



# UPDATE No. 78

For members only

January 2008

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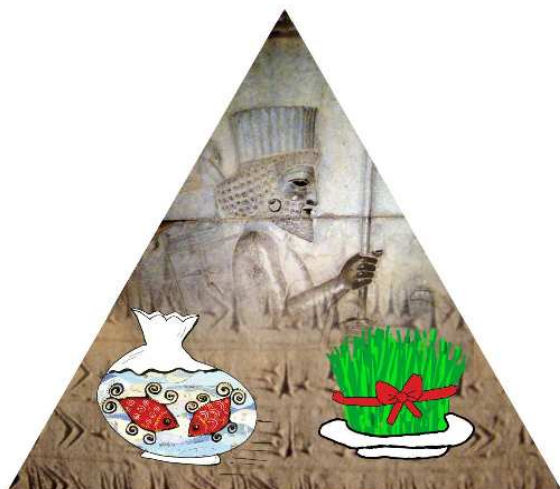
Dear Member,

With this first issue of our newsletter in the year 2008 we continue reporting on the progress in innovative art – the triangles for the SPICE Art Ball. Another global initiative was brought into life by UKBI: the Global Innovation Day to be organized first time in this year and the finalized SPICE Art Ball at that occasion could be an example for symbolizing international cooperation in innovation and entrepreneurship support. We therefore encourage all countries not yet represented on the art ball (see page 8 of this Update) to participate in this project

by contributing a triangle shaped painting. Examples how other countries found creative ways for representing history, culture, technology, economy, innovation and more can be seen on the art ball website.

Further initiatives worth to spend thoughts and time for the international conference in Skopje, Macedonia and the incubation support activity planned for Georgia. For both activities SPICE members are invited to contribute to organization and preparation as well as to attend. More information in this Update and under [www.spice-group.net/events](http://www.spice-group.net/events).

## More triangles for the SPICE Art Ball



The series of presentations of triangles for the SPICE Art Ball continues with these two pieces of art work from SPICE Member countries in Europe and Asia. For more information about these triangles and the rules for participation, please visit the art ball website [www.art.ball.net](http://www.art.ball.net)



## SPICE Art Ball Booklet

For the SPICE Art Ball booklet we still need summaries describing the situation and development of business incubation, technology parks, entrepreneurship support, and associations in participating countries (those that contributed with a triangle

painting. The short descriptions will be printed in the booklet for contributing to better information and marketing for the incubators and their clients. Please send your material to the SPICE Group Secretariat: [spice@spice-group.de](mailto:spice@spice-group.de)

## National Innovation Structures and Policies

The publication “Innovation Infrastructures in Western Balkan Countries” was a result of the project “**Information Office of the Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkan Countries**”, which is co-funded by the European Community's Programme for Specific International Scientific Cooperation Activities (INCO) under the 6th FP for Research and

Technological Development. The Steering Platform, launched by the European Commission and the Austrian Council Presidency in June 2006, plays a central role to stimulate, monitor, coordinate and support the cooperation in research and technological development (RTD) between the EU and the Western Balkan countries (WBCs). It is a forum for *(continued on page 2)*

## Arab Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF): 5<sup>th</sup> Investing in Technology Forum

Arab Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF), a UAE-based, independent, non-governmental and non-profit organisation that complements the scientific and technological efforts in the Arab world, has recently successfully concluded the 5th Investing in Technology Forum which hosted another round of high-level discussions regarding the impact of technology on

the region's economy. The forum took place in Jordan's capital Amman under the patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al Hussein; the Forum also showcased the finest Arab technology start-ups before international investors and business organisations, and honoured the winners of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Arab Technology Business Plan Competition**. *(continued on page 2)*

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### ***National Innovation Structures and Policies (continued)***

exchange of information, views and recommendations on the RTD policy and aims to establish a common information base. The "Information Office" project duration is 24 months: from May 2006 - April 2008 and is implemented through the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) and the Austrian Research Promotion Agency. More information about the project and activities are available at [www.SEE-Science.EU](http://www.SEE-Science.EU)

The 'Information Office' project activities will not end in April 2008, but will be even more enhanced and continued through another project WBC-INCO.NET with its three core objectives: to support the bi-regional dialogue on S&T; to identify RTD priorities and RTD potentials in a transparent and methodologically sound way in the WBC, and to enhance the participation of researchers from the WBC in European projects. Information and contact: Elke Dall, [dall@zsi.at](mailto:dall@zsi.at).

The publication "Innovation Infrastructures in Western Balkan Countries" contains 6 thematic reports on innovation infrastructures for enhancing the understanding of the national innovation systems in 6 target countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia (incl. Kosovo/UNMIK). The reports are providing an overview

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### ***ASTAF: 5<sup>th</sup> Investing in Technology Forum (continued)***

"The success of the 5th Investing in Technology Forum bodes well for technology investments in the region, which are essential to the sustained growth of the Middle East's economies. ASTF will continue to strengthen and build up the Forum, making it a matchless complementary program that will cultivate innovation, entrepreneurship and technological investments in the region," said Dr. Abdalla Alnajjar, President, ASTF.

The Forum was punctuated by keynote speeches and presentations from 40 high-profile technology experts, while there were also two enlightening workshops conducted by prominent figures on IP Valuation and technology companies Funding. "The forum falls in line with ASTF's efforts to bridge the gap between those who generate technology, and those who generate businesses and investments. The ultimate aim of this merger is to create strong, innovative, technology-based businesses able to compete worldwide. Such linkages will support further technology research and development, thus creating a much-needed momentum able to drive Arab economies into the new

of the situation as regards "Innovation Infrastructures" such as clusters, technology and innovation centers, technological and science parks, business-start-up centers/ technology incubators and some further related organizations. General environment, important strategic documents and main programs and support instruments are described with contact details are listed.

The thematic reports are based on desk research, interviews and questionnaires with main stakeholders. Relevant information was gathered through individual contacts with key stakeholders and from web pages of different international organizations and networks

The reports were compiled in summer 2007, updated in October 2007, and presented at the SEE Innovation Conference (Thessaloniki, Greece end of November 2007) as well as at the WP6 meeting of SEE-ERA.NET (Salzburg, Austria in December 2007).

For the future it is intended to secure sufficient financial resources for restructuring and enhancing the publication to much broader content

Publication download <http://www.see-science.eu/doc/2331.html>

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web: [www.zsi.at](http://www.zsi.at), [www.SEE-Science.EU](http://www.SEE-Science.EU)

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millennium," said Farhan Kalaldehy, Investing in Technology Program Manager, ASTF. Members of the investment and business community, including venture capital funds, private equity funds and investment banks, attended the high-profile Forum. Arab technology leaders and representatives of incubators and technology parks were also present to capitalize on the gathering's investment and networking opportunities. ASTF co-organized the Forum with Islamic Development Bank, while the strategic partners included Jordan-based King Abdullah II Fund for Development, Queen Rania Centre for Entrepreneurship, Young Entrepreneurs Association, iPARK, the UAE's Arab Business Angels Network, and ALJ Community Services Programs from KSA. Catalyst Private Equity, Riyadh Ventures and Talal Abu-Chazaleh Organization, all Jordan based, were event partners. Germany's TVM Capital also supported the event, while UAE-based CNBC Arabiya and ABQ Zawya LLC were the media partners. The Jordanian organizations participated in this forum with the generous support and contributions of SABEQ program.

<http://www.dubailife.com/news/index.asp?id=994>

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## ***Incubators in Environmental Technologies and Clean Energy***

### ***The Global Network***

GBIN, the Global Business Incubation Associations Network, invited all incubators with clients in Clean Technology, Clean Development and Environmental Industries to join a project work group to form GABICEET, Global Alliance of Business Incubators in Clean Energy and Environmental Technologies

Interest in membership has been indicated by incubators from three continents. A summary of interests and possibly action soon will be provided. SPICE Group (Science Park and Innovation Centre's Expert Group), [www.spice-group.de](http://www.spice-group.de), will support organizing this networks that is led by Julian Webb, Australia.

For actual information including members, next steps and further activities, please contact Julian Webb, CREEDA at [Julian.webb@creedaprojects.com.au](mailto:Julian.webb@creedaprojects.com.au)

### ***PIN in Environment Technologies***

The Pacific Incubation Network in conjunction with NBIA end of November held a meeting in Fresno, California, to focus on matters of environmental and clean energy technologies. Attended by more than 25 individuals the meeting was a complete success and brought up issues of interest to those involved in business incubation in the Pacific region of Canada, Mexico and the United States. Attendees also toured the new Claude Laval Water and Energy Technology Incubator in Fresno. PIN has made tentative plans to continue holding such meetings, for example at NBIA's 22nd International Conference on Business Incubation in San Antonio in May this year. Thanks to Craig Scharton and the staff of the Central Valley Business Incubator for hosting the Fresno event.

Info & contact: Craig Scharton, [info@cvbi.org](mailto:info@cvbi.org)

## Biofuel Project Powered By Innov-E seeks to create a new breed of Agri-Entrepreneurs in the Dominican Republic

The Alliance in Energy and Ambiance subscribed by Finland and Austria with the Central American Countries and the Dominican Republic (AEA) is paving the road for one of the most exciting renewable energy projects in the Dominican Republic. A member company of the Innov-E Enterprise Innovation Center has been powered to obtain logistical and financial support from the AEA to start a Jatropha Curcas nursery and set up a farmers network that seeks to create a new breed of agricultural entrepreneurs in the Dominican Republic.

As a net importer of oil products the Dominican Republic has been feeling the impact of the cost increase of fossil fuels in the international markets. The search for renewable, cleaner and less costly fuels therefore has become an imperative. The Biocombustibles project, slated to start end of January 2008 has already began land preparation and already has farmers interest to commit to this new crop in excess of 150 hectares in the area of Sabana de la Mar, located in the hilly terrain of the southern shores of the Samana Bay .

Enrique Gonzalez and Rosendo Alvarez III have identified land that it is currently not being farmed and that can be the platform for a gradual transformation of the way much needed foreign exchange that is virtually "burned" by an energy hungry 10 million population in the island by substituting imported fuels with locally produced non-fossil, earth friendly biofuels. In addition to this positive impact, the project will create

a new income source for the farmers in the region, as they will have the purchase of all their crops assured by the Biocombustibles initiative. Although the main consumers of the biofuel from Jatropha will be the transportation industry (cars, motorcycles, etc), power plant manufacturers like Wartsila are constructing electrical power generators that can run on vegetable oil such as the one generated by the Jatropha Curcas.

This plant in fact yields 2.300 cc of oil per plant, it can provide two crops a year, withstands very dry seasons and has a productive life of about 50 years. The Biocombustibles project is targeting a monthly production of 1,450,000 gallons of Jatropha oil through a targeted network of 2,900 Dominican BioEntrepreneurs.

Info & contact: R. Alvarez, [cybercityholdings@yahoo.com](mailto:cybercityholdings@yahoo.com)



Veikko Soralathi, from MFA of Finland, and Rosendo Alvarez III, Chief Innovation Director of Innov-E, at the Biocombustibles farm in the DR



## Business and Innovation Centre Plzeň – International Networking as Key to Success

BIC (Business and Innovation Centre) Plzeň Czech Republic, in its actual newsletter (see [www.bic.cz](http://www.bic.cz)) summarizes the results of the recent year and emphasises the importance of networking. BIC Plzeň has been providing advisory, information and assistance services to innovative SMEs for many years. Since 1992, when the company was founded, its staff have successfully built up a broad range of expertise and tailored services for its clients. BIC Plzeň's work in 2007, as in previous years, was focused on four main areas: (International) Technology Transfer; consulting especially in business planning and doing business in the EU; and information, especially regarding the optimal location of innovative companies.



Jana Klementova

BIC Plzeň's many years of membership in European and national business support networks is a great asset in achieving and maintaining a high standard of service provision. Soon after it was founded, BIC Plzeň became one of the first Czech members of the European Business and Innovation Centres Network (EBN) Since then it has progressively joined other European networks. In 2000 it became a member of the largest international technology transfer support network: the Innovation Relay Centres (IRC). The hundreds of foreign partners and tools in this network enable BIC Plzeň to provide high quality specialised services. To launch and develop international business companies also need access to information, knowledge, contacts, and services enabling them to be competitive in the global entrepreneurial environment. Companies have been receiving such information from BIC Plzeň for more than ten years now thanks also to its membership in the EIC (Euro Info Centres) network.

BIC Plzeň's membership in these networks has added value to the services it provides and has proved the synergic effects of cooperation. The similar experience in other countries, and in particular the endeavour to streamline support for business and innovation, has led the European Commission to decide unite these networks under a single programme as from 2008. This new CIP (Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme) is implemented alongside the Structural Funds and the Seventh Framework Programme for R&D as the EU's most important business innovation support instrument for the period 2007-2013. The CIP covers five areas, one of which being the creation of a new network of centres offering advisory and other services to businesses. Called the Enterprise Europe Network, it will continue the activities of the IRC and EIC. BIC Plzeň's inclusion in the new network, however, could not be taken for granted and required successful participation in a tender To cut red tape and streamline the CIP's procedures, the European Commission, moreover, decided to support just one project per region, and in the case of Czech Republic this meant whole country. In early 2008 a project proposal was therefore drawn up in cooperation with 10 other Czech partners. The project was given the go-ahead at the end of the year and a framework agreement was signed.

Of course, BIC Plzeň also provided successfully support to technology start-ups and innovative companies – one of its most important and requested services.

For more information, check the website [www.bic.cz](http://www.bic.cz) or contact Jana Klementova at [Klement@bic.cz](mailto:Klement@bic.cz)



## Views & Facts

### Jordan *The JIC Network*

Development of the Jordan Innovation Center Network (JIC) began in 2005 with establishing two initial incubators (Agro-Industries JIC at University of Jordan and Engineers & Enterprises JIC at RSS). This activity is part of the development of an Innovation Policy for Jordan – jointly with the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Higher Council for Science & Technology and hosting entities of innovation centers. Another important part of these initiatives is a seed capital fund program to support start-up companies.

The JIC Network was established as a support organization where JICs can interact with peers, discuss issues, relate progress and access international networks. The JIC Network proactively supports existing and helps establishing new incubators. Capacity building for incubator staff is an important part of this program, for example by organizing training courses together with other agencies. The directors of the business incubators are member of the JIC Network Board the network that maintains an office a full time JIC Director and Administrative Assistant. Innovation centers / incubators in Jordan provide a

full set of business services, such as Company Formation & Registration, Business Planning, Feasibility Studies, Marketing & Communication, Marketing Support Services (Corporate identity, marketing toolkit, website development), Financial Strategy & Planning, and Management Information System. The JIC Network will generate own resources “Client oriented behavior”, continue building capacity for implementing national and community policies, gather information about innovation and publish annual JIC Network observatory to help JIC Network positioning, explain achievements, and raise its profile and standing. Benchmarking of results, approaches and methods.

JE, Enterprise ( [www.jedco.gov.jo](http://www.jedco.gov.jo)) is currently in the process of establishing two new business incubators in cooperation with the “Support to Research and Technological Development and Innovation Initiative and Strategies Project”, which is part of the EU Neighborhood Agreement with Jordan. One of the two new incubators will focused on women.

Contact: Ms. Muna Tarawneh, [tarawneh@jedco.gov.jo](mailto:tarawneh@jedco.gov.jo)

### Jordan *QRCE Organized a World-Class Workshop in Technology Innovation*

David Pensak, an internationally known leader of computer software technology and innovation, has joined The George Washington University Law School’s Creative and Innovative Economy Center (CIEC) and embarked on a series of workshops hosted in developing countries around the globe. Pensak conducted research at the Dupont Corporation for more than 30 years. During that time, he engaged in additional business ventures, including Raptor Systems the software company that developed the first commercially successful Internet firewall.

The Technology Innovation Workshop, held in Amman, Jordan in January 2008 was attended by senior managers in biomedicine and health care, food and natural products, ICT and logistics. The objectives were to learn how to identify problems that people share and will pay for their solutions and to devise clever and simple solutions.

The Queen Rania Center for Entrepreneurship (QRCE) took Pensak in a tour around business incubators including iPark and JIC. He was -very impressed about innovation behind the first two years winners of QRNEC - the first and only technology

business plan competition in Jordan.

QRCE aims to develop technology entrepreneurship in Jordan by focusing on issues such as:

capacity building, consulting, counselling and developing the local “Entrepreneurial Personality & Spirit”. Furthermore, the QRCE is running programs, including: Queen Rania National Entrepreneurship Competition (QRNEC), CONNECT Program (TCP), and the students entrepreneurship club (DART). QRCE is an integral part of Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT), the academic arm of El Hassan Science City (EHSC), which includes national pioneer institutions which are the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) and Royal Scientific Society.

Contact: Mohamad M. Khawaja, [mkhawaja@qrce.org](mailto:mkhawaja@qrce.org)



### ECA *ECAbit active in building cooperation*

The infoDev network of business incubators in Eastern and Central Europe, ECAbit, has established active work groups:

The **Work group "Rural Innovation"** has generated information on existing support programs and good practice as well as project ideas. Until March 2008, the group aims to identify collaborative project potentials and to prepare the development plan for 2008. Focus areas include eco-tourism and technology transfer in agriculture.

The **Work group "Youth and Innovation"** currently is preparing an international "Most Innovative Business Idea" contest addressing young people in the ECA region. A concept draft and working plan for the contest are prepared and the intranet system supporting collaboration and information exchange is being set up.

The **Work group "SME Education in Transition"** The working group SME Education in Transition discussed its further development, including an advanced value added model addressing quality and certification of SME trainers and consultants in the ECA region.

The **Work group "Incubation 2020"** progressed the cross-regional collaboration with Asian network partners. ARC Fund Bulgaria and the Center for Research and Consulting on Management at Hanoi University of Technology, Vietnam started collaborative research project titled "The Impact of Global Relocation of Information Technology Production on the Transfer of Knowledge, Innovation and R&D Spillovers".

For more details check the ECAbit website [www.ecabit.org](http://www.ecabit.org) or contact Andriy Tarelin, [atarelin@ubica-ict.kiev.ua](mailto:atarelin@ubica-ict.kiev.ua)

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**Georgia** *7,000 years of Experience – Lighthouse project for SME Development*

The Georgian “Competence Centre for Vine, Wine Marketing & Wine Tourism” (CCVMT) is a “Lighthouse project” set up for innovating processes and creating a basis for sustainable business growth for its clients. In the long run it will generate a positive impact on the whole local or regional economy. Especially in countries lacking infrastructure, a lighthouse project can be more effective and efficient than aiming directly at improving the infrastructure in general.

Wine was and is one of the most important Georgian export goods and has a high potential for the European and other new markets, where Georgian wine, produced by 200 SMEs, is not very known yet. Wine from 500 endemic grape varieties has been grown in Georgia for 7.000 years and is a deep rooted part of the Georgian culture. The export volume decreased dramatically after the Russian import stop for wine in March 2006 because before that during about 80 years the main export markets have been the USSR and later the CIS and the East European countries. The GTZ-project “Private sector development in Georgia” realised the need to improve quality and explore new markets for Georgian wines and in December 2006 designed a wine competence centre from where Georgian wine-experts support wine-makers all over Georgia. An example for activities of CCVMT is establishing a wine quality control system that did not exist before, but is necessary for getting import permissions for the European Union. The “German Technical Cooperation GmbH” (GTZ) implemented a laboratory, providing physico-chemical

and microbiological examination of grapes and grape products. Georgian wine experts are operating in the CCVMT. These experts are working for improving the wine industry in all sections of wine production and marketing. In addition they are supporting direct distribution via wine tourism development. The equipment for the CCVMT was financed by the GTZ-project and from the very beginning of the project financial sustainability was an important goal. Therefore only the first two days of consulting service of the CCVMT are free of charge for Georgian companies. In 2007, it was expected that up to 60% of the income would be provided by the private sector, for 2008 the objective is 80%.

Important lessons learned from this project are that involving local experts is a fast way for getting in touch with the SMEs, especially because no language barriers exist and the businesses accept local advice easier. A limited financial budget focused on a lighthouse project leads to better results than spreading resources on more projects. Working with free-lancing experts ensures flexibility of a project that in the beginning should have a focus on training, especially regarding networking and openness for investors and Public Private Partnership. Creating international acceptance for the local experts is a strong encouraging factor. And finally, a business plan and services adapted to the target needs are of critical importance

**Contact:** Mr. Knut Gerber, E-Mail: [knut.gerber@gtz.de](mailto:knut.gerber@gtz.de)

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**Georgia** *SPICE Supporting Incubator Development in Georgia*

The political situation of Georgia is known from the media and requires special attention of those wanting to maintain the momentum of entrepreneurship in this country. Despite of the unstable situation incubation enthusiasts in Georgia found their way to start business incubation activities of different kinds. With an international workshop to be held in 2008 several aims are targeted; here just two examples:

- Raising awareness for the importance of small and medium enterprises for the economy and the need political attention for creating a supportive framework
- Promoting the exchange of knowledge and experience and

building national as well as international cooperation for strengthening business development

In Georgia incubators and projects have joined for preparing an event serving these goals. We now are in the process of identifying SPICE Group members and friends ready to help realizing this initiative by providing their experience and support from preparing the workshop to contributing as a speaker.

In case you do not know Georgia: It is a place worth visiting because of its nature, climate and people.

For more information, please contact [spice@spice-group.de](mailto:spice@spice-group.de)

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**Estonia** *Cooperation with German Partner for building a Business Incubator*

European „Best Practice Models“ – leave the question at the side for a moment what “best” practice is – are used for supporting business incubation activities for knowledge based enterprises. The TIGZ Ginsheim-Gustavsburg/ Rüsselsheim successfully finalized work on a three-years EU-Interreg IIC Project EKIE (Enhancing Knowledge Intensive Enterprises) that was aimed at strengthening knowledge based businesses through cooperation with universities and other research facilities. Partners from Finland, Ireland, Italy and Estonia were working together in this project with the German partner TIGZ. ADT, the German Federal Association of Innovation, Technology and Business Incubation

Centers served the project by providing examples for good practices in quality evaluation, auditing, and clients surveys. At the conference WAMS 2007 (Wireless Applications for Machines and Systems) in Ylivieska, Finland results of the project were presented and gained much recognition: The start of a new business incubator in Tamsalu, Estonia, the development of technological innovations for the market, and optimization of consulting offers for start-up businesses are some examples for the project outcome.

For more details and information about the project, please visit [www.tigz.de](http://www.tigz.de) or [www.ekie.net](http://www.ekie.net)

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**Libya** *National Innovation Strategy and Program*

At this time Libya is developing a national strategy and program for innovation and entrepreneurship support that includes the establishment of six business incubators and three business and technology Oases.

ELITE, the national incubator system of Libya that is in the process of being built has proposed to host the 7<sup>th</sup> MENAinc Workshop. planned to be held end of August 2008.

Contact: Mohamed Alaswad, [Alaswad\\_mohamed@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Alaswad_mohamed@yahoo.co.uk)

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**Mozambique** **Market Opportunities for an ICT Incubator**

From the iDISC website

infoDev and the IFC commissioned a feasibility study to assess the market opportunity for an ICT center and business incubator in Maputo. End of November 2007, a stakeholder meeting chaired by H.E. Dr. Massingue, Minister of Science and Technology of Mozambique, was held to present the results of this work and to facilitate the process of making this feasibility study a reality.

The Information for Development Program (infoDev) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) are partnering to explore the design and implementation of effective business incubator models in developing countries, including in Mozambique. This work builds on infoDev's Business Incubator Initiative, which provides financial and technical assistance to more than 70 business incubators in over 50 developing countries worldwide and has set up five Regional Networks, as well as the IFC's experience in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

With this article for infoDev's iDISC website we want to draw your attention on this source of information and tools for business incubation management:  
<http://idisc.infodev.org/en/index.html>

infoDev and IFC selected Mr. Mark Davies, the Founder of BusyInternet in Ghana, which is a pioneering model for business incubation as the consultant for this assignment. Drawing on his experience in Ghana and on other incubator models in Africa, Mr. Davies has developed a detailed feasibility study and business plan for Maputo

During the Stakeholder Meeting there was strong interest in the proposed facility from the over 40 participants from various sectors, including financial, real estate and ICT. For more information about infoDev's regional activities in Africa, please visit [the iDISC regional pages for Africa](#). You can find more details about infoDev's Global Network of Business Incubators here.

More details and contact information see <http://idisc.infodev.org/en/index.html>



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**USA** **Soft Landings International Incubators Announced**

This is the third year for the NBIA Soft Landings program. The National Business Incubation Association, USA, is recognizing incubators that provide special support to companies from foreign countries. A panel of experienced business incubator managers in December 2007 has selected the most recent recipients of the NBIA Soft Landings International Incubator designation for 2007-2009. The Commercialization Center for Innovative Technologies, part of the Technology Centre of New Jersey in North Brunswick, N.J., earned the Soft Landings designation for the first time, while ATP Innovations of Sydney, Australia, Wallonia Space Logistics of Liege, Belgium, earned their first renewal of the designation.

**Incubator Self Evaluation**

NBIA has published a workbook to help incubator managers to self-evaluate their performance. The importance of taking a comprehensive look at your incubation program's effectiveness on a regular basis cannot be overemphasized. In fact, NBIA recommends that incubation programs do so annually. The *Self-Evaluation Workbook for Business Incubators* can be a valuable aid in this process. This book, conveniently spiral-bound, contains all the essentials for an accompanying CD-ROM with tools for facilitating a team approach.

The selection of CCIT brings to 10 the number of programs earning the Soft Landings designation

Soft Landings designees are authorized to use the NBIA Soft Landings logo on their Web sites and in their promotional materials to tout their unique capabilities to potential clients.

The Soft Landings program recognizes incubators that are especially capable at helping non-domestic companies enter the incubator's domestic market. NBIA's Soft Landings designations are effective for two years; programs must reapply biennially for continuing designation. While there was no set number of selections possible, the panel did not award the designation to all who applied.

comprehensive self- strategies for improvement; and an evaluation of any established incubator. and documenting It includes more than 300 evaluation criteria to help pinpoint program strengths and weaknesses; charts to aid in identifying and documenting strategies for improvement; and an accompanying CD-ROM with tools for facilitating a team approach. The *Self-Evaluation Workbook* costs \$65 for members (plus shipping). To order, visit the NBIA Bookstore online at [www.nbia.org/store](http://www.nbia.org/store).

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**Finland** **Incubator Management Training**

TECHNOPOLIS in Otaniemi, Finland is one of the most experienced technology parks in Europe and very active in training incubator management. After a successful and well appreciated training held in 2007 with 33 participants from 10 countries this year two training will be offered in April: one in Helsinki, April 3 – 5, 2008 and the second training to be held in Moscow, April 16-17, 2008.

The content of the training will be based on Technopolis practical experience from owning and managing 13 science and technology parks in Finland and developing three STP concepts in St-Petersburg, Russia. In Technopolis STPs about 1,000 compa-

nies employing 13,000 people are working as well as the largest business incubator in Finland, helping up to 180 hi-tech and knowledge-based companies at a time. The training will cover a renege of topics, such as: Technopolis STP concept , Finnish Innovation System: general policy and funding , University collaboration, Technopolis Business Incubation concept, Regional development and promotion, Creating premises and business services for STP clients The number of participants is limited to 30 persons.

Contact & registration: J. Fomina, [julia.fomina@technopolis.fi](mailto:julia.fomina@technopolis.fi)  
[www.technopolis.fi](http://www.technopolis.fi)

**TECHNOPOLIS**

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## **Important upcoming Events**

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### **Jan. 31 – February 2, 2008 in Trivandrum, India: Second ISBA Conference**

The Indian STEP (Science & Technology Entrepreneurs Park and Business Incubator Association (ISBA) holds its second annual conference at the Technology Park Trivandrum with the title “Global Leadership Through Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship”. This event will not only bring together managers of technology parks and incubators from India and abroad, it also will be the place to meet with

leading scientists as well as representatives from industry and policy. Communication between these groups is aimed at discussing new approaches for supporting innovation based entrepreneurship in the country and developing strategies for securing continuity for India on the growth path.. Special attention will be given to the development of rural areas.

Information and contact: [jawa\\_ts@yahoo.com](mailto:jawa_ts@yahoo.com)

### **March 4 –6, 2008 in Shiraz, Iran: 4<sup>th</sup> Iranian National Conference on Science and Technology Parks**

The 4th Iranian National Conference on Science and Technology Parks and Incubators “Knowledge Based Development from Idea to Product” will focus on topics like Technology Documentation, Valuation of Technology Know How, Support Organizations in Technology Development, Methods for Research Commercialization, and the Necessities and Prerequisites for Completing the Value Chain from Idea to Products.

Further issues are the role of STP’s in using Elites in technology development, Legal support for Technology Development, Success Factors for STPs & Technology Incubators, Methods of Innovation Development in Universities and Research Institutes, Models of Developing the International Technology Interchange in STPs and Incubators, and Successful International Experiences of STPs and Incubators in other countries.

Contact: Habibollah Asghari, Email [asghari@itincubator.com](mailto:asghari@itincubator.com)

### **May 4 – 8, 2008 in San Antonio, USA: Innovation for a Strong Economy and Healthy Planet**

Registration for NBIA’s 22nd International Conference on Business Incubation is open. Held May 4-7, 2008 in San Antonio, Texas, this conference will bring together incubation practitioners from all over the world.

The main conference will include more than 60 educational sessions, roundtable discussions and sector-focused forums on topics such as conducting an effective feasibility study, securing program funds, building key partnerships, helping clients write solid business plans, and much more. For more

in-depth training, the Pre-Conference-Institute offers half-day workshops on special topics.

The conference will be held in the brand new Grand Hyatt San Antonio, which is set to open in February 2008. And San Antonio has to offer historic places and entertainment just a step out the hotel doors and onto the River Walk.

Visit [www.nbia.org/nbia\\_events/conf2008/](http://www.nbia.org/nbia_events/conf2008/) now for details and to register. Questions? E-mail [education@nbia.org](mailto:education@nbia.org) or call (740) 593-4331.

### **Macedonia: International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development**

The Ss. Cyril and Methodius University Business Start-Up Centre (UKIM-BSC) in Skopje, Macedonia is organizing the **first international conference** on entrepreneurship and innovation in Macedonia will be held **May 8 – 10, 2008** in Skopje and Ohrid. The main topics of this event will be “Governmental and regional policies on entrepreneurship, innovation and R&D”, “Clustering and networking”, “Entrepreneurship education”, “Family businesses and entrepreneurship”, “University – industry collaboration”, “ICT and Regional competitiveness”, “Regional innovation strategies”, “Business incu-

bation practices in the region / Macedonia)”, and “Financing innovation, R&D, SMEs”. This conference is supported by a wide range of national and international partners and will also offer a “European Union Day”. Additionally a **SPICE Meeting** is planned to be held at this event.

Please note that the deadline for sending **proposals for presentations is January 31, 2008**. Until end January selected presenters will be informed.

For more details, contact Radmil Polenakovik, Email [radepole@mf.edu.mk](mailto:radepole@mf.edu.mk) or website [www.iceird.org](http://www.iceird.org)

### **September 14-17, 2008 in South Africa: World Conference of Science Parks in Johannesburg**

The next World Conference on Science and Technology Parks will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, and is organised by The Innovation Hub. More information is available at <http://www.iaspsa2008.com>

Key topics of the conference are: Entrepreneurship as a key tool in knowledge economies - role of STPs; Fast-tracking developing economies into the global economy - STPs as vehicles; Innovation and business country culture in relation

to the development and success of STPs; Cities and their Science Parks - growing local economies; Impact Measures for Science and Technology Parks; Partnerships and Collaboration to accelerate integration in the value chain; Policies that drive innovation; Exploring the new horizon of STPs; Designing an STP - making the 'big choices'.

For more information, please contact Ebba Lund [iasp@iasp.ws](mailto:iasp@iasp.ws) or check the website: <http://www.iaspsa2008.com>

### **June 26-28, 2008 in Jordan: Development of Science Parks in West-Asia**

The situation and development of science and technology parks in Middle East and Western Asia is the main topic of the conference "Development of STPs in West-Asia" (work title). Further themes are issues like business planning for STPs, physical planning, management of business incubators, and science / technology parks, government support, or regional impact of STPs.

The conference is tentatively planned to be held June 26-28, 2008 in Jordan and will include special workshops, for example STP management training workshop and the issues related with business incubator management. Proposals for papers and topics to be discussed are invited.

Contact: Reham Gharbiyeh, Jordan Innovation Centre at Al Hassan Industrial Estate, Email [reham.gharbiyeh@jic.jo](mailto:reham.gharbiyeh@jic.jo)

## October 2008: APEC Forum in Xi'an, China- Call for Papers Issued

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation is asking for papers for the APEC Forum, "Business Incubators Promote Regional Innovation," to be held in Xi'an, China, in October 2008. Topics of discussion will be business incubators and regional innovation; and new development trends in business incubation.

Accepted papers will be published in the forum proceedings; those submitting papers on significant innovations will be invited to speak at the forum, with accommodations and travel courtesy of APEC.

The forum will be hosted by the Xi'an International Business Incubator, the largest business incubator in China -- with 535 clients in 3.7 million square feet of space. In its 14-year history, XIBI has graduated 255 companies.

In addition to the proceedings, the event offers a great cultural opportunity: Xi'an, one of the four ancient capitals of China, is home of the famed terracotta warriors and is surrounded by the largest intact city wall in the world.

For more information on the APEC Forum, contact Mr. Jia Shan at [jjashan@xibi.com](mailto:jjashan@xibi.com), or Ms. Yang Shan at [ys@xibi.com](mailto:ys@xibi.com).

## New members – Welcome to the network



### Yousef Abu-Hmeidan

has 29 years of experience in Jordan and USA in fields of R&D, manufacturing, quality control, training, teaching and incubation businesses. In the last four years, he held the position of the first director of the Jordan Innovation Centre

Lately, Yousef established his own business, *I's of Innovation Enterprise*; his aim is to serve Jordanian entrepreneurs and inventors through providing training and consultation. He is approved by Jordan Upgrading and Modernization Program (JUMP) as an expert in fields of Institutional Development and Business Support Centre Services.

Yousef is holding M. Sc. Degree in Mechanical Engineering; he is a co-founder of the JIC Network in Jordan, Blood Donors Group at the RSS and the Jordanian Foundrymen's society. He is a member in many local and international societies such as: Middle East & North Africa Business Incubation Network (MENAinc), Mechanical Engineering Department Industrial Advisory Board, University of Jordan, Technology Commercialization Program (TCP) at PSUT, Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) or National Industry Support Commission (NISC) - Jordan.

Contact: [yousef.abuhmeidan@ioi-jo.com](mailto:yousef.abuhmeidan@ioi-jo.com)

(JIC) for Engineers and Industrial Enterprises at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). During that period JIC hosted 8 start up companies, two patents and three trade marks were registered.

Yousef created The I's of Innovation/Vision for Wealth Creation. ISBN 9957-434-28-4 / 2005, a system that was created for the establishment and/or development of innovation in any country within a time frame; all elements start with the letter I.



December 10, 2008:

## 1<sup>st</sup> Global Business Incubation Day

More information: [www.globalbusinessincubationday.org](http://www.globalbusinessincubationday.org)

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

## A few White Spots...

The "SPICE Art Ball" keeps rolling around the globe and as you could see on page 1 of this Update step by step receives more pieces of triangle art. But there still are not all countries represented and white spots remain. Again, if you do **not** find your country in following list it is time to grab your paintbrush (or use your computer graphics knowledge) for creating your national triangle: Armenia, Australia, Bahrain, Belarus, China, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Ma-

cedonia Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Romania, Sweden, Taiwan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA. The SPICE Art Ball brochure also will contain short report on the situation and development of business incubation in the countries that contributed to the art ball. This way the fine art will contribute to spreading the knowledge about innovation and entrepreneurship support.

In case you do not know how to contribute to this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact us at [spice@spice-group.de](mailto:spice@spice-group.de)

## New Services for Members of SPICE Group

The SPICE Group website offers the possibility for members of the network to directly publish information about their activities and events on the website:

In section **News** the link "Add news" allows to insert a short text reporting on actual developments.

In section **Events** the link "Add new information" provides a template for informing about a conference or workshop

that will be shown in the SPICE Group events list.

Of course, members also may continue to send such information to the secretariat, but the new links allow faster publication of information without the "bottleneck" of the SPICE secretariat. Please do not hesitate to contact SPICE Group for further information or experience any problem.

Contact: Larisa Brovarska, Email [Larisa@spice-group.pl](mailto:Larisa@spice-group.pl)

## And finally...

This was the first issue of the network newsletter for the year 2008 We invite all readers to provide information for number 79 of SPICE Update and hope to meet members and friends personally at as many events as possible during this year

*Heinz Fiedler & Larisa Brovarska*