



# UPDATE No. 75

For members only

August 2007

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Dear Member,

Is anybody talking about a summer break? As it seems such a thing does not exist in business incubation. Recent weeks were filled with activities for developing the incubation industry and with preparing projects and events.

In July business incubation workshops in three African locations as well as in Central Asia kept the ball rolling and only the month of August will be comparatively quite regarding events. But September already offers a “firework” of important events again: Two Global Summits of business incubation associations will be held at important conferences in Riga, Latvia and Shanghai,

China., In Yerevan, Armenia the Eastern Europe and Central Asia network will hold an important workshop (September 17-20), in Hanoi the ASIA network will meet (October 3 – 6) and Bahrain will host a conference for the Middle East and Northern Africa region (October 21 – 24). More details are available through the website <http://idisc.infodev.org/en/index.html>

In this issue of SPICE Update you will find short reports about incubation in many countries and we happily would publish information about other projects and activities from more regions. However, please remember that we only can publish information we have received from the networks.

## ***Getting closer to the Deadline***

### **Construction work is to be finished.**

One more New Triangle for the SPICE Art Ball arrived at the SPICE Group secretariat and a number of members and friends of this network began to prepare for the presentation of the final result. The SPICE Art Ball is scheduled to be presented mid September at the BALTIC DYNAMICS conference in Riga and after that will begin traveling to other events around the globe. More about the Art Ball, its concept, the rules for participation, and the national triangles already finalized you can find on the special website [www.art-ball.net](http://www.art-ball.net). You still may send your art triangle representing your country in innovation, entrepreneurship, technology, art, history and all other aspects important to know. There are many possibilities for creativity and artistic expressions as an individual effort as well as joining with others for creating innovative art.

***But your construction work” soon needs to be finished if your country should not be missing on the globe of business incubation. (See last page of this Update)***



## ***Riga & Shanghai - the Next Global Summits of Business Incubation Associations come back-to-back***

Preparations progressed. The GBIN Work Groups as agreed at the Seattle Summit communicated through the listserve set up by NBIA and results from these discussions will be presented at the upcoming Summits in **Riga** (September 13, 2007) and **Shanghai** (September 23, 2007). Accordingly important Summit topics are “Incubator Communalities”, “Incubation research”, “Information Dissemination”, “Professional Development”, and “Climate Change”. Representatives of business incubation associations

that did not yet receive the draft agendas for the next Summits should contact the GBIN Secretariat at [gbin@gbin.net](mailto:gbin@gbin.net) for further information. All association representatives are invited to contribute to preparing the Summits by taking actively part in the listserve discussions. In case you (as a representative of a business incubation association) in recent weeks have not received emails through this tool, please contact [Dinah@nbia.org](mailto:Dinah@nbia.org) for being included in this communication.

## **ECA<sup>bit</sup> Workshop "SME education in transition 2007" held in Kharkov, Ukraine**

ECA<sup>bit</sup> is the network of business incubators and technology parks in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This network is part of the infoDev Incubator initiative that also supports the development of regional networks in Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA<sup>inc</sup>), Africa (AIN), Latin America (RedLac), and Asia. More information about these networks, its members, and possibilities to contact are to be found on website <http://idisc.infodev.org/en/index.html>

The International Workshop held in Kharkov, Ukraine with the sub-title "Business Education in the Countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia - Regional Network "TC-NET" was held mid July in Kharkov, Ukraine as part of the infoDev Incubator Initiative. Hosted by the business incubator "Kharkov Technologies" the event was organized in cooperation with the Training Center of the Ukrainian Business Incubators and Innovation Centers Association, and SODBI Business Incubator, Shymkent, Kazakhstan.

This Workshop was the first international event of newly created training centers network (TCnet) of the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region aimed at exchanging information and experiences, generating knowledge and data bases on the issues of business education, introducing Internet-based tools for promoting training services for clients regionally and internationally, skills-building in network management. The Workshop was carried out in two formats: on-site and on-line, thus enabling unlimited number of virtual participants to participate.

Forty six participants representing ECA region countries business incubators, training and consulting centers, local,

authorities and governmental business support organizations entrepreneurs' associations from Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Romania, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine as well as external international experts and participants from Germany, USA, and Israel took part in the workshop sessions.

A new feature of the Workshop was using an Internet conference tool based on the hotconference.com product. This technology allowed to broadcast video and audio information both in English and Russian languages and to participate in the on-line forum that provided an opportunity not only to observe workshop discussions on-line but to provide on-site participants with on-line presentations, to ask and answer questions, to give comments on-line.

During the workshop both on-line and on-site participants had an opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss:

- o current state and prospects of business education in the ECA region countries,
- o experience of training networks in the ECA region and world wide,
- o remote education services for clients: distant learning, coaching, etc.

**Veniamin Kaganov**, President of the National Commonwealth of Business Incubators, Russia presented on-line: "Practice of Training Services for Innovation Infrastructure in Russia" and so did Osman Nasr, entrepreneurship expert from Germany: "State consulting and training support of small and medium business in Germany. Saxony's experience".

For more information, please check the website <http://eca-network.org/tcnet/> or contact [gagauz@isc.kharkov.com](mailto:gagauz@isc.kharkov.com)



**Olena Bulba**, Director of the UBICA Training Center, Ukraine introduced the results of "Comparative Research on Current State of Business Education in the Region". This research outlined development services in different organizations that provided training and consulting business the countries of ECA region and emphasized the ways and most important directions for further collaboration within TC network

**Inna Gagauz**, TBI "Kharkov Technologies", Ukraine. Her presentation Distance Learning and Educational Services for Remote Clients (Virtual Business Incubator) was focused on ICT tools worked out and used in TBI activities, distant learning and other educational services developed for remote clients



**Tatyana Shpuling**, project manager of SODBI, Kazakhstan presented the TCNet Internet-portal created within the infoDev supported project. The portal will become an efficient tool for dissemination of knowledge, methodologies, good practices, and information exchange among individuals and organizations providing training and consulting services in the region as well as for SMEs. For ore details visit the website [www.mYconsultant.ru](http://www.mYconsultant.ru)

An essential part of the Workshop was focused on consultant skills-building for the Business Services Network for Eastern Europe & Central Asia. **Rustam Lalkaka**, international expert, New York, USA, presented and moderated discussions on the issue "How to start and manage a business service consultancy organization?"



## Views & Facts

### Austria

#### Market driven Training

By Wolfgang Rupp

VTOE, The Austrian Association of Technology Centers ([www.vtoe.at](http://www.vtoe.at)), has developed and implemented a training program for business incubation management. The approach of the program is market driven and relates with the practical needs of (future) business incubation managers by providing tools for the day-to-day activities.

VTOE does not distinguish between (potential) start-ups from universities and new business ideas coming from the industry. The training program therefore sees the Incubation Manager as a process coach – he accompanies the start-up from the idea to

the market launch. He should be not only a consultant, he has to be co-entrepreneur.

The VTOE training consists of 4 modules : (1) basic training (10 days), financing, with emphasis on business angels and VC (4 days), technology transfer (1 day), and qualitative Basel 2 – Rating (4 days). This program has been run with great success already. Also many academic incubators are sending their constants to attend the courses.

For more information, please contact the Chairman of VTOE, Wolfgang Rupp, Email E-Mail: [office@rupp-pdp.com](mailto:office@rupp-pdp.com)

### Armenia

#### Advancing Innovation

“Advancing Innovation ECA 2007” is the title of the upcoming International Innovation Conference and ECA<sup>BIT</sup> Incubators’ Network Regional Workshop scheduled to be held September 17-20, 2007 in Yerevan, Armenia

The event is organized by ECA<sup>bit</sup> Network of Business Incubators and Technology Parks in Eastern and Central Asia and Enterprise Incubator Foundation and supported by the *infoDev* Business Incubation Initiative.

The event will be focusing on national innovation policies existing in the region, the role of business incubators and technoparks as drivers of countries’ efforts to promote innovation-driven entrepreneurship, as well as presentation of initiatives aimed to support networking and cooperation in the area of innovation and technology transfer.

The Conference organized for the first time in the region is the foremost event in Armenia inspiring environment for cooperation between business & innovation support, allowing informa-

tion and knowledge exchange and strengthening innovation among incubators and entrepreneurs in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region and on global level.

Among main topics to be presented during the event are issues related to the financing innovation projects through venture and technology funds, discussion of the role of business incubators and technoparks in innovation promotion, identification of private multinational companies programs on innovation support, networking innovation and technology transfer.

The Forum will bring together around 60-70 international and local experts/policy makers in business incubation and innovation promotion form Eastern European, CIS, US and EU countries. The forum participants also include highest level Armenian Government officials and businessmen, recognized Diaspora representatives, as well as globally known international business players.

For information and registration, please, visit the event website

### Armenia

#### Enterprise Incubator Foundation and Microsoft joint initiative

A joint project of Microsoft Armenia office and Enterprise Incubator Foundation (EIF) is aimed to reveal talented teams and individuals with innovative software applications solutions, novel web developments and modern IT systems deployment.

The main objective of the project is to gather the best programming talent in Armenia and provide a grate opportunity to:

- demonstrate and enhance their knowledge and skills in a real-world problem,
- apply their genius and creativity in practice, while presenting real-world solutions to real world problem,

- get a chance to participate in the future of technology and software industry,
- get trainings and use a cutting – edge Microsoft platforms, in particular .NET Framework, and Visual Studio 2005,
- apply their newly got knowledge to develop an innovative and creative solutions,
- get a chance to participate and present Armenia in the final stage of Imagine Cup SDI competition to be held at the country chosen by Microsoft.

Information and contact: [info@eif.am](mailto:info@eif.am)

### Armenia

#### Armenian Businesses in San Francisco

The ArmTech Congress '07 was held in early July in San Francisco. The event is the essential high technology conference and exhibition for professionals who participate in global Armenian community and the rapidly rising technology sector of Armenia. The congress aimed to promote in international. business and government connections, international business

program for executives, entrepreneurs and professionals, as well as advanced technology programs More than 50 Armenian companies and universities have participated in the congress presenting their business propositions, technology development projects, and collaboration initiatives etc.

Information and contact: [info@eif.am](mailto:info@eif.am)

### Czech Republic

#### Investment into the Future

In June 2007 the conference "Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation – investment into your future" was held by SSTP, the Czech Association of Technology Parks in Prague, Czech Republic. This event offered opportunities for exchanging information and views regarding Czech programs for de-

veloping innovation and entrepreneurship. The German business incubation association ADT by invitation of the Czech Ministry for Economy was represented at the conference by Dr. Besold Technology Center Bautzen .

More information see: <http://www.mpo.cz/zprava31563.html>

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**Dominican Republic** **INTEC University Chancellor Visits Innov-E in Santo Domingo** *By Rosendo Alvarez*

Dr. Miguel Escala, Chancellor of Universidad INTEC, [www.intec.edu.do](http://www.intec.edu.do), and the top-academic authorities of the university visited the facilities of the Innov-E Enterprise Innovation Center, the newest business innovation accelerator created in the Dominican Republic.



Standing up, f.l.t.r.: Rosendo Alvarez III, Chief Innovation Officer of Innov-E, Chancellor Miguel Escala, and Vice-Chancellor Invan Mancebo.

As part of the Innov-E implementation of the S.I. Observatory incubation pillar of its operational model, it has been accepted to participate in the upcoming Intec University's Talent Fair 2007, which will take place from the August 23-25

2007 at the main campus of the university in the capital city of Santo Domingo. As a result of the positive evaluation of the Innov-E by Intec University, a series of synergistic projects will be analyzed for implementation in the near future. Intec University will play an active participatory role in the upcoming **DR International ITC Forum** organized by Innov-E with support from SPICE Group (see report in SPICE Update No 74). The Forum will take place in the Embassy Suites & Los Marlins Golf resort located in the beach community of Juan Dolio, outside the metropolitan area of Santo Domingo.

The Forum will focus on ICT based entrepreneurship and have invited speakers and participants from Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Finland, Spain, USA, Chile, Panama and Uruguay. More information will be available through the SPICE events website at [www.spice-group.net/events](http://www.spice-group.net/events)  
Information & contact: Innov-E, Rosendo Alvarez, Email: [cybercityholdings@yahoo.com](mailto:cybercityholdings@yahoo.com)

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**Georgia** **Business Incubator to open in Batumi** *By Vazha Goginashvili*

After many years of preparation a USAID grant offers the possibility for creating the first business incubator in Georgia. It will be in seaside resort city Batumi, small, and tourism focused. But at least this incubator will be an opportunity to show authorities a positive example for entrepreneurship support. In a few weeks time the incubator team will contract a building and start development of the incubator. The first tenants are expected to move into the incubator in Autumn. As soon as the incubator is officially registered an association in Georgia is

planned to be started to become an active members of the international business incubation community.

The ultimate goal of this initiative remains to create a large mixed or technology oriented business incubator in Tbilisi and the first incubator in Batumi is hoped to become the basis for gaining practical experience and good examples. Now, close to the business.

More information and contact: Vazha Goginashvili, Email [csscge@yahoo.com](mailto:csscge@yahoo.com)

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**Palestine** **Business Incubator in Gaza**

To build local capacity in the target business communities and to support IUG ICT incubator performance the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG) has received a grant from the Information for Development Program (InfoDev). The **IUG ICT incubator** is a center of innovations, which provides an instructive and supportive environment to entrepreneurs and investors in order to convert their ideas to sustainable feasible businesses. With the funding from infoDev the IUG ICT incubator could complete the equipment necessary for an incubator and has completed the following activities:

1. ICT Incubator has made an agreement with the Business Research Unit (consulting unit) at IUG in Jan. 2007. This agreement aims to carry out need assessment study (survey) directed towards the industrial facilities and business institutions that may use ICT in their work. The outcome from this study is to have clear image about the status of

ICT usage by these institutions and facilities and to identify the points where to start the development interventions.

2. ICT Incubator and the Community Service & Continuing Education Deanship (training center at IUG) have achieved a training program – as pre incubation phase- for fresh graduates from Engineering and IT faculties from all Gaza universities. It concentrated on the fields of management, planning, marketing and building business plans.

3. ICT Incubator has conducted a development ICT program for six local factories. This program started with evaluation of the production and management systems followed by their facilities. Then, figuring out where ICT can be applied as a tool to enhance their performance. The main goal is to use these facilities as a pilot study and referring examples.

Contact: Omar F. Al-Tabbaa ICT Incubator, Islamic University Gaza, Email: [otabbaa@mail.iugaza.edu](mailto:otabbaa@mail.iugaza.edu)

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**Morocco** **Technology Park in Rabat**

The Rabat Technopolis is located at the entrance to Rabat, the capital city of Morocco. With a total surface of 300 hectares. Rabat Technopolis is based on an original positioning with 4 distinct concepts for modular developments to the ICT sector:

- Dedicated university campuses offering training in ICT centers of excellence, R & D and business incubation
- Units for software development
- Sections for Business Process Offshoring
- Divisions for communications, multimedia and audiovisual

Technopolis offers a highly innovative design in the form of campuses, from state-of-the-art infrastructure and international management standards thus, making it a privileged destination for attracting investments and projects in the ICT sector.

Mr. **Abderrafie Hanouf** well known in the technology park and ICT sector has been appointed General Director of Rabat Technopolis. He is moving from his functions as General Director of Casablanca Technopark where he was taking an active part in developing the national ICT strategy.

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## Syria

### Business Incubation in Rural Areas

The Business Innovation and Development Center in Deir EzZor, Syria aims at supporting young entrepreneurs to start up their businesses. The center has been conducting in-house training since March 2007. The training covers various subjects such as marketing, human resource management, accounting and business English.

One of the goals to reach in the immediate future is the establishment of a Business Incubation Unit in rural areas, specifically in Deir Ezzor that is



considered a rural area. The project team is hoping to host up to 4 companies initially at the center, that has the space and the equipment needed to start the BIU.

Contact: Azim Hamoud, Project Director of Business Innovation and Development in Deir EzZor, Syria, Email: [azim.hamoud@undpprojects.sy](mailto:azim.hamoud@undpprojects.sy)

## Africa

### "Synergy" - Newsletter informing about Business Incubation in Africa

The infoDev supported African Incubator Network (AIN, website: [www.africanincubator.net](http://www.africanincubator.net)) is an informal network of business incubators in Africa with business incubators active in Angola, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. Business incubators in Northern Africa (Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia) began cooperating with partners in Middle East countries within the MENA<sup>inc</sup> network – also in the framework of the infoDev network. AIN has three regional sub-networks and now began

publishing new newsletter "Synergy". The first edition reported on the "innovative African Model for Business Incubation", "The Ghana Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise Project", explains the meaning of the AIN logo, and announces the upcoming regional network events for South Africa in Mozambique (July 8-10, 2007), East Africa in Uganda (July 12-13, 2007), and West Africa in Ghana (July 17-18, 2007). Information about these networks also is available through Lalane Janse van Rensburg, [lalane@sbti.co.za](mailto:lalane@sbti.co.za) or <http://idisc.infodev.org/en/Region.1.html>

## ECA<sup>bit</sup>

### First Central Asian Business Incubators Benchmarking Study completed

In May 2007, the Central Asian business incubators have completed their first benchmarking study. The project was led by SODBI business incubator in Shymkent and supported by the business incubator associations in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan, as well as by the World Bank infoDev program and international experts. The benchmarking study was conducted between August 2006 and May 2007. It aims to establish the benchmarking system for business incubators in Central

Asia to provide an information base for both incubation experts and policy makers. In this stage, the benchmarking system focused on the availability and comparison of information, which is available among incubators today, and which incubators are ready to share. A further extension of the scope of the benchmarking system is recommended.

The key findings of the benchmarking study are available on: <http://www.eca-network.org/article.php?lan=eng&per=36&i2=1>

## Kazakhstan

### New Incubator to be built

The "Start-up Kazakhstan" National Competition was held among the universities of Kazakhstan on March 20, 2007. The competition was aimed at the creation of Universities Technological Business Incubators Network (UTBIN) and the funding of innovative start-up projects.

The winners of the "Start-up Kazakhstan" competition were: Serikbaev Eastern Kazakhstan National Technical University,

National Technical University of Karaganda, Satpayev Kazakhstan National Technical University, Kazakhstan-British Technical University, Zhangirhan Western Kazakhstan Agrotechnical University, and Auyezov Kazakhstan National University.

In the near future the competition winners, supported by the National Innovative Fund, will start building the university technological business incubators. (Source: [www.nauka.kz](http://www.nauka.kz))

From CABIN newsletter

## Kazakhstan

### Eco Tourism for Regional Development

Another project of SODBI is eco tourism, and SODBI has been successfully creating a public-private-partnership together with local authorities, the regional state university, and almost all tourism companies in the South Kazakhstan region. Supported by infoDev, SODBI has provided training on collaboration in

the eco tourism sector. The Internet plays a key role, as SODBI has been developing the regional tourism portal that became a hub for marketing and collaboration. This portal also includes an intranet for tourism companies to share knowledge.

See <http://www.southkazakhstan.com>,

## Kyrgyzstan

### ICT helps selling 20,000 Sheep

The Congress of Business Women and the KG Business Incubators Association have a special focus on women entrepreneurs in rural areas. Here, ICT and the Internet mainly supports entrepreneurs in rural areas to sell their products, mostly livestock and vegetables/fruits in low processing stage. According to Zamira Akbagysheva "Today, a mother sitting in a re-

remote mountainous village of Alai or At Bashi can browse the web in Business Incubator while her daughter sitting on a bus in capital Bishkek can call home to discuss the price of sheep or horse. Thanks to business incubators inhabitants of remote districts in the mountains can sell sheep. 20.000 of them were sold by women in At Bashi Business Incubator."

By Zamira Akbagysheva

## Tajikistan

### Website for Democracy

By Valentina Spivak

The basis for a country development is formed by a stable economic platform that defines the level of the democracy and society development. Therefore, the site <http://www.business-club.tj> is aimed at supporting the development of the democratic principles of the society and at facilitating its economic progress. This is becoming more and more important under the real situation faced by entrepreneurs in Tajikistan. They are pressed by the actual legislation that is not only unsupportive for entrepreneurial activity but also hinders its further development. Additionally administration officials not always respect existing legislation because of the legal ignorance of entrepreneurs. Laws are published and discussed, yet no one knows their contents due to the absence of a developed infor-

mation space. As a result, people become fully dependent on the government officials.

The proposed project is aimed at raising awareness and providing information that will promote legal protection and increase legal literacy and openness to the world community.

The target group for the project is the entrepreneurs' strata that define the economic situation in the country. Creation of a single economic and legal information space is aimed at the promotion of legal protection of entrepreneurs' rights. To improve the current situation it is necessary to create information and economic protection levels.

Contact: Country development Gateway, Valentina Spivak, Email: [valentina@tajik-gateway.org](mailto:valentina@tajik-gateway.org)

## Austria

### Training with practical Impact

By Wolfgang Rupp

Austria at this time has 103 business incubators – or “Impulse Centers” as they are named for underlining their regional role in supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. The majority of these centers started operation during the last decade. With this number of incubators Austria possibly world-wide has the highest density of such initiatives. The Austrian Association of Business Incubators (VTÖ) can report on successful development in recent years. Since 2003 membership developed from 39 to 55 business incubators. The association has focused on a few areas of activity, for example

- A “**Training Program Incubator Management**” that was carried out first time in the year 2007 with great success. Key parts of the training are basic components, finance, technology transfer, and “Basel 2”. This program will be offered during this year again
- **Network management** for members of the association to

strengthen their own networks and providing access to new (thematic) networks. This activity is based on an analysis of existing networks in Austria carried out in cooperation with Austrian research institutes

- The VTÖ-project “**Quality Management for Incubators**” is aimed at introducing quality standards and key processes for incubator management in Austrian business incubators. 14 centers were certified in 2006.
- A new project “**Business Incubation in Rural Areas**” began end of the year 2006 with 14 participating business incubators. The role of incubators as regional centers of competence for innovation and SME support will be strengthened by this activity.

More information is available through the website of the association [www.vto.at](http://www.vto.at) or by direct contact: Wolfgang Rupp, VTÖ Chairman, email [wrupp@ycn.com](mailto:wrupp@ycn.com)

## United Kingdom

### UK Business Incubation initiates project activities

By Toni Wanklin

The national association of business Incubators in the United Kingdom has a large number of activities in the pipeline:

- Undertaking a Mapping Survey (the UK's census of business incubation environments - incubators, science parks, business centers, University commercialization units - everyone who offers the supportive and nurturing environment we all recognize as true business incubation)
- Research into the impact of business incubation on clients, the local, regional and national economy and also in terms of socio-impacts (i.e. health, state benefits reduction of take up)
- UKBI's £5m fund for incubation for socially deprived communities will be coming to an end next year and experience gained from these projects, case studies, and client testimonials will be reported on
- UKBI are lobbying the UK government on 2 major issues – one is the Business Support Simplification Program where the government were close to stopping ALL public

- investment in business incubation (through UKBI lobbying, it was ensured that business incubation is still on the agenda and will be supported). The other issue is Business rates. The UK Chancellor – meanwhile the Prime Minister – announced in his latest budget that all shared business property will be liable to 100% business rates tax – even on empty units – thus completely defeating the true nature of incubation; allowing incubators the flexibility to move their clients through the physical incubator as they grow. UKBI are in high-level strategic discussions with Government on this matter and will be able to report back shortly
- UKBI's 10th Anniversary celebrations begin on 1st January and the association is looking for partners to celebrate with.

In November, UKBI will be holding its 9th International Conference in Brighton (28-30.10.07) – an excellent opportunity for international participants finding out ways to collaborate on the many projects

Contact: Toni Wanklin, Email: [t.wanklin@ukbi.co.uk](mailto:t.wanklin@ukbi.co.uk)

## Germany

### International Business Cooperation through Technology Park Warnemünde

The Technology Center Warnemünde in Northern Germany this year takes an active role in two European Union projects by organizing a number of business-to-business cooperation events. Especially enterprises in machine building and environment technologies are invited to take advantage of this offer for beginning new international business cooperation with

partners in other European countries. Organization through the TC Warnemünde limits the financial burden for participants and makes a vast range of business opportunities available.

For further information about times and conditions, please check the website [www.tzw-international.de](http://www.tzw-international.de) or contact Mr. Jürgen Dührkop, Email [juergen.duehrkop@tzw-info.de](mailto:juergen.duehrkop@tzw-info.de)

## USA

### **NBIA Releases New State of the Business Incubation Industry Report**

If you are interested in the most recent facts on business incubation the NBIA 2006 *State of the Business Incubation Industry* report, now available from NBIA Publications, offers the latest industry statistics.

The newest of NBIA periodic state of the industry (SOI) reports is packed with data, analysis, and more than 50 charts and graphs. The book looks at the program tax status, sponsors, program type and age, geographic area served, facility size and occupancy, program goals, equity ownership, services offered,

graduation policies, finances, staff and service providers. With this information it is possible to benchmark an incubation program against industry averages or to demonstrate incubation's effectiveness to potential stakeholders.

NBIA thanks the Ohio University Innovation Center in Athens, Ohio, and the Nidus Center for Scientific Enterprise in St. Louis for their support of this publication.

The report is available through the website [www.nbia.org/store](http://www.nbia.org/store) at \$35 for NBIA members and \$45 for nonmembers.

## Finland

### **Technopolis Open Training in Helsinki, Finland**

STP Technopolis has set up a Technopolis Open Training on October 17-29, 2007 in Technopolis STP in Helsinki, Finland.

The recognition of STP's role is increasing worldwide, as well as the internationalisation of STP's concepts. This gives new opportunities for sharing best knowledge and experience across the cultures, what was also confirmed by the study on training needs of STP Managers initiated by the International Association of Science Parks.

Technopolis has 25 years of experience and almost 1,000 customer companies supported with a unique concept, which forms solid basis for company development. Technopolis is a public company and active player in the highly developed innovation system, which has brought Finland to the top ranks among the most competitive economies.

With years international activities has developed into comprehensive package of services for STP operators. Those services

cover STP implementation consulting, management support services and training courses for STP executives. And only within last 2 years Technopolis has successfully realized over 20 projects in that field worldwide. This long experience will be showcased in **Technopolis Open Training** in October. The training program will focus on the following topics:

- o Support and funding of the Finnish innovation system.
  - o How STPs contribute to the innovation systems?
  - o Manage and measure business incubator activities
  - o Create the perfect infrastructure for hi-tech companies
  - o Create high class business services for STP companies
  - o Regional development programs - essential for STP success
- The detailed program, registration instructions and additional information can be found from the attached files and from our web pages [www.technopolis.fi/calendar](http://www.technopolis.fi/calendar)  
Contact: Mervi Käkki, Email: [Mervi.Kaki@technopolis.fi](mailto:Mervi.Kaki@technopolis.fi)

## Networking

### **BI 9 Business Incubation, Innovation & Entrepreneurship – The Global Challenge**

Registration is open for "BI 9: Business Incubation, Innovation & Entrepreneurship – The Global Challenge" the annual conference of UK Business Incubation to be held in Brighton, November 28-30, 2007. This conference offers a great opportunity to learn from and network with colleagues from around the globe.

Topics to be covered include: Networks & Networking, How to measure impact effectively?, Ensuring you and your clients have a future, and What is innovation?

### **"Expanding the incubators function" and Best Science Bases Incubator Award**

The sixth annual conference and award on "Best Practices in Science Based Incubators" takes place **November 29 & 30, 2007 in Seville, Spain**. Again incubation experts from around the world will share their expertise at this event. This year's theme is "Expanding the incubators function". The theme focuses on the latest developments in the expansion of functions in the field of services, networks, clients and processes, including performance measurement of science based incubators. The early bird registration fee (saving 200 €) is valid through August 31.

The final sessions of the day will be interactive for all levels of experience; there are plenty of networking opportunities and social events to give you the best conference experience possible. Meet up with friends, connect with colleagues and improve your skills and knowledge.

Registration is now open. With various packages to suit all requirements, you can build your own conference experience.

For the program visit <http://www.ukbi.co.uk/index.asp?SID=208>

Furthermore the annual international competition for "Best Science Based Incubator 2007" is opened. Through joining the competition incubators can compare their performances with more than fifty incubators from around the world. The competition for the award is again organized by Science Alliance in the Netherlands and the Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services (CSES) in the UK. The winner of the competition will be announced during the conference in Seville. Contact: Geertjan Kampman, Email: [g.kampman@science-alliance.nl](mailto:g.kampman@science-alliance.nl)

## Events in the Business Incubation Networks

### **ASIAN incubators meeting in Vellore, India in June 2007**

The Vellore Institute of Technology, Technology Business Incubator (VIT-TBI), held an international conference on Business Incubation "Creating a knowledge platform through partnerships and alliances among incubators" in Vellore with the support of infoDev and Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. Info: <http://www.idisc.net/en/Article.38472.html>

The **Second Latin American and Caribbean Incubators Conference** "Global+In3: Innovation for Entrepreneurship on the

Continent" was held in July 2007 in Santiago, Chile. This event set a landmark in the opening up of a space for dialogue and knowledge about the reality of such matters on the continent.

Info: <http://200.9.100.74/ok/webconferencia/ingles/index.php>

**AIN, the African Incubator Network** held a Southern Africa Workshop "Providing solutions to Small Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship through Networks and Awareness" in July in Maputo, Mozambique. This workshop gathered incubator professionals, government decision makers and higher education

representatives to exchange knowledge in Southern Africa, to expand AIN by attracting new members and partners, and to outline initiatives to support the AIN objectives. The outputs of this workshop will help to lay the foundation for a proposed Pan-African Incubator Conference later this year.

**A Latin American and Caribbean Internship Program** was started by business incubators in the region, aiming to encourage exchange of knowledge and to create professional contacts between incubators. For more information check website [http://www.ingenio.org.uy/pasantias/site\\_english/index.html](http://www.ingenio.org.uy/pasantias/site_english/index.html)

### New members – Welcome to the network



**Mohamed Alaswad** is the project leader for the Libyan National Project for Establishing Business and Innovation Incubators (ELITE). His vast experience in international collaboration as well as industry and research policies helps to build the necessary links



**Omar Ahmed Annakou** is the Deputy Director of Libyan National Project for Establishing Business and Innovation Incubators (ELITE Project). He is actively involved not only with building incubators in his country but also is engaged to build and develop interna-

for developing the incubator initiative in Libya. Mr. Alaswad systematically attended international conferences on business incubation, technology parks, and innovation to make international experience and contacts available for the incubators and their client companies. On this basis a team of ELITE incubator managers was trained and linked with the international incubation community even before the first incubator opened.

tional cooperation in innovation and entrepreneurship support especially within the MENA<sup>inc</sup> network of which he is a founding member.

Omar Annakou has a PhD in Chemical Engineering and works as the Head of the Biotechnology incubator Founding committee. He also is Member of the Scientific Committee of ELITE project. Contact: Email: [omar@eliteproject.net](mailto:omar@eliteproject.net)

### Do you find your country in these lists?

#### Reports

Armenia  
Australia  
Belarus  
Croatia  
Estonia  
France  
Greece  
Ireland  
Korea  
Lithuania  
New Zealand  
Romania  
Tajikistan  
Ukraine  
Vietnam

These are the countries already included in the Anniversary Report

SPICE Members and friends sent answers to the “SPICE Anniversary Questions” and provided a general evaluation of networking during the last decade and for describing the potential for future action. The replies are being summarized under the lead of Barbara Harley and discussion will be continued at coming SPICE meetings. This process will lead to a report containing brief abstracts describing the development of business incubation in different countries. Other parts of the report will deal with an introduction to SPICE, the Anniversary Activities (Workshops and SPICE Art Ball), and a summary of views on networking experience and perspectives.

**If your country is not yet listed in the box please send us your reply to the Anniversary questions as soon as possible.** We aim at getting a draft report ready for the SPICE meeting in Riga and your country should not be missing in this report on development of business incubation globally. Please send comments or questions to the SPICE Secretariat at [spice@spice-group.net](mailto:spice@spice-group.net)

*To symbolize global cooperation for innovation and entrepreneurship* is the aim of creating the SPICE Art Ball. Beginning in the SPICE Anniversary year members and friends of this network have created impressive artwork for this initiative.

The process of creating “national triangles” for the SPICE Art Ball needed more time than initially expected. But now it has to come to an end. **A presentation of the SPICE Art Ball is scheduled for September 13, 2007** at the BALTIC DYNAMICS conference in Riga. Although continuously more and more of the “white spots” on the ball of innovation are replaced by pieces of art work there still is room left for more. The paintings tell stories about history, politics, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the countries represented. Should your country be missing on this globe?

On the special website for the Art Ball ([http://www.art-ball.net/spice\\_art\\_ball.php](http://www.art-ball.net/spice_art_ball.php)) the actual situation and the development process can be seen. Possibly the triangles already drafted or finished can inspire those who did not yet paint...

#### Trinagles

Armenia  
Australia  
Belarus  
China  
Croatia  
Dominican Rep  
Estonia  
Finland  
Georgia  
Germany  
India  
Japan  
Kazakhstan  
Korea  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Mexico  
New Zealand  
Philippines  
Romania  
Taiwan  
Ukraine  
United Kingdom  
USA

**Do not leave your experience unnoticed or your creativity invisible!  
Contact the SPICE Secretariat now for getting involved.**

#### And finally...

Creativity and Fun are a great combination for making innovation happen. Developing and implementing new ideas is a continuous process that affects all parts of society. It is not a matter of technology or business only to develop fertile grounds for exploring new horizons and taking advantage of new potentials. Engagement and motivation are the driving forces for business incubation as for innovation at large. The SPICE Art Ball is still under construction (see triangle on first page of this Update) but now approaching a stage for being presented. We hope that missing countries will join this initiative for symbolizing global cooperation for making innovation happen

*Heinz Fiedler & Larisa Brovarska*