow bigger and stronger."*

Her difficult situation when she lost her job after the collapse of the Soviet Union did not only change her career, but her whole life. When Kyrgyzstan was transitioning to a market-oriented economy, many people became victims of instability in the country. Mrs. Niyazalieva, who at those times was a civil servant in trade, also lost her job. She referred to the Business Incubator (BI) for consultancy and education in 2004, when the BI was founded and the first clients got training opportunities.

Mrs. Niyazalieva participated and received the entrepreneurial skills to improve her company's business. The start-up operations were financed from the first successes of the company. Once Balyk&T became more established, it received a USD 200,000 credit from a local bank. This money enabled the company to buy an additional lake with a total area of 6 hectares, rent 20 hectares of land for the "fish food" production, and purchase two more cars for transportation.

Since 1997, the "fish income" of Balyk&T was 5-10 tons of fish per year and later grew to 10-15 tons. In 2004-5, new technologies were introduced to the company and the management system was improved. As a result, the quality of fish production increased, while demand grew rapidly thanks to the company's proximity to the capital city Bishkek. The organically grown high quality fish finds growing demand on local markets.

Ms. Niyazalieva says: "The company was successful because it knew the best methods of raising fish, responding to the requirements of the clients. A stable customer base established in early days enabled the company to consistently build on its initial success".



Many lakes in Kyrgyzstan are not taken care of, and are not used properly, if used at all. Balyk&T won a tender announced by the Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture and became responsible for development of and assistance to other fish companies. The fish industry was damaged after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and most of the fish specialists left the country. The main challenge was to bring together a team of specialists and reintroduce the business. Mrs. Niyazalieva credits the BI for her managerial skills. Learning these skills was challenging for those who were used to a socialistic economy and never had any knowledge on a market-oriented style. Mrs. Niyazalieva still is an off-site client of the incubator and now supports training of new start-up entrepreneurs. She wishes she would have known more about management and marketing when she started her business and now wants to help new entrepreneurs to have a better start and build a network.

There were no other fish companies at the time Mrs. Niyazalieva started her business. Therefore, the network of the Business Incubator CWKR as well as the team of specialists, engineers and fishermen that Mrs. Niyazalieva organized served as a supportive environment for her to achieve success.

Read more: <http://idisc.infodev.org/en/Article.38857.html>

Contact: Zamira Akbagysheva congresswomen@intranet.kg

Kyrgyzstan: "Strong Business principles, strong commitment, and serious work"

The Business Incubator of the Congress of Women of the Kyrgyz Republic helps to bring up business qualities: "Strong Business principles, strong commitment, and serious work". Examples of enterprises that started with the support of the BI of CWKR illustrate the effect.

Through 30 years of work in accounting and meat industry, Mrs. Ryskulova Burulsun gained great professional experience. She worked as an accountant of the Kochkor region, as

the chief accountant of the Prjevalsk town's meat plant. She also was sent by the Ministry of Meat-Milk Industry to the Russian Federation for further improvement and development of her professional skills in accounting.

In 2004, when she attended a number of business trainings in the BI of CWKR, which turned out to be a great educational background and highly-supportive school for her further endeavors in business. The education includes marketing, man-

ment, attracting financing sources etc). All this helped Mrs. Ryskulova, to realize a number of her plans and become a women entrepreneur. Today she is one of the most successful clients of the BI of CWKR.

The collaboration with an international partner provided important support to her company. "Toshtuk-Karakol" joint organization was founded to produce meat products according international standards. Her company became a pioneer in this industry - there is not any similar company in the country yet.

Regardless, the financial difficulties, Mrs. Ryskulova introduced new innovative methods of production.. Today, her company as the leader in the Issuk-Kul District of Kyrgyzstan is offering a big variety and large quantities of meat products to the market of the district. "Toshtuk Karakol" was awarded golden medals of several fairs of the Kyrgyz Republic. Being, the external client of the BI of the CWKR helped her make use of many opportunities.

Zamira Akbagysheva: congresswomen@intranet.kg

Georgia: Training of Internally Displaced Women in Gori Business Incubator

The Georgian Association of Women in Business has a 10-year experience in business incubation programs. The association currently is operating 3 business incubators: Tbilisi Business Incubator (BI) , Svaneti Business Incubator (BI) and new Gori Business Incubator (BI)

The **Gori Business Incubator** was established in October 2008 by the Georgian Association Women in Business in partnership with USAID's Small and Medium Enterprise Support Project.

The recent Georgia-Russia conflict caused displacement of a large portion of population. According to recent figures provided by the Government and UNHCR, there are up to 90,000 displaced persons. These are from Georgian villages of South Ossetia, Gori and Kodori gorge of Upper Abkhazia. In many conflicts, women are seen to constitute the overwhelming majority of the displaced and this conflict is not being an exception- 65 % of IDPs are women. Many of them had suffered traumatic experiences including bombings and the loss and destruction of their belongings. Most of them have no source of income or necessary skills to find jobs.

In this regard, business incubation programs can be viewed as one of the tools to assist IDP women to cope with the situation and increase their access to employment opportunities.

The Gori Business Incubator is designed to provide quality demand-driven vocational training courses to internally displaced women. The courses are free of charge and the incubator offer subsidized rental space to help them start their own micro businesses.

The Gori Business Incubator for IDP women is expected to become a sustainable institution to incubate and provide hands-on assistance to 5 micro enterprises a catering company, a

laundry and dry cleaning shop, a tailor, a beauty salon, and an IT training consultant that will leave the program financially viable and free-standing and continue their businesses outside the incubator upon completion of the incubation period

The incubator will continue to support the businesses until they can survive on their own. As businesses grow and leave the space, new enterprises will replace them.

During the first six months, 310 internally displaced women, including 100 women from the village of Tserovani, will be trained and acquire new professional skills to increase their employment opportunities.

The premises for the business incubator have already been identified: it is a 300 sq. m

At the opening of the incubator on October 12, 2008 the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. to Georgia, Kent Logsdon attended the launch of the Gori Business Incubator. He toured the incubator, talked with trainers and trainees and expressed his appreciation to those who are dedicating their time and effort to improve the livelihoods of people affected by the conflict and said: "Starting a business is never easy, and women often face even greater challenges than most as they strive to develop new skills and make plans to start a business while at the same time fulfilling a whole host of family responsibilities. I realize that the challenges to starting a business for those displaced from South Ossetia are truly immense. I wish you all the best of luck, and hope these and other U.S. Government efforts will be of assistance to you and your communities,"

Contact and more information: Nino Elizbarashvili,, Email wbus@caucasus.net and visit the incubator's website <http://georgia.usaid.gov/index.php?m=28&newsid=362>

Syria: Five Women in Successful Partnership for Business



Five women from a rural area in Syria formed a partnership: Sana Hasan, Afaf Dayoub, Laila Humdan, Amneh Muhammad, Norma Baloul. Under the name Al Wardghan this partnership has successfully developed business with pro-

coverlets, pillows, table covers, dolls and dolls clothes. Sana, Amneh, Norma, Laila and Afaf are five talented rural women, from neighbored Villages, who are committed to revive the elegance of «al Wardghan» in their collection of artistic bed linen, cushions, dolls and table runners. Their linen collection is inspired by Ugarit alphabet. Everyday Sana and Afaf disclose their creativity in their workshop in the company of Sana's little girls who observe their mother's work in fascina-

tening to the fairytale of «Wardghan».

For the women involved this is the first business experience. Sana learned tailoring 6 years ago, but she kept the skill to sewing clothes for her own and her children's use. Sometimes she made some pieces for the people of her village on her old sewing machine. She wanted to improve her skills and so did the rest of the group. In the beginning the women were working on an old sewing machine that belonged to Sana, and used their personal savings to buy the fabric and accessories needed. But after they got deeply into work and started to receive orders they decided to get a loan and buy new machines. With the help of the Village Business Incubator (VBI) they prepared a business plan and submitted the loan application to FIRDOS that works under the umbrella of the "Syria Trust for Development".

Now the major products are a collection of artistic bed linen,

quality products taught by VBI, the uniqueness of the design (no other business is using the Ugarit Alphabet in its designs), and the high quality fabric made the products worthy of sold in Damascus market, aiming at a particular client group which is foreigners visiting or living in Syria.

The support of VBI to the working as a group is seen as being critical for success. The technical training related to design was conducted by an international artist famous for her stunning interpretation of the colors of Syria in her textile works.

The clients are mainly the foreigners visiting or staying in Syria.

Also guests of the Four Seasons Hotel because the hotel is using the products in their rooms. Exhibitions organized by VBI and other organizations also contribute to widening the customer basis. The VBI have also found new marketing channels; for example, famous jewelry designer in Damascus, that is displaying products of Al Wardghan.

The biggest challenge for the women when starting their busi-

ness is rural women. Also, since the target clients are foreign people, it was difficult to communicate with them. Furthermore, the designs were a little bit strange for the local taste; therefore, they had to target markets in Damascus and the nearby Salah Al-Din castle to overcome this problem.

One of the most important lessons the women of this work group is that business makes women independent and working in groups makes them more organized even at the household level. Also they experienced that without the advisory and support network received from the VBI they wouldn't have been able to have their own business, especially because the products are something that they wouldn't have initiated without external support, particularly, technical and marketing.

Besides developing their own business success the women of Al Wardghan now wish to pass their experience to others because rural women for making used of their genuine potential for productivity and teamwork. For more information:

www.vbi-lattakia.org/english/supported_entrepreneurs/

Gender Mainstreaming in Trade and Economy –The Case of Syria

By Faten Tibi

This UNDP pilot project was implemented for the first time, not only in Syria, but in the Arab world as a whole. It is not a 'traditional project' but rather a unique one in the sense that it focused more on the 'methodology to be used, on how to understand what is happening in the country in issues relating to gender and trade. The long-term objective of this project is to develop an enabling environment and a mechanism for economic empowerment of women by mainstreaming gender in trade and economy at all levels in the country, ultimately in order to achieve MDG3 of gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in Syria.

The immediate objective was to 1) Address the needs for the collection, analysis, and sharing of gender-disaggregated data/statistics and study, 2) Raise awareness (among civil society actors, media representatives, policy makers, and the public at large) about and build coalitions and capacities to address "gender and economy" issue in the country, 3) Build capacity of selected organizations engaging in the area of "gender and economy" in GM concept in order for them to launch activities with the proper knowledge and tools and to analyze and design policies from a gender perspective.

The above mentioned objectives were achieved by:

For establishing a knowledge base for gender, trade and economy through proper study and analysis, the following reports were produced:

- Information Map on institutions related to women's economic activities in Syria,
- Report on the Economic Status in Syria, with focus on the economic activities of women.
- Case Study on socio-economic status of women in Syria
- Toolkit and Resource Guide

The project also built capacity of Syrian practitioners on different issues related to gender, trade and economy in the country.

- On the Macro level: Advocacy activities, based on consultations, with the government institutions and related line ministries were conducted,
- On the Meso level: Advocacy related activities were conducted on the topic of gender in trade and the economy to

civil society through consultations and seminars. By involving relevant stakeholders to raise general awareness to support the network building of women in business.

- On the Micro level: Capacity was developed through ten workshops and trainings in gender in trade and the economy for NGOs and communities engaging in relevant activities, especially those having outreach to rural area.

The core output of the project was a **Tool- and Resource kit**:

The document results from the identified need to address gender mainstreaming in trade and economy in the Arab World. While considerable progress has been made in the area of gender mainstreaming in the Arab World, it has still not quite crosscut the area of trade and economy. Thus, the toolkit serves as an informative and capacity building material for gender mainstreaming in trade and economy. It brings together a compilation of new resources, documents, papers, references, case studies and facts on gender mainstreaming in Trade and Economy, and meant to support action for further reading and research on the subject.

All **recommendations for further action** gathered during project implementation were included in the toolkit and a "second phase project" was drafted. The main issues:

- More in-depth studies on economy and gender/ trade and gender is needed,
- The need for a 'pilot women economic empowerment unit' to implement the 'theoretical' results reached,
- The need to link between 'women's economic empowerment, sustainable development, women's vocational training
- Link between the regional/ international trade agreements and gender issues
- Women unemployment is estimated as three times higher than men's unemployment in Syria, and the government sectors are overloaded. Therefore there is a need to concentrate on micro-enterprises for women as a mean to provide income generating activity and also encourage them to form business leadership.

For more information on the above studies, visit the UNDP site : undp.org.sy or contact Faten Tibi, registry.sy@undp.org

Views & Facts

Europe

The first European SME Week

The first European SME Week, scheduled to be held May 6 - 17, 2009, is a campaign to promote entrepreneurship across Europe and to inform entrepreneurs about support available for them at European, national and local level.

Throughout 2009, events are taking place to inform, assist and connect existing and potential entrepreneurs and also help them develop new ideas and benefit from personalized information and support. However, the SME Week encourages and supports SMEs to reach their full potential. It also marks an opportunity to inspire potential entrepreneurs to 'take the plunge' and work towards achieving their aspirations.

The European SME Week is coordinated by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry, but most of the events and activities taking place during the SME Week are organized by individual business organizations, support providers, regional or local authorities. The SME

Week is one of the measures implementing the Small Business Act, the first comprehensive SME policy framework for the EU and its Member States **The SME Week seeks to:**

Inform: provide information on what the EU and the national authorities are offering to support to small businesses

Support: create an EU-SME partnership, underlining how Europe is stronger with more competitive SMEs and also the fact that the EU is ready to offer them support and advice

Inspire: motivate existing SMEs to broaden their outlook and further develop and grow their business

Share: float ideas and share the experiences of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs

Encourage: convince young people that entrepreneurship is an attractive career option

For more information visit: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/entrepreneurship/sme-week/about/index_en.htm

USA - Germany

BioBreakfast 2009 in Atlanta

The Heidelberg Technology Park has invited to the BioBreakfast 2009 continuing its series of events in the USA for strengthening cooperation in biotechnology between businesses and research facilities in Germany and USA.

The Heidelberg Technology Park is an international Life Science Park and part of a worldwide Life Science Network.. It is the Center of the Heidelberg BioCluster, founding member of the International Association of ScienceParks (IASP) and of the Council of European BioRegions (CEBR).

Klaus Plate, Managing Director of the Heidelberg Technology park for many years retired from this post only recently – but not from his international, truly global activities in Europe, the USA, and China for building up cooperation between entrepreneurs and researchers. And, of course, he also continues to be an active member of SPICE Group, now in his tenth year of membership.

For the BioBreakfast Klaus has secured the support of important partners:

BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg, the State-wide service and marketing agency for Baden-Württemberg, Germany, pursues targeted support of research institutions and companies of the biotechnology and life sciences sector. Special focus is translational research to innovate classic industry sectors by means of modern biotechnology.

World Trade Centers Association: World Trade Centers and Science Parks build a commercial Symbiosis. World Trade Centers are the professional partners to access the international markets for S&T Parks and their tenants, leading to a new dimension of business opportunities.

Networking-Breakfast at the Capital City Club in Atlanta's oldest private social club will take place during the BIO 2009

Contact: Klaus Plate, email klaus.plate@heidelberg.de

Poland

694 Business Innovation Centres in Poland

In the year 2007 in Poland 694 Business Innovation Centres operated: 15 Science and Technology Parks, 47 Business Incubators, 16 Technology Incubators and 49 Academic Incubators. Other were 326 Business Support Centres, 87 Technology Transfer Centres, 154 Entrepreneurship Loan/Guarantee Funds.

These figures have grown up to 750 in 2008. The PBICA Annual Report including the latest data about innovation and entrepreneurship support in Poland will be presented at the anniversary conference of the Polish Business and Innovation Center Association, PBICA in May 2009. The conference has been announced as the **Twentieth Annual Conference of PBICA and will be held** May 14-16, 2009 in the Pomeranian Science and Technology Park, City of Gdynia, at the sea coast in

Poland. The title of the conference is „**Creativity- Innovation – Entrepreneurship - The role of Business Innovation Centers in development of knowledge based economy**” and the event will focus on following main topics: (1) Creativity (2) Creating of markets for new technologies, innovative services within Business Innovation Centre, (3) New tendencies in supporting innovative entrepreneurship - International panel, (4) Best practices. PBICA sections: Section of Technology Parks and Incubators, Section Entrepreneurship and Labor Market, Section of Technology Transfer, Section of Academic Business Incubators. There are 200 participants expected.

Info: www.sooipp.org.pl, <http://www.kreatywna.gdynia.pl/> and email zasiadly@hotmail.com

Guatemala

April 22-25, 2009 the Induexpo will be in Guatemala. Organized by the Industry Chamber of Guatemala the Indiexpo is to be the biggest industrial exhibition event in Central America.

One of our main targets of the event is to identify possible interested organizations that would like to begin commercial

relations with Central America through the industrial and technology parks in the region.

For more information, please contact Ms. Maria Zaghi at (mzaghi@guate.net.gt or visit website www.induexpo.com.gt/ www.induexpo.com.gt

Norway - Russia *One year of Business Incubation in Murmansk*

The Polar Star Business Incubator is the first Norwegian-Russian bilateral business incubation project, which is an innovative concept of the Norwegian Corporation for Industrial Development (SIVA). SIVA's involvement in Northwest Russia is on behalf of Norwegian government and is defined in Norwegian Parliament's "High North Strategy" white paper. Polar Star has 800 m² of modern business incubation premises and is situated inside the "Polar Star Innovation Center" in Murmansk, Russia. The incubator opened on April 8, 2008, and

has already recruited 6 companies to date. At the moment there are four Russian and two Norwegian companies in the incubator. Each company employs about 1-3 employees. More information about the Polar Star tenant companies available through the website

The objective of the incubator is to stimulate Norwegian - Russian cooperation, and to facilitate the establishment of Norwegian entrepreneurs, companies and business activities in Northwest Russia. The founders are young entrepreneurs that have ideas that can benefit cooperation across borders.

Polar Star business incubator has created a system of service companies around 4 key service components: physical infrastructure, a safe environment, various support services, and a beneficial work environment. These services are dedicated to assisting companies within business incubators and rendering them services at reduced – not market – prices. Services in-

cluded company establishment procedures, judicial support, accounting services, consulting, business planning, web site design, as well as translation & interpretation. Entry criteria are the same as for other SIVA incubators across Norway.

First and foremost, the entrepreneurs need to have a clear business plan or a clear business idea that can contribute to increased Norwegian – Russian economic cooperation, and faster growth of business and technology or commercial innovation that is future-oriented and based on sustainable development. The focus is on the sectors and industries specified by the Norwegian government, namely the oil and gas, marine, maritime, environment and tourism sectors.

An international incubator stimulates cross-border cooperation. Bi-lingual incubators offer a lot of opportunities. This incubator is created by a Norwegian initiative, meaning that it is for Norwegian businesses and is also open for Russian businesses that are going to cooperate with Norwegian ones.

Website: <http://barentsnova.com/pages/barentsnova-root/innovation-programs/polarstar> Please see also report on the iDISC website at: <http://www.idisc.net/en/Article.38844.html>



Belorussia *Belarusian Business Incubators and Business Support Centres* By Krzysztof Zasiadly

In February 2009 a workshop for managers of Belarusian Business Incubators and Business Support Centres was organized by Business Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers and the Association of Organisations Supporting Small and Medium Entrepreneurship in Minsk. The training was a component of the UNDP project "Activation of entrepreneurial activities in regions through strengthening capacity of small business support infrastructure". **Krzysztof Zasiadly**, from Poland, SPICE Vice President, and Sven-Olaf Newiak from Germany were the foreign experts at the workshop.

The participants discussed the manual "How to improve effectiveness of to Business Support Centres" developed within the project to further improve this tool.

The Association of Organisations Supporting Small and Medium Entrepreneurship is part of the Business Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers. It has replaced BSBI, Belarusian Union of Business Incubators, Business Innovation Centres and

Technology Parks. The current head of the Association is Mr. Sergey M. Naidovich, General Director of Business Incubator MAPzao Co. In Minsk/Kolodishchy www.mapzao.by. In Belorussia now 40 Business Support Centres (BSC) and 8 Business Incubators (BI) are operating.

They face a number of problems despite of many legal regulations on BIs and BSCs, as well as different programs and institutions: Council for Enterprise Development in the Republic of Belarus, Republican Fund for Promoting Enterprise Development, UNDP Project "Improving the administrative and economic environment for private sector development by facilitating public-private dialogue". Affiliation of Business Incubators and Business Support Centres with Business Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers may result in better match of BIs and BSCs offer with entrepreneurs needs.

Information: Krzysztof Zasiadly zasiadly@hotmail.com
Mr. Sergey M. Naidovich mapzao@mail.by www.bspn.nsys.by

Bangladesh

EDI is an enterprise development and promotion organization managed by professionals having long standing experience with NGOs, international aid agencies and donors, business and industrial concerns and multi-disciplinary institutions. The team members of EDI are competent to render various professional services to any nature of activities.

EDI's mission is to develop and promote private sector businesses (small and medium enterprises), to serve donor agencies to accomplish their commitment and to build up NGOs. EDI is providing a wide range of services. Like Small Enterprise De-

velopment and Promotion Quality Management Systems; Economic Feasibility Studies; Marketing Appraisal; Financial Control and Administration; Project Appraisal and Management; Personnel Planning; and Socio-Economic Studies.

On this background EDI sees a need for business incubation initiatives in the country and is interested in partnering with other institutions for investigating the potential for building up such activities in Bangladesh.

Contact: Enterprise Development Initiative (EDI), Bangladesh.
E-mail: mriful001@yahoo.com

Business Incubation in MENA

This page provides information about incubation activities and programs from the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa). MENA^{inc} is the regional networks of business incubators and technology parks that has been set up with support from the infoDev program. For more information, please visit the website <http://idisc.infodev.org/en/Region.5.html> or contact Mr. Omer Oz at omeroz1@gmail.com



Syria

UNDP Business For Development Portfolio

By Faten Tibi

The socio-economic reform in Syria is taking place gradually and is effectively transforming the Syrian economy from a centrally planned, into a social market economy. Within this development process, the private sector should play a leading role in boosting the economy and ensuring social development. The private sector can support the development of local communities on win-win basis and can closely touch on the grassroots' needs and reach to areas where the Governments cannot. Through proper promotion of cross sectoral PPP's the private sector can maximize its role in reducing poverty, promoting good governance, enhancing access to inclusive markets; and, participate in implementing strategic social investments-

Enhancing Employment Prospects: UNDP supports the business sector through improving the employment environment in Syria at the policy and operational levels. At the policy level, UNDP supports national efforts for the formulation of comprehensive labor and employment policies in Syria, based on accurate statistical base. UNDP also supports the job matching efforts aiming at reducing unemployment rates, and facilitating skilled labor. Through technical SMEs and vocational training centers as well as more than 23 Tele-centers which provide access to information and connectivity in the rural areas.

Fostering inclusive globalization to reduce poverty: Within the introduced social market economy including reform measures to enhance business environment particularly revising trade policies and national industrial strategies to re-focus economic development from import substitution to export promotion. UNDP has supported the Syrian government in measuring

the competitiveness of the national economy and identifying the rising stars in the economic sectors which represents the competitive advantage for Syrian economy.

Parallel to advocacy efforts, UNDP focuses on policy advisory services and capacity development to ensure that both national trade policies and bilateral, regional and global trade negotiations address human development concerns. **Economic and Business Governance:** UNDP is supporting the national modernization program to enhance the business environment through simplification of procedures related to public service institutions aiming at reducing bureaucracy. Furthermore, with the aim of enhancing civic engagement and the corporate social responsibility of the private sector, UNDP launched the "UN Global Compact" in the country, targeting Syrian businesses and NGOs. UNDP established the UN Global Compact Advisory Council that will serve as a platform bringing together several stakeholders, including NGOs and the private sector, to support the development reform agenda of the Government.

Gender Equality and Empowerment women in Business: an Integrating Dimension: Create an enabling environment for the economic empowerment of women in Syria. Through the implementation of the project "Gender in Trade and Economy" financed by the JWIDE, UNDP Syria has built a knowledge base for gender, trade and economy, and established a network of "Business Support" as a toolkit for integrating women in business sector.

Contact: Faten Tibi, Program Analyst, Business Development Team Leader, UNDP – Syria, Email registry.sy@undp.org

Jordan

Arab Tech Startup Showcase Their Innovation

Arab Tech Startup companies got their chance to showcase new products on stage before an audience of press, investors, IT professionals and IT students at ARABCRUNCH DEMO 09. This event was organized by ArabCrunch dedicated to profiling Arab originated startups and established companies, and DART - the student entrepreneurship society at Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT) one of the major programs at the of Queen Rania Center for Entrepreneurship (QRCE).

Gaith Saqer Editor and Founder of ArabCrunch opened the event with a welcome speech where he said "ARABCRUNCH supports technology entrepreneurs in the Arab world and by offering Arab tech startups a free platform to showcase their products, now innovative Arab tech ideas won't die because nobody knew about them."

An Egyptian startup showcased KSearch Embedded Arabic Search Technology that provides morphological search in order to provide comprehensive results.

The search technology differentiates between meanings of Arabic words, thus providing the first Arabic semantic search. KSearch took 10 years in R&D.

DEMO is a step forward to help create a regional ecosystem that ARABCRUNCH DEMO 09 was a one day event which concluded on Feb 23, 09 in princes Sumaya University, Amman, Jordan. The event is the only free launchpad platform for newly developed technology products and services in the Arab world. Besides startups' demos, the event included keynote sessions by regional and world class experts from companies ranging from e-marketing, venture capital, and IT.

Zeina Tata, Main Coordinator of DART said" we at DART aim to link the student community with the business world; such an event is a milestone to achieve this goal and even exceed it."

During the event, AIKhawarizmy Language Software Information: <http://events.arabcrunch.com/demo9/>



MENA

The 8th MENAinc Workshop in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The 8th MENAinc workshop was held at the International Conference on Business Incubation was hosted by KAST, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This conference brought together business incubation professionals from all continents and provided comprehensive information about the “state of the incubation art”. Speakers from the MENA region provided insight into their practical experience with business incubation of different types and presented

case studies at the two-days training for incubator management following the conference.

The MENAinc workshop was organized as a moderated roundtable for direct exchange of experiences between members of the MENAinc network. This time special attention was paid to cooperation between the ASIA and the MENA networks of infoDev. As almost all members of the Steering Group of the Asian network attended the

Forum (and so did the Board members of the MENAinc) the opportunity for exchanging experiences with building and developing the regional networks. The challenges of attracting awareness for business incubation, promoting good practices, training incubator managers, fostering international cooperation, establishing a solid data and information base, or attracting new members to the network seed to be very well known and quite similar in both networks. This fact provides an excellent basis for learning from each other – not only on the network manage-



ASIA network Steering Group (left, from front to back) Harkesh Mittal, Annuar Safar, Terutaka Tansho, and Hong Kim) and **MENAinc Board Members** (right, from front to left: Rima Shaban, Nejiba Khalfallah, Laith Kassis, Heinz Fiedler (Regional Facilitator), Omer Oz, and Ilyas Azzoui in the BADIR business incubator Riyadh, host of the meeting.

Right picture: Dr. Abdulaziz Alhargan (right), host of the events hands a speakers certificate to Omer Oz, President of MENA inc

Left picture: MENA Board + ASIA Steering Group joint meeting



agement of business incubators. Therefore Harkesh Mittal invited participants from MENAinc to attend a five-day training program that will be organized shortly by the Indian Business Incubation Association.

Network members will directly receive more information about the outcomes of the meeting and next steps

For more information, please contact the MENAinc Focal Point in Bahrain m3allam@gmail.com



Jordan

Entrepreneurship as Public Policy

In cooperation with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the Queen Rania Center for Entrepreneurship (QRCE) and the Business School of the Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT) began the 2009 public activities with a bi-weekly seminar entitled “Entrepreneurship as Public Policy”. The MIT Entrepreneurship Center team comprised professionals from the USA and Canada with experience in business development especially regarding small companies in the developing countries; service providers as well as equipment manufacturers such as Cisco, Lucent, and T-Mobile; product management in software industry; and technology entrepreneurship. This team attracted over 150 attendees, headed by Dr. Mahmoud Al-Qudah, Dean of the Business School of the PSUT, to the Friendship Auditorium of the PSUT at Jubaiha.

The seminar has been of particular interest to economists, business developers, students, representatives from Business colleges,

investors, innovators, technology managers, intellectual property specialists, SME’s and large enterprisers, university faculty members, and people interested in business & entrepreneurship.

The seminar speakers emphasized the significance of entrepreneurship in the Middle East and around the world, as a key force to drive the innovation process and enable the economies to grow and survive the tsunami of global competition. Accordingly, as a matter of public policy, regional and national governments are putting increasing emphasis on supporting entrepreneurship as a critical ingredient to enable successful job creation. The speakers also talked about success stories and lessons learned from initiatives to promote entrepreneurship.

Upon the conclusion of the seminar activity, Dr. Al-Qudah informed that as of the next academic year, PSUT is going to launch world-class programs in business in addition to running

the existing Management Information Systems program. He also disclosed that MIT and PSUT are currently sharing several educational resources and activities since the latter is thriving to become the MIT of the Middle East.

Founded in October 2004 and located at Jubaiha, the QRCE, a non-for-profit / non-governmental establishment, is part of El-Hassan Science City which comprises the PSUT, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), and the Higher Council for Science

Technology (HCST). QRCE has played an active role in advocating entrepreneurship as public policy and in promoting the knowledge-based economy in Jordan and the region. QRCE partners with and is sponsored by King Abdullah II Design and Development Bureau (KADDB), King Abdullah II Fund for Development (KAFFD), Google, Royal Jordanian, Orange, Jordan Dubai Capital, and Jordan Business Magazine

and information: info@qrce.org

Jordan

The Jordan Innovation Centre

The Jordan Innovation Centre (JIC) network joins five business incubators that specialized in innovation activities in Jordan.

The Jordan Innovation Centers (JICs) are working under the supervision of the Jordan Upgrading and Modernization Program (JUMP), within the Jordan Enterprise Development Cooperation (JE), these JICs are:

- JIC at the Royal Scientific Society
- JIC at El-Hassan Industrial Estate and JIC at the Philadelphia University.
- Agro-Industry Business Incubator at the Univ. of Jordan.
- iPARK at the HCST.

Contact: Reham Gharbiyeh Reham.gharbiyeh@gmail.com

Lebanon

The Berytech Entrepreneurs Forum organized with the support of Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation (MBRF) will be a unique show designed specifically for aspiring entrepreneurs aiming to start or expand their own business. Exhibitors, advisers as well as international experts will be brought together of May 21 & 22, 2009, to offer an array of business support services to entrepreneurs, startups and SMEs. The Forum, offers opportunities to:

- Meet public and private support organizations
- Seek expert feedback and review of business plans

- Attend a range of inspirational and informative seminars
- Pitch to a millionaire panel
- Exchange experience with people who've tried and tested starting business: learn from their fortunes and failings

Make sure you give your business the very best chance possible. Just don't miss out on this event!

Nicolas Rouhana
Berytech Technological Pole
www.berytch.org



Important upcoming Events

<http://www.spice-group.de/events/>

As the full list of events is taking too much space in the newsletter only a brief overview can be provided. We strongly recommend visiting the "Events" section on the SPICE Group website. This also page offers the feature to put your own event on the list – directly and online. Just click on "[Add new information](#)" and you will be guided through the simple process.

April 19-22 2009: 23rd Annual International Conference of NBIA in Kansas City, Missouri, USA

The 23rd Annual NBIA conference 2009 will be held in Kansas City, Missouri combined with a Global Summit of Business Incubation Associations. The conference will feature more than 50 sessions selected to meet the needs of a diverse audience.

Session and discussion topics will relate to incubator management, client funding, incubator funding, client services, industry best practices and more. Contact Megan Bulow, mbulow@nbia.org, or Tom Strodbeck, tstrodbeck@nbia.org.

April 24-25 2009: ICEIRD 200, Thessaloniki, Greece

The ICEIRD 2009 will provide an effective channel of communication between decision-makers, researchers, promoters of entrepreneurship, and SME practitioners to discuss topics that are relevant for national competitiveness. ICEIRD09 will:

- address key factors in regional economic development,
- raise awareness about innovation, entrepreneurship

• facilitate regional partnerships and innovation networks
The conference is addressed to academics, entrepreneurs, policy-makers, researchers and students.

ICEIRD09 is organized by City College and the South East European Research Center (SSSEERC), Thessaloniki, Greece.

Contact: ketikidis@city.academic.gr

April 26-28 2009: ADT Spring Conference in Stade, Germany

Under the Headline "Industrial Innovation as Engine for Structural Change" the ADT Spring Conference 2009 will offer an excellent opportunity for getting new information, exchanging experiences and views with other incubation professionals, and developing the personal network with partners.

The conference will be held in the city of Stade (near Hamburg in Northern Germany) April 26-28, 2009.

More information about the program will be available on the website of ADT or through direct email

Contact: Marita Koop, koop@adt-online.de

April 20-23 2009: Dubai: 6th Annual Meeting of INSME

"Building a Knowledge based eco-system for SMEs: Finance, Innovation, Technology and Networking" is the title of the 6th Annual Meeting of INSME, International Network for SMEs to be held April 20-23, 2009 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in the Jumeirah Emirates Towers.

Hosts of this conference are INSME, the Dubai Technology Park and a number of well known organizations in entrepreneurship support. Conference participation is free for registered participants. For information and registration, please visit <http://www.annualmeeting2009.insme.org/#>

May 12-14, 2009: 6th ASTF Investing in Technology Forum in Cairo, Egypt

ASTF is an independent, nongovernmental, non-profit organization that encourages and supports excellence and innovation in scientific research and technology entrepreneurship in the Arab World. Within the Entrepreneurship Development Initiative, ASTF introduces the **Investing in Technology Forum®** as an International gathering focusing on stimulating more investment in emerging technologies in the Arab World.

Goal and Objectives of the Forum are

- Discuss the factors for fostering an Arab Business Angel and

Venture Capital Industry in the Arab region.

- Allow major Multinational Corporations operating in the region to present their different programs in Venture Capital
- Establish an informal network between technology leaders, corporations, angel investors, venture capital funds, and others.
- Announcing the winners of ASTF annual Business Awards and the ASTF Technology Business Plan Competition.

Information: Wissam Rabadi, Director – Jordan ASTF Office

Email ahmad.takatkah@astf.net Website: <http://www.astf.net>

May 14-16, 2009: 20th Conference of Polish Business and Innovation Center Association

The **Twentieth Annual Conference of PBICA** will be held May 14-16, 2009 in the Pomeranian Science and Technology Park, City of Gdynia, at the sea coast in Northern Poland.

The title of the conference is „**Creativity- Innovation – Entrepreneurship - The role of Business Innovation Centers in development of knowledge based economy**” and the event will focus on following main topics: (1) Creativity (2) Creating of markets for new technologies, innovative services within

Business Innovation Centre, (3) New tendencies in supporting innovative entrepreneurship - International panel, (4) Best practices. PBICA sections: Section of Technology Parks and Incubators, Section Entrepreneurship and Labor Market, Section of Technology Transfer, Section of Academic Business Incubators. There are 200 participants expected.

Info: www.sooipp.org.pl, <http://www.kreatywna.gdynia.pl/>

and email zasiadly@hotmail.com

Date & Venue Change: October 16-30 2009: Florianopolis: Third Global Forum on Business Incubation

infoDev will hold its Third Global Forum on Business Incubation in Florianopolis, Brazil in partnership with the Ministry of Science and Technology of Brazil (MCT), the Brazilian Micro and Small Business Support Service (SEBRAE), and the Bra-

zilian Association of Science Parks & Business Incubators (AN-PROTEC).

Contact: Ms. Ana Carrasco, email: acarrasco@worldbank.org, or visit the website <http://infodev.org/en/Article.268.html>

May 18-20 2009: Minsk: Conference TRIN 2009 “Inventions. Innovations. Investments”

The International Scientific Applied Conference TRIN 2009 “Inventions. Innovations. Investments” will be organized in Minsk (Belarus) for Government representatives and businesses, scientific-research institutes and universities; researching innovation problems; innovative managers; experts in the field of design, quality and marketing.

The conference /exhibition will offer following main sections:

- Inventions. New scientific and technical knowledge, technologies, processes, inventions
- Innovation as implementation of an invention
- Investments in inventions and innovations

Contact info@innosfera.org

June 1-4, 2009: IASP World Conference on Science and Technology Parks

The XXVI IASP World Conference on Science and Technology Parks, 2009 will be held in The Research Triangle Park and Raleigh, North Carolina June 1-4, 2009.

This year the conference will feature Andrew Witty, President and CEO of GlaxoSmithKline, with global headquarters in the United Kingdom and U.S. headquarters in The Research Triangle Park. The conference keynote will be delivered by Anthony Townsend, Research Director for the Institute for the Future.

and Robert Atkinson, President of The Information Technology & Innovation Foundation.

The conference also will deal with methods for attracting and retaining a talented workforce, ways to optimize a region's “Future Knowledge Ecosystem” or what future trends will shape innovation and scientific discovery.

For more information on the conference and to register, please visit www.iasp2009rtp.com.

June 24-26, 2009: Call for Papers: ISPIM 2009 Conference, Vienna on “The Future of Innovation”

The 2009 ISPIM Conference - *The Future of Innovation* - will be held in Vienna, Austria June 21-24, 2009. Organized by ISPIM, hosted by The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, this conference will bring together ca. 300 academics, business leaders, and other professionals in innovation management.

Submissions of papers from academics, consultants and managers on innovation-related topics are encouraged.

Important Deadlines: 30 April 2009: Final Submissions together with registration.

Contact: ISPIM Conference Secretariat conference@ispim.org

August 5-7, 2009: Coimbatore, India: 14th AABI General Assembly and IAPN Workshop

The 14th AABI General Assembly will be hosted by Indian STEP and Business Incubator Association (ISBA) during August 5-7, 2009 at Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, India. It is planned to be held jointly with the Regional Workshop of Incubation Asia Pacific Network (IAPN), the infoDev Regional Network for business incubators..

Themes and agenda for the three planned streams (with special focus on incubator manager, policy makers and association presidents) will be discussed and members will be informed as soon as it's finalized.

For further information and suggestions regarding topics to be presented and discussed, please contact: psgstep@vsnl.com

September 30 – Oct. 3 2009: Call for Papers: BALTIC DYNAMICS 2009

The annual **Baltic Dynamics Conference**, organized since 1995 in turn by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, this year will be held in the Capital of Lithuania, **Vilnius**. The BD 2009 “**The Dynamics of Innovation Spaces: Bringing Innovation to Society**” will bring together experts and policy makers in innovation and SMEs development from around the world. The **Conference Topics** are Triple Helix – Implications for Policy

and Practice; Regional Innovation Environments; International Cooperation in Knowledge Transfer; and Innovative Approaches in Management. Proposals for presentations All selected papers and presentations will be published in the Conference Book.

Contact: Pranas Milius, info@balticdynamics.com
Conference homepage: www.balticdynamics.com

October 16-30 2009: Florianopolis: Third Global Forum on Business Incubation

infoDev's Third Global Forum on Business Incubation will be held in Florianopolis in partnership with Ministry of Science & Technology of Brazil (MCT), the Brazilian Micro and Small Business Support Service (SEBRAE), and the Brazilian Association of Science Parks & Business Incubators (ANPROTEC). The Global Forum will bring together incubation professionals,

SMEs, entrepreneurs, policymakers, financiers, and development practitioners. The Global Forum will be an opportunity for Brazil to share its rich track record of over twenty years of business incubation with the global community.

Contact: Ms. Ana Carrasco, email: acarrasco@worldbank.org, or visit the website <http://infodev.org/en/Article.268.html>

New members – Welcome to the network

**Florian Seiff**

Managing director of Innovations-Zentrum Berlin GmbH. He studied Physics at Free University Berlin, specialized in Laserphysics. After his diploma in 1974 he worked for a big German laser-company in its start-up and growing phase. Two years later he came back to

For working on his PhD in the field of optical spectroscopy and starting his own laser-company. As post-doc Dr. Seiff worked in Grenoble, France, on neutron diffraction of biomolecules. In 1987 he became managing director for the technological part at the Weltraum-Institut Berlin GmbH (Cooperation with FU-

Berlin) in the starting and growing phase. He was responsible for zero-gravity-, atmospheric research- and remote sensing-experiments. Due to his practical experience with science and industry he started his position as managing director of IZBM in 1992. Since then he is in charge for 3 business incubators in Berlin: BIG, IGZ and OWZ with more than 500 supported companies. activity.

He is the speaker of the Inno-Kolleg, the association of Berlin-based incubators and member of ADT. The knowledge transfer for setting up business incubators in other countries is a major activity.

Contact: Florian Seiff, seiff@izbm.de

SPICE Art Ball booklet & leaflet

Not only for showing the pieces of triangle art that have been created for the SPICE Art Ball a brochure will be prepared and made available as soon as the art ball is completed. This brochure will also present information about the situation of business incubators in the countries that delivered a “national triangle” to the art ball. This way we offer an unusual channel for marketing the activities of business incubators, a channel that

already has shown its potential. Exhibiting this ball lead to contacts with people who are not the usual “customers” of business incubation initiatives and also offers an opportunity for explaining the needs for innovation and entrepreneurship support as well as the aims and results of business incubators to an audience that needs to be informed – the “general public” or the “taxpayer” – as you like.

And finally...

This second issue of our network newsletter for the year 2008 comes just four weeks after the first one. We thought it is helpful to inform you as soon as possible about the recent events as well as other interesting activities and initiatives.

We had readers complaining that their country is not well represented in our newsletter. And this although their activities in innovation and entrepreneurship support are so much more interesting and important than the ones we reported about. Unfortunately the explanation is simple: We cannot report on what we do not know about. This is why we only can repeat our invitation to all readers to provide information for publication in SPICE Update and let the world know about what you have achieved and are preparing for.

We hope to meet members and friends personally at as many events as possible during this year

Heinz Fiedler & Larisa Brovarska