



UPDATE No. 76

For members only

September 2007

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Dear Member,

In September three important events have set milestones in the international business incubation development: the BALTIC DYNAMICS in Riga, Latvia, the conference “Advancing Innovation in ECA in Yerevan, Armenia, and the International Forum in Shanghai, China. Much new, interesting, and stimulating experience resulted from these conferences. For example the ground breaking initiative organized around the conference in Riga: the Innovation Week including the “Innovation Circus” successfully aimed at attracting the youth to technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

The SPICE Art Ball presented in Riga, Latvia

With a number of new triangle paintings coming in during the weeks before the meetings in Latvia the SPICE Art Ball could be presented with **23 countries** presented with the final art work and further six countries in the drafting stage (a photo of this ball is shown on page 2 of this Update). This brings the number of white spots on this globe of innovation rapidly down – but there still is room for other countries to present themselves creatively.

Here we are showing one of the new triangle paintings – this time not too difficult to guess where it comes from?! In case you want to know more about this and other art triangles, please have a look at the special website www.art-ball.net/spice_art_ball

Now the next – the final(?) – round of preparing the SPICE Art Ball has begun. Just a little less than two months until the ball will be presented on the beaches of Dominican Republic. Again a booklet will be prepared for distribution at that event showing all triangle paintings and the “stories behind” as well as providing information about the artists and the hosts. SPICE Group members and friends not yet presented on the art ball are invited to unfold their creative thoughts and make sure that their country is not missing at the next presentation. More about the Art Ball, its concept, the rules, and the national triangles already finalized you can find on the website www.art-ball.net.

BALTIC DYNAMICS 2007 – “Now I know why I should study Physics” or “The President, Kids, and Firework”

One more time the BALTIC DYNAMICS conference raised standards. Janis Stabulnieks and his team widened horizons by making this conference part of an “**Innovation Week**” in Riga targeting not only at the professionals from innovation and entrepreneurship support, technology and technology transfer of business incubation and technology parks, but also invited the young generation to explore. In this environment the conference

The events in Riga and Shanghai were combined with Global Summits. Although only ten days were available between these conferences held on different continents the information flow could be secured and participants from 22 countries representing 29 associations (at both summits together) took a number of decisions for intensifying global cooperation.

Important upcoming events in business incubation are, for example, the 5th MENA^{inc} Workshop in Bahrain, the BI conference in Brighton, UK, and the ICT Forum in Dominican Republic. For details, please check www.spice-group.net/events.



could attract **411 participants** from **35 countries** plus ca. **280 attendees** to attend the parallel events (workshops on special topics related with innovation, technology, and technology transfer). **Valdis Zatlers**, President of Latvia attended the conference dinner and thereby showed the importance this country gives to innovation, technology, and business development.

The **16th Global Summit** of Business Incubation Associations was well placed in this framework worked successfully on developing global cooperation in this field - and so did the **128th SPICE Meeting** held in Riga September 13, 2007.

The “**Innovation Circus**” showing technological applications of all kinds was visited by kids, teenagers, and young minded adults. Close to **10.000 visitors** came in four days to see “how things work” and to experience what science and technology can achieve for making life easier and more exciting. Aimed at attracting the young generation to technology, innovation and entrepreneurship the Innovation Circus was the first phase of a

project supported by the European Union – with more events to come in Berlin and Bologna. A maybe seven year old boy summarized his impressions being asked on stage: “Now I know why I should study physics”. How could it be said in a better way that this initiative met the goal?

Presenting the actual status of the **SPICE Art Ball** was like putting a cherry on the cream cake. Members and friends from 23 countries already finished their triangle painting for symbolizing global cooperation. A brochure distributed at this event summarizes the aims, development, status, and further steps towards completing the ball.



Together at the 16th Global Summit, September 13, 2007

Riga

Visiting the Innovation Circus

10,000 visitor in 4 days

Presenting the SPICE Art Ball

16th GBIN Summit in Riga

At the annual conference **BALTIC DYNAMICS 2007** in Riga, Latvia, The **16th Global Summit of Business Incubation Associations** met on September 13, 2007 with 19 attendees representing **16 countries** and **11 associations**. In an intense and fruitful discussion delegates of this Summit focused on the GBIN work groups “Professional Development” for business incubation managers, “Business Incubation Research” , and “Information Dissemination”. Proposals adopted by the Summit delegates were, for example, to create an “online

observatory” on training programs and offers for business incubators as well as for studies on matters related with entrepreneurship and innovation support. This should contain links to existing online information sources (like the one of EBN <http://quality.ebn.be>). Also continuation of the GBIN survey was decided for providing a reliable database with key information on business incubators world-wide. More information about the outcomes of the Summit will be made available to the members shortly.

ECAbit on the move (continued)

not joined (yet). National innovation policies in the region, the role of business incubators and technoparks as drivers of - countries' efforts to promote innovation-driven entrepreneurship, financial mechanisms of innovation support, as well as initiatives aimed at supporting networking and cooperation in innovation and technology transfer were the main topics

Just to remind our members: If you want to see more and larger pictures of events featured in this (and other) Updates, , visit the SPICE Group website, PUMBAA pages: www.spice-group.net/PUMBAA

Young Social Entrepreneurs

The Global Young Social Entrepreneurs' Competition 2007 is in full swing. More than 500 have so far applied already - young women and men working for the vision of changing the world through business with a social or ecological twist. Given the tremendous interest, Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) had to extend the Competition deadline. The Competition is supported by GKP members UN Development Program (UNDP), Microsoft, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

54% of the world population is aged below 25 years old. Many of these youths - in developing and developed countries alike - are motivated by a job that helps make the world a better place, yet also earns them a living. These young and up-coming social entrepreneurs from all around the globe are in good company - for example the company of Mohammad Yunus, the most prominent social entrepreneur these days who received the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for his pioneering microfinance social business in Bangladesh (Grameen Bank).

What exactly is a social enterprise? Mohammad Yunus in his Nobel Lecture said: "Let us suppose an entrepreneur, instead of

topics of this event consisting of two parts: The **International Innovation Forum**, and the **Regional ECA^{bit} Workshop A** brief look into the old Armenian culture and receptions in the country side with Armenian specialties - including the famous Cognac - brought participants together, one time even with guitar playing and singing

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having a single source of motivation (e.g. maximizing profit), now has two sources of motivation, which are mutually exclusive, but equally compelling - a) maximization of profit and b) doing good to people and the world." The Competition is part of GKP's ongoing program is fully web-based and was open to applicants worldwide until September 9, 2007. 100 winners selected by an international online jury will be announced on 20 October 2007.

The winners receive more than just sponsorship to attend the dedicated Young Social Entrepreneurs' Forum, December 11-13, 2007, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In true entrepreneurial spirit, they are presented with the opportunity to potentially secure funding, networking, mentoring and knowledge for themselves - key areas in which young social entrepreneurs need support, especially in their early years. 10 of the winners will pitch for secure funding in real-time sessions. All 100 winners will meet various funding organisations, mentors, experts, potential partners or the media; be part of a crowd of innovative and motivated young social entrepreneurs; network and showcase with the 2000 participants of the larger GKP Event on the Future (GK3). More information:

GKP Event on the Future (GK3) www.gkpeventsonthefuture.org
YSE Forum www.globalknowledge.org/ysef07

CABIN Benchmarking Study

CABIN, the Central Asian Business Incubator Network finalized a first benchmarking study. The project was supported by the business incubator associations in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan and the infoDev Incubator Initiative. The main aim of the study was introducing a benchmarking system for business incubators of Central Asia and thereby providing an instrument for supporting incubator management and for communicating results to key stakeholders and policy-makers.

Members of the study group are: Elmira Sugurbekova (Kazakhstan Association of Business Incubators and Innovation Centres) as group leader, Zafar Mukhitdinov (Association of Business Incubators and Technoparks of Uzbekistan), and Zamira Akbagysheva (Union of Business Incubators and Innovation Centres of Kyrgyzstan). The infoDev program, Peter Harman (UK Business Incubation), Krzysztof Zasiadly (Polish Business and Innovation Centers Association), Rolf Friedrichsdorf (ADT, German Association of Technology Centers), and Stefan Schandera (infoDev regional facilitator) supported the project as partners. It is planned to repeat the study annually for developing a sound basis for monitoring the incubators development.

Some findings of the study are

- The largest number of incubators is operating in Uzbekistan (33) followed by Kyrgyzstan (27) and Kazakhstan (7).
- In 2006, incubators in Central Asia created 7.146 jobs and incubated a 342 enterprises (matured from the incubator)

- Incubators in Kazakhstan operate with an average of 4.000 m² space for clients, with leasing revenues as main income
- In Uzbekistan, the average leasable space (500 m²) is 8 times smaller - main revenue is training and consulting.
- In Central Asia the majority of incubators is either publicly owned (government) or non-profit NGO.
- In Uzbekistan and in Kazakhstan incubators operate without external support for operational costs. In Kyrgyzstan, incubators get ongoing support from donors and government for operating expenses (53%).
- Kazakhstan has no specialized incubator, Uzbekistan one in Samarkand specialized on tourism, and in Kyrgyzstan all incubators focus on women entrepreneurs.
- E-readiness of incubators is highest in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and lowest in Uzbekistan, mainly in rural areas.
- Incubator collaboration with universities is highest in Uzbekistan, and lowest in Kazakhstan.

Results of the benchmarking study were presented and discussed at the ECAbit conference in Armenia. Further recommendations from the study are to widen the geographical region of the project and to include additional information areas (e.g. training centers and sustainability) and to focus on innovation and technology transfer as well as on international issues.

More information is available in the CABIN Newsletter and the portal www.cabinetwork.org Contact: cabin@sodbi.kz

Views & Facts

Turkey

12 incubators set up with World Bank and EU support

The Entrepreneurship Development Department of KOSGEB (TDD) is responsible for managing World Bank and EU funds to set up incubators. With 12 of them established with the assistance of the World Bank. TDD has gained considerable experience on business incubators. These incubators have been set up as independent legal entities. (Ltd companies or incorporations) by local groups (service providers) and are located in Zonguldak, Karadeniz Ereğli, Adana, Mersin, Tarsus, Van, Eskişehir, Avanos, Samsun, Elazığ, Yozgat, and Diyarbakır.

Ten of them are operating in public buildings acquired at no cost, two are using rented premises. According to the Bank's procedures, project funds are transferred to them in return for employment creation as committed in the application documents and business plans.

TDD is now in the process of setting up four incubators with the EU funds specifically for women entrepreneurs to be located in Hacibektaş, Kütahya, Çorum, and Pendik (İstanbul).

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Turkey

Business Financing in Turkey

METU Technopolis is offering a wide range of services and activities for supporting start-up entrepreneurs to secure finance for their ventures:

- Online Business Plan Preparation: Training with a new lecture every Monday, 'real-time open office hours'
- Business Plan Review Board: Recommendations and steering by an expert jury
- Entrepreneur-Investor Meeting: Presenting business plans to investors in a closed session

- Early-Stage Funding in Technology Start-Ups / Benchmarking for Turkey: Success stories from Europe / A roadmap for Turkey

These activities are planned in two stages: A comprehensive training program for technology start-ups and a forum where to be held October 31 and November 2, 2007 in Istanbul.

For more information, please see the website <http://www.metutech.metu.edu.tr/tkbs/forum/index.php?dil=EN>

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Romania

Business-to-Business Cooperation: Hi-Tech Innovators' Partenariat

The "Hi-Tech Innovators' Partenariat" is being organised by the Hellenic Foreign Trade Board (HEPO) with the support of organisations of Thessaloniki, under the aegis of the Ministry of Economy & Finance and the Ministry of Development. The event is scheduled for October 5 – 6, 2007 in Thessaloniki, Greece, at the International Exhibition and Conference Centre of Thessaloniki.

This Partenariat is the first Greek business event which seeks to develop business partnerships between Greek and foreign enterprises in the fields of: Software & Hardware, Telecommuni-

& Information Technology, Research & Development for new products and services, and Sectors of the economy that incorporate advanced technology and innovation.

Enterprises & technology institutions from Greece and abroad will participate in the Partenariat in order to establish networks for the development and dissemination of new technologies as well as for pre-arranged business meetings

More information: Hellenic Foreign Trade Board (HEPO) at website <http://www.hitech-partenariat.gr>, or by email info@hitech-partenariat.gr

Romania

Building the international Network

The CiTAF Incubator, Bucharest, Romania continues its international activities with full energy: In June this year, for example, participation at the European Salon of Research in Paris was on the agenda. Additionally the EU "Leonardo da Vinci" conference on the European Framework of Competencies in Rome, and a few smaller events related with the European Structural Funds in Romania (officially launched in presence of EU Commissioner Danuta Hubner, 12-13 July). In parallel an application was prepared for the National Research Programme of Romania was finalized and participation for the conference "Advancing Innovation in ECA 2007" in Yerevan.

For November Domnica Cotet with partners is preparing a study visit in Germany, organized by Ministry of Education and Research from Romania together with the GTZ project. One of the aims is talking with potential partners for a proposal with the Electronic Faculty of Bucharest University. Business incubation offers a wide range of challenges to meet...

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USA

Toolkit – Incubator Impact Assessment

Is your business incubation program a success?

Do you have the data to prove the impact?

These are questions incubator managers frequently ask themselves or stakeholders and supporters raise these matters. Collecting and reporting economic impact data becomes more and more important for providing information about the worth of incubation programs and demonstrate the incubator's impact on the local economy.

Measuring Your Business Incubator's Economic Impact: A Toolkit, is a guide to collecting and disseminating economic impact information that has been developed by NBIA, National

Business Incubation Association, USA. Using this or other tools is becoming essential for supporting the long-term viability of an incubator program and adding to the credibility of the incubation industry by demonstrating that business incubation is an effective strategy to boost entrepreneurship and build community wealth.

NBIA National Business Incubation Association with support from Southern California Edison has developed the toolkit - available in both electronic and print formats. More about the toolkit at <http://www.nbia.org/impact/index.php> or by contacting publications@nbia.org

Dominican Republic

Panama committed to the DR-ICT International Forum

By Rosendo Alvarez

The Ministry of Foreign Commerce of the Republic of Panama has facilitated the promotion of the DR-ICT International Forum as a bilateral business opportunity for entrepreneurs in Panama and worldwide. Colleagues that from Panama attend the SPICE Group co-sponsored Forum on Developing and Supporting ICT Based Entrepreneurship, that will be held at



Cesar Martans, R. Alvarez, Juan Carlos Uribe

the Embassy Suites Los Marlins Golf Resort, in Santo Domingo, November 21- 24, 2007, within the context of the European Week and preceded by the European Business Forum, 20th of November, orga-

nized by the Federation of European Chambers of Commerce of the Dominican Republic.

Info: www.fedcamaraseuropeas.org

The photos show meetings of Rosendo Alvarez III, Chief Innovation Officer of Innov-E Enterprise Innovation Center, with members of the Panamanian Association of Enterprise Executives (APEDE) and with members of the Panamanian Chamber of Information and Communication Technologies, CAPATEC Information & contact for the DR ICT Forum: Rosendo Alvarez, Email: cybercityholdings@yahoo.com



Eva, Roberto Alfaro and Rosendo Alvarez

Caribbean

Business Incubator initiatives in the Eastern Caribbean Region

By Roshan Seebaluck

The European Commission has made available ca. € 15.71 million under the Special Framework of Assistance (SFA) to four of the Windward Islands countries in the Eastern Caribbean. In the case of three of them, **Dominica, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines**, the Regional Management Office is supporting the implementation by the respective governments. The Regional Management Office (RMO) has been set up under SFA to support the implementation of the activities and to provide advisory services and guidance to the National Authorizing Officer (NAO) in the three islands.

SFA funding is designed to facilitate economic adjustment and appropriate economic diversification during the final days of the protected banana trade regime with the European Union. The SFA implementation must pay explicit attention to the needs of those historically dependent on the banana sector as well as measures which address the needs of the wider community.

The governments of the three islands and the EC agreed that the allocation should be used to foster ICT and e-business as part of an economic diversification strategy which would enhance competitiveness and both directly and indirectly benefit those currently dependent on the banana sector and society as a whole. The overall objective of this approach is creating an enabling ICT and e-Business environment, which provides the opportunity for the private sector to increase investment and enhance its capacity for economic competitiveness. Within the context of the SFA remit as a whole, the objective of this ap-

proach is to support diversification which will create employment opportunities for those currently and historically dependent on bananas and to create dynamic new opportunities for young people.

Grenada has a virtual incubator component, which will be implemented through a service contract. St Vincent and the Grenadines has a management service contract for its incubator component. The tender has been launched recently. St Vincent also has a plan for the construction of a facility which will house a national ICT training and the incubator facility.

The components for the SFA for the 3 islands are as follows:

| Components | Dominica | Grenada | St. Vincent & Grenadine |
|--|----------|---------|-------------------------|
| ICT, e-Business Strategy, Leadership and Awareness Development | √ | | √ |
| Business skills development and e-business incubators | | √ | √ |
| Capacity-building | √ | √ | |
| Construction and establishment of a national ICT training and incubator facility | | √ | |
| Legislative and Regulatory Framework | √ | √ | |
| Business-oriented e-government Initiatives | √ | | √ |
| Networking and experience-sharing (Region Management Office) | √ | √ | √ |

The project life for the SFA is from March 2007 to Feb. 2010. Dominica has a management service contract for its incubator component. The contract was awarded to UTECH in Jamaica. Contact: Roshan Kumar Seebaluck at roshan.krs@gmail.com

CABIN

Incubator Benchmarking

The Central Asian Business Incubators' Network portal has new address at www.cabinetwork.org.

SodBi Business Incubator in Shymkent, Kazakhstan is happy to present a special newsletter of the project "Benchmarking for

CABIN". This newsletter includes short information about the project and summary of the research results.

More and detailed information is available on the new CABIN portal www.cabinetwork.org.

Morocco

Strong interest in starting business

By Ilyas Azzoui

Results of a survey on views of PHD students in Morocco on entrepreneurship show a high level of interest and rather realistic views on what has to be expected when starting a business.

Compared with other countries (e.g. France or Belgium) Moroccan PhD's students seem to be significantly more interested in setting up their own business (innovative spin-offs) and at the same time they seem to be quite well informed what to ex-

pect. The perceived barriers (notably access to funding) impede the translation of their entrepreneurial intentions into start-up actions.

At the 5th MENAinc Workshop to be held in Bahrain October 21 - 24, 2006 results of this study will be made available in detail.

Information: Ilyas Azzoui, Email: azzoui@cnrst.ma

Rwanda***Supporting Technology Based Start-Up Businesses***

TBIF, the Technology Business Development Facility works under the Department of Private Sector Development under Centre of Innovations and Technology Transfer (CITT) at KIST. The Department of Private Sector development also has a division, the KIST Enterprise Development Fund (KEDF).

The KEDF has been set up with the assistance of the President of Rwanda and UNDP to address financial needs of entrepreneurs looking for start-up capital for their enterprises but often

have no access to finance from commercial banks.

TBIF now graduated 15 students on "Basic Corporate Business Management skills". Financial institutions due to insufficient securities of the applicants do not provide the needed finance. Therefore KEDF provides loans to qualified Rwandan graduates who wish to establish technology businesses. within identified priority sectors as defined by the Rwanda Government.

Contact: Rajeev Aggarwal, tbif@kist.ac.rw

Africa***Regional Networks met to shape Future***

The **Southern African Regional Workshop** for the African Incubator Network took place in early July 2007. The goal of the AIN is to develop a collaborative Pan-African network of incubators and other business development service providers. The objectives were to share experiences regarding incubation and challenges; cultivate government/policy support and expand AIN membership; review the progress of the network and develop strategies for a way forward. One of the key goals of this event has been to gain maximum exposure over Africa and across relevant role players who share the vision of incubation across the African continent.

The workshop was opened by the Minister of Science & Technology from the Mozambique Government, H.E. Prof. Dr. Eng. Venâncio Massingue. The Minister exclaimed his excitement with regards to the whole concept of the African Incubator Network. He was very enthusiastic about the future of the AIN

The **Eastern Africa Regional Workshop**, held 12- 13 July 2007 was the pioneer networking conference of the East and Central African Network (ECAIN).

Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI), supported by *infoDev* in collaboration with Softstart hosted this event with the theme **Strengthening Linkages between Incubators, Incubatees and other Stakeholders**. The conference objectives were; to share experiences, cultivate government/policy support and expand AIN membership, review progress of the network and develop strategies for a way forward.

The Conference with representation from countries such as; Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Africa, and Uganda highlighted the benefits of business incubation and the harnessing of innovations for commercial gain. Case studies / success stories of incubation were presented and discussed and strate-

The **Western Africa Regional Workshop**, held 16- 17 July 2007 in Accra, Ghana, gathered over fifty incubator professionals, business development service providers, government decision makers and higher education representatives from West Africa and other countries (Senegal, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Benin, Ghana, South Africa, Uganda, Canada) to exchange knowledge on incubation in the region and to expand the AIN by attracting and integrating new members and partners.

The workshop was opened by the Minister of Communication, Dr. Benjamin Aggrey-Ntim. In his statement, he said that the "Government of Ghana on its part remains committed to facilitating policy development aimed at promoting business development that will ensure that business start-ups are equipped with the necessary grounding to survive and be competitive in the global market."

and congratulated all involved on their hard work and dedication towards such a worthy cause.

Group discussions led to imperative key focus areas which will pave the way forward for the African Incubator Network, some of the key outputs were awareness creation, promotion, funding, training and capacity building. This event was the first of three workshops in Africa to ensure maximum exposure to university representatives and government as well as incubator professionals throughout the continent. The Maputo workshop attracted more than fifty key role players from various spheres of incubation on an international level. Representation covered countries such as Angola, Botswana, Ghana, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South-Africa, Uganda and Zambia.

The success of the African Incubator Network lies with its members - the groundwork has been done and the members will now take it to a whole new level.

gies elaborated for working towards the promotion and strengthening of regional collaboration

Janat Mukwaya, the Uganda Minister of Tourism, Trade and Industry, confirmed government commitment to entrepreneurship as a critical approach to development. Business incubators provide support for fledging Micro Small and Medium Enterprises by creating an environment where start-ups can be nurtured and allowed to flourish. She promised that after Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting (CHOGM), government is committed to ensuring to deliver on her mandate.

Participants agreed that networking is very effective in promoting incubator initiatives and innovations through enabling incubators to share lessons and ideas. Participants should promote the AIN in their countries by attracting members to join the network

The first day's sessions covered important aspects of the role West African Government's, incubation and education plays in promoting innovative small enterprises. Case studies were examined, providing useful insight into the progress being made in Senegal (NCNW Women's Business Centre), Ghana (Oguua Business Incubator) and Nigeria (Technology Incubation Centre). Group brainstorm sessions day identified five key areas of importance: Linkages; Capacity building; Monitoring and Evaluation; Entrepreneurs and Financing of incubators and incubatees. At all levels the sharing of knowledge and strengthening of linkages amongst all stakeholders was identified as key to the successful achievement of our unified objective

This workshop was organised by BusyInternet for AIN in collaboration with *infoDev*, SPEED and GIMIC.

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Qatar

Proof of Concept Fund helps Commercializing Technologies



As the universities at Qatar's Education City start ramping up their research programs, Qatar Science & Technology Park making sure the fruits of that research will

Transformed into successful businesses. QSTP's "Proof of Concept Fund" came on line in autumn, providing grants for university researchers to explore the market potential of their discoveries.

As its name suggests the fund is designed to "prove out" the technical viability and market potential of lab-based innovations. It provides grants to researchers in universities and small-to-medium companies to build prototypes, plan a route to market, and prepare a business plan. Applicants can be from anywhere in the world, as long as the project (and any subsequent commercialization) is located in Qatar.

The fund has been resourced with \$12 million over its first five years, and if the pilot proves successful it could be scaled up. At the wheel is **Paul Field**, QSTP's Technology Transfer Manager.

"When you look at the major research programs that are being planned by the universities at Education business incubator across the road, they fit very neatly together.

"One of the most promising projects under discussion is a collaboration between Qatar University and local industry on a new soil remediation technique After all these "proven" technologies and business plans the next stage of QSTP's commercialization funds will come in. QSTP is currently working on setting up a 'seed' and a venture capital fund. These are designed to move the technologies finally into the marketplace by providing capital to grow businesses. The long term vision is for these new companies to form the basis of a knowledge economy in Qatar.

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UK

UK Business Incubation News in Brief

Exploiting Knowledge & Innovation

Sponsored by IXC-UK Exploiting Knowledge & Innovation took place on July 5 at Imperial College, London. UKBI participants were joined by Alfred Dietel from Imperial College Innovations, Mike Hield from IXC-UK and Iain Hyslop from The Scottish Microelectronics Centre. With an excellent program the final session of the day made for an interesting discussion with delegates posing questions to Grant Thornton's Head of National Technology Sarika Patel. The day offered lots of networking opportunities and a wealth of learning.

Encouraging & Achieving Enterprise & Innovation in Minority Communities. More than 4,000 budding entrepreneurs and people growing their businesses in disadvantaged areas

across the UK received a massive boost after 33 business incubators were awarded a share of the £5 million fund for the further development of services. The aim of this event was to explore the impact of the Business Incubation Development (BID) Fund on enterprises and entrepreneurs from disadvantaged areas. It explored how social enterprises can be supported and what this Fund has achieved. Discussions on whether the Fund had met its objectives or not was also explored. The main outcome from the day was the emergence of the need for the BID Fund to continue. UKBI will take this forward in their continued lobbying of government to obtain support for the industry.

For more information contact UKBI: t.wanklin@ukbi.co.uk

Saudi Arabia

There are several initiatives for establishing business incubators and technology parks in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. For example in the Eastern Province the Chamber of Commerce and Industry is planning to launch a technology business incubator. According to the actual needs in Saudi Arabia this incubator will care about the full process from the initial idea for a business to graduation of a matured business from the incubator. This incubator will focus on technologies that are relevant to this region: oil, gas, electricity, and water desalination. It is expected that several Chambers for Commerce and industry in the country will follow this model in coming years, for example in Jeddah, Qassim, Medina, Abha, and Jizan.

The King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) aims at launching a series of business incubators in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) with a focus on transforming ideas from the science sector into business. This is in addition to the project of the King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah that is considering establishing an incubator on the university campus.

There also are initiatives for promoting transfer of technology between scientific institutions on one side and the industry on the other. The opening of the King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz scientific center in 2004 is an example for this approach. This center operation in close cooperation with the University of King Fahd for petroleum and Minerals. This ambitious project covers an area of 75 hectares and cooperates also with the engineering faculties.

A foundation for these and other initiatives in Saudi Arabia was laid by an international study analyzing experience from many countries for making this knowledge available for the projects in Saudi Arabia. A special focus of this study was put on experience with benefiting from cooperation between scientific and educational institutions. Technology Parks and incubators from more than 30 countries answered to the questionnaire that was developed for this study and results therefore integrate a wide spectrum of different experiences.

Contact and more information can be obtained by contacting Dr. Nabil Shalaby, Email nabil@chamber.org.sa

By Nabil Shalaby

Taiwan

Incubator for Cultural Innovation

By Charlemagne Chen

A cultural innovative incubator is in development in Taiwan as the first private-run cultural innovative incubator in this country. The business plan and the building are available. Now

recruiting staff and remodeling work is in progress. Opening of the incubator is scheduled

Contact: Charlemagne Chen, email: ccchen@iserdt.com

The Islamic University of Gaza (IUG) has received a grant from the Information for Development Program (infoDev) for to building local capacity in the target business communities, and supporting IUG ICT incubator performance. IUG ICT incubator is a center of innovations, which provides an instructive and supportive environment to entrepreneurs and investors to convert their ideas to sustainable feasible businesses. Lately, IUG ICT incubator 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 have held a training program – as pre incubation phase – for fresh graduates from Gaza Engineering and IT faculties. It concentrated on 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 and 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 Al tabbaa at otabbaa@mail.iugaza.edu

More Networking

BI 9: Business Incubation, Innovation & Entrepreneurship – The Global Challenge.



UK Business Incubation is developing the program around the most popular topics and are moving the whole agenda forward to tackle issues which affect everyone including the more experienced members of the industry.

The Conference sessions at BI 9 will provide the opportunity to showcase the wealth of successful businesses that have been nurtured through the incubation process, through case study examples from both the UK and Internationally.

Speakers include the BBC's Business News front man Declan Curry. Conference participants will have access to a captive audience of 300 giving you the ideal opportunity to demonstrate your product and raise your brand awareness, with advertising extending beyond this three day event as literature is distributed to our contacts from all over the world that were unable to make this unique event. For detailed conference information, please check the website www.ukbi.co.uk.

UKBI International Champion

For the second year running, UKBI will be recognizing individuals/organizations who have striven to share good practice across the globe, breaking down cultural and or linguistic barriers for the good of entrepreneurs and businesses.

- Have you driven forward the business incubation agenda within your organization or country?
- Do you truly believe in the positive impact business incubation has on communities and economies?
- Do you believe the process and not the property really support start-up businesses and entrepreneurs?
- Have you worked across country boundaries to share your good practice and learn from other countries and cultures?

If so, apply for the "UKBI International Champion of the Year award" and get the recognition you deserve! If you would like to nominate a colleague, please contact: Toni Wanklin at t.wanklin@ukbi.co.uk

Best Science Bases Incubator Award – Seville, Spain, 29-20, November 2007

The Dutch based "Science Alliance" since 2002 is organizing the "Best Practices in Science Based Incubators" conference and Award for business incubators in different categories. The "Hot topics" on the conference agenda are Expanding, Incubators Services", "Connecting with Venture Capital", How to successfully use Internationalization Processes", or "From Pre-Starting Businesses towards Gazelle Creation".

The Best Science Based Incubator Award since the beginning is part of this annual conference. Questionnaires for applying for this award are available through Science Alliance (see website <http://www.science-alliance.nl/>). Decision on the award is taken by an international committee of experts..

For further details contact: Geertjan Kampman, Email g.kampman@science-alliance.nl

San Antonio, Texas, USA, May 4 – 7, 2008: NBIA's 22nd International Conference on Business Incubation

NBIA now is accepting proposals for session speakers, panel moderators, roundtable facilitators and full-day workshop presenters for NBIA's 22nd International Conference on Business Incubation or the Preconference Institute.

This conference will be held May 4-7, 2008, in San Antonio, Texas. The Preconference Institute will be held May 3-4.

These events offer a platform to share information and learn new practices and strategies. For more information about presenting at the conference and to submit a session proposal, visit http://www.nbia.org/nbia_events/call_for_sessions/index.php.

The deadline for session proposals is Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2007. For details contact education@nbia.org or www.nbia.org

World Conference of Science Parks in Johannesburg, South Africa, September 2008

The next World Conference on Science and Technology Parks will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2008 and is organised by The Innovation Hub

If you are interested in presenting a paper at this conference, please be aware that your have less than one month to go. The deadline for proposals of presentations is **November 1, 2007**

For information about the themes and content of the scientific programme together with technical specifications for papers please visit the website iasp2008papers@iasp.ws or http://www.iaspsa2008.com_for_the_conference for general conference information or send your paper by email to [EbbaLund at iasp2008papers@iasp.ws](mailto:EbbaLund@iasp2008papers@iasp.ws)

New members – Welcome to the network



Lamia Al-Abbasi

when hearing that Bahrain Development Bank intended to start a business incubator was inspired to join this initiative. Since inception of the Bahrain Business Incubator Centre (BBIC) in January 2002, she is working there as Business Development Co-ordinator. Her day to day task is to assist and coordinate with the incubator's clients request. She also is responsible for marketing activities, presentations, and updating the entrepreneurs about latest development related to their activities. Part of this is managing the BBIC website, commercial relationship with various government and non-government organizations.

Lately, Lamia accepted additional responsibility for working for MENAinc helping to manage and coordinate this network. Lamia's motto is "When you serve people and if you can bring smiles and gratitude, you have achieved something in your life". She strongly believes that giving the best of her abilities on a platform as business incubation will provide even more opportunities for satisfying her motto. Lamia is Bahraini, married and blessed with a lovely daughter (4 years old). She completed her education at Bahrain University holding an Office Management Diploma and started her career with a renowned bank as a Secretary. At this time Lamia is one of the pillars for organizing the 5th MENAinc workshop in Bahrain. She is joining SPICE Group under the institutional membership of Omer Oz, Bahrain Business Incubation Center.

Contact: lamiabah@gmail.com

Do you find your country in these lists? If not, read the following information carefully

Reports

Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Croatia, Estonia, France, Greece, Ireland, Korea, Lithuania, New Zealand, Romania, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Vietnam are the countries already included in the Anniversary Report

The answers to the "SPICE Anniversary Questions" were the basis for a draft publication of a "SPICE Discussion Paper" that was presented at the SPICE Meeting in Riga by **Barbara Harley** and intensively discussed by the attendees. In general the proposal to kick-off a series of publications found approval and the discussion resulted in a number of topics on the "to-do-list".

Authors of this discussion paper will be invited to check and edit their report on the last decade of business incubation in their country. Members and friends are invited to contribute by providing their views.

This process will lead to a report containing brief descriptions of the development of business incubation in different countries during the last ten years. 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. Members and would-be authors may receive a draft report from the SPICE Secretariat at 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, Latvia. 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. These 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) 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...

And these are the Triangles already on the SPICE Art Ball (in bold letters: final versions)

Armenia, Australia, Bahrain, Belarus, China, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, Sweden, Taiwan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and USA

And finally...

Last not least it is important to again focus your attention on the next presentation of the SPICE Art Ball. It is scheduled to take place in Dominican Republic at the ICT Forum, November 21-24, 2007. If your country is not yet presented properly on this art ball there still are a few weeks time for creating a triangle painting that symbolizes innovation, technology, history, culture, and politics of your country. We will prepare an update version of the booklet distributed at the presentation in Riga – one more opportunity for promoting your activities in supporting innovation and entrepreneurship.

Looking forward to hearing from you and meeting you at one of the upcoming events

Heinz Fiedler & Larisa Brovarska