



# UPDATE No. 86

For members *first*

May 2009

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Dear Member and Reader,

Since last SPICE Update was published just six weeks ago much has happened in the world of innovation and entrepreneurship. In this edition of our newsletter, for example, we report on events in Central Asia and the USA where also the SPICE Art Ball was presented – now (almost) complete with just two triangle space available for countries that did not yet make use of this opportunity.

Of course, in this newsletter you will also find reports about business incubation developments and activities in many coun-

tries from all continents as well as about hot topics like women business incubation and entrepreneurship, initiatives for supporting youth entrepreneurship, or how UKBI inspires quality improvements for business incubators

There are more events to come, for example the 20<sup>th</sup> PBICA conference in Gdynia, Poland, the open air conference in Karelia, Russia (page 13) and the Baltic Dynamics 2009 to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania. (page 13). And a special event to come is the 1<sup>st</sup> Women Entrepreneurship & Leadership Summit in Tur-

## *The SPICE Art Ball rolling around the World*

The SPICE Art Ball, symbol of global cooperation in supporting innovation & entrepreneurship in the SPICE Group network developed towards completion. Now with art triangles from **38 countries from all continents** the ball offers only very limited space for further triangle art – and only at the prices of taking off information about the artists and countries represented. But this information also is available on the art ball website. In April 2009 the ball rolled to three very different places:

**Central Asia** where the SPICE Art Ball rolled to the Capital of **Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek** and was exhibited at the shores of the World's second largest lake: **Issy-Kul** beautifully located in the high mountains of Central Asia, partly with snow on top. The first workshop of the International Work Group on Women Business Incubation organized by the Congress of Women of Kyrgyzstan (see report on page 4) gave the opportunity to exhibit the ball in these places.



**North America** with **Kansas City**, Missouri, USA being the destination. Here the Global Summit of Business Incubation Associations and the 23<sup>rd</sup> NBIA conference (see report on page 3) were the events to visit. The SPICE Art Ball also had a very special extra task: to carry the “Thank you Dinah Adkins” card. **Dinah Adkins**, member of SPICE Group since more than a decade and CEO / President of NBIA for more than 20 years is leaving this function soon. So this was the last NBIA conference with her in this leading role. Reason for all members of SPICE Group to thank her and express good wishes for her future activities in business incubation.

For more information about the events, please read the articles in this newsletter – for more pictures visit the SPICE Group website at [www.spice-group.net/events/photo\\_chronicle/](http://www.spice-group.net/events/photo_chronicle/) and for more information about the concept and development of the SPICE Art Ball; visit [www.art-ball.net/spice\\_art\\_ball.php](http://www.art-ball.net/spice_art_ball.php)

**The Triangles of the SPICE Art Ball**

[http://www.art-ball.net/spice\\_art\\_ball.php](http://www.art-ball.net/spice_art_ball.php)


The SPICE Art Ball now has 38 countries represented by art triangles that symbolize the nation by illustrations, for example from history, technology, science, business, art, or music. Below we continue the series of art triangle presentations.

Here we present triangle art that has been on the SPICE Art Ball for some time already and therefore was shown in many countries. Of course, new triangles also have been sent to us in the mean time. We will continue to present the art ball triangles in coming issues of this newsletter. On the art ball website more details and background is made available: About the artists and their ideas and in-



Triangle Croatia: [http://www.art-ball.net/spice\\_art\\_ball\\_croatia.php](http://www.art-ball.net/spice_art_ball_croatia.php)

temptions. This includes explanations of the meaning of the the triangles; the way the components of the painting or graphic represent the respective country. At every stop the SPICE Art Ball Rolls to more and more triangle spaces are filled with art work – 38 countries from all continents are represented meanwhile. [www-art-ball.net](http://www-art-ball.net) is the website to visit for more information about the realization of this concept



Triangle Romania: [http://www.art-ball.net/spice\\_art\\_ball\\_romania.php](http://www.art-ball.net/spice_art_ball_romania.php)

**23<sup>rd</sup> NBIA Conference in Kansas City, USA**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> NBIA conference held in April 2009 in Kansas City, USA one more time was the meeting point for the business incubation world. The wide range of workshops organized in parallel sessions covered practically all areas of business incubation program development and operation. Part of the conference traditionally is an **NBIA Award Ceremony** to honour outstanding business incubation programs in different areas. The winners of this year are listed in the “box” in the right column. This year the list of awards first time features the “Dinah Adkins Awards” in honour of the associations’ President and CEO, **Dinah Adkins**, who led this organization for more than 20 years and is going to retire shortly. SPICE Group thanked her for her active involvement and support by a special presentation of the SPICE Art Ball carrying an “art square” that served a congratulation card (see photo section below).

This NBIA conference also hosted the **20<sup>th</sup> Global Summit of Business Incubation Associations (GBIN)** – the meeting of leading representatives of business incubation associations from all over the world. The summits are held usually twice a

**The NBIA Awards 2009**

- Outstanding Incubator Client, Technology Category:** CSA Medical, client of the Emerging Technology Centers, Baltimore
- Outstanding Incubator Client, Nontechnology Category:** Consultants 2 Go, client of the NJIT Enterprise Development Center, Newark, N.J.
- Outstanding Incubator Graduate, Technology Category:** DocuTAP, graduate of the South Dakota Technology Business Center, Sioux Falls, S.D.
- Outstanding Incubator Graduate, Nontechnology Category:** Alfresco Pergolas and Design, graduate of Todd Street Business Chambers, Port Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
- Incubator Innovation Award:** “Business Incubation on Wheels,” an innovation of the Louisiana Business and Technology Center, Baton Rouge, La.
- Dinah Adkins Incubator of the Year, Technology Category:** San Jose BioCenter, San Jose, Calif.
- Dinah Adkins Incubator of the Year, Nontechnology Category:** Todd Street Business Chambers, Port Adelaide, South Australia
- Randall M. Whaley Incubator of the Year:** San Jose BioCenter, San Jose, Calif.

year for strengthening the exchange of information and experiences between the business incubation programs around the globe.

Websites: [www.nbia.org](http://www.nbia.org) and [www.spice-group.net/summit/](http://www.spice-group.net/summit/)



The SPICE Group “Thank You” card presented to Dinah Adkins at the 23<sup>rd</sup> NBIA conference in Kansas City





*...more photos from the GBIN Summit and the NBIA conference in Kansas City*



*The 20<sup>th</sup> Global Summit of Business Incubation Associations (above) and the 23<sup>rd</sup> NBIA conference*



*The SPICE Art Ball on Tour: Kansas City, MO, USA*



**Dinah Adkins has picked her congratulation from the Ball**

At the presentation in Kansas City the SPICE Art Ball carried a congratulation card thanking **Dinah Adkins** for her work during more than 20 years as President and CEO of NBIA and during more than ten years as active member of SPICE Group. The ball also served as background for presenting the congratulations of ADT (German Business Incubation Association) by **Rolf Friedrichsdorf**, Board Member with thanks for two decades of cooperation and mutual support.



*InWent presents programs during the United Nations Midterm Conference in Bonn*

The United Nations World Decade "Education for Sustainable Development" has an important vision: A world in which every human being has access to education.

**InWent** Capacity Building International, Germany, a non-profit organization with worldwide operations dedicated to human resource development, advanced training, and dialogue also report on the Bangkok conference in SPICE Update No 81), is active in all sections of the UN action plan "Education for Sustainable Development". A sample of the InWent activities has been presented at the UNESCO Midterm Conference in Bonn, Germany end of March, 2009. For example, InWent establishes networks such as the school project "Chat of the

Worlds", shapes dialogues with the economy, supports local communities, gives impulses to development politics, and makes international learning possible.

InWent also runs capacity building programs directed at experts and executives from politics, administration, the business community, and civil society. And offers young people from Germany the opportunity to gain professional experience abroad.

More information: [www.inwent.org/index.php.en](http://www.inwent.org/index.php.en)





### The SPICE Art Ball on Tour: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



### The SPICE Art Ball on Tour: Issy-Kul, Kyrgyzstan



### Third infoDev Global Forum on Business Incubation in Florianopolis, Brazil

The Global Forum of infoDev is the meeting place for business incubation practitioners – not only from developing countries. Also stakeholders of business incubation programs, politicians, and financiers of innovative start-up and growth businesses attend the Global Forum for exchanging information and experiences about good practices in business incubation and perspectives for further development.

After the first two Global Forum events were held in India, this year infoDev moves to another continent. Brazil has been chosen because it is a country with a long track record and rich experience in business incubation and technology parks. Much can be learned from the experience of ANPROTEC, the national association of business incubator and technology parks of Brazil. Holding the forum in Latin America together with the annual ANPROTEC conference will offer an opportunity for many incubator managers and supporters from this region to

#### Become a Global Forum Innovator

For the Global Forum 2009 infoDev is seeking 15-20 successful entrepreneurs working on innovations in agriculture, information technology, tourism and sustainable energy / clean technology. The criteria:

- *Innovation* – Has your business provided exciting, new solutions to difficult issues or unmet needs in your community?
- *Leadership* – How have your personal attributes contributed to the success of your business?
- *Incubation* – How has your business benefited from a business incubator?

The deadline for applications has passed. But attendees of the Global Forum certainly will benefit much from the experiences the “Global Forum Innovators will offer to share.

Forum Information: [disc.infodev.org/en/article.38795.aspx](http://disc.infodev.org/en/article.38795.aspx)

### INSME 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held in Dubai

End of April 2009 the **DIT SMEs Forum and V INSME Annual Meeting** attracted about **250 participants** representing public and private organizations from the field of SMEs, innovation and technology transfer from 40 countries (25 non-OECD economies and 15 OECD Countries). The 33 presentations of this event covered a wide range of topics including Cross Border Networking, International technology Transfer, and SME Financing. The conference papers can be downloaded from [www.annualmeeting2009.insme.org/speakers.html](http://www.annualmeeting2009.insme.org/speakers.html)

During the V INSME General Assembly the new INSME governing bodies were appointed for the mandate mid 2009-2011, some of the former Board Members were re-confirmed. The INSME Secretariat is pleased to announce that the next VI INSME Association Meeting in 2010 will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, co-hosted by its Brazilian Member SEBRAE.

Contact: Simona Marzetti, [marzetti@ipi.it](mailto:marzetti@ipi.it) or visit the INSME website [www.insme.info](http://www.insme.info)

### infoDev Youth to Innovation (Y2i) Contest Winners Announced

The Eastern European and Central Asian business incubator network (ecabit [www.ecabit.org](http://www.ecabit.org)) end of March 2009 announced the winners of the 2009 Y2i contest on innovative ideas in business and business incubation management addressing young people up to the age of 30. The contest aimed to support innovative thinking and action of young people in both entrepreneurship and business incubation. 21 applications from nine countries participated. The jury focused on the relevance of the innovation, its feasibility and sustainability, the current planning stage, and the skills and experiences of the applicant.

**Three winners** from each of the three contest categories were chosen, as follows:

#### **1st winner - "Innovation in Business Incubation" category**

Alexei Leontiev (Russian Union of Innovation and Technology Centers) with an idea that aims to develop structured incubation cluster projects by systematically consolidating the required resources and entrepreneurial effort of specialized techno-hubs for a coordinated business incubation process.

#### **2nd winner - "Incubatee Innovation" category**

Dean Krstevski (Broker Inc. DOOEL Skopje, FYRO Macedonia) presented an idea aimed at developing a web-based platform that covers all sectors of the financial market and allow users to evaluate investment and loan options.

#### **3rd winner "Business Innovation non-incubatee" category**

Steliana Economu (Romania) presented an idea that aims to improve rural tourism combining different leisure activities with learning in a rural environment.

In addition, the jury acknowledges two applications with a **certificate of achievement in the Y2i contest**:

*1st selection:* Pepovski Darko, a student at University Cyril &

Methodius in Skopje, FYRO Macedonia, presented an idea for improving the design of glass bottles. Bottles would be made of a stretchy, strong, shiny, and high-quality textile material.

The aim of using stretch material is to provide a practical solution that can be molded into the shape of a bottle and be a protective packaging for decreasing transportation costs.

*2nd selection:* Tatyana Shpuling from SODBI business incubator, Shymkent, Kazakhstan presented an idea aimed at developing a process for integrating energy-saving solutions with the optimization of infrastructure of the SODBI Business Incubator. This process will enhance the quality of incubation services and reduce the incubator's maintenance costs.

Members of the Y2i contest jury included Sophia Muradyan, EIF Yerevan, Armenia), Marija Armenski, YES incubator Skopje, Macedonia, Inna Gagauz, Kharkov Technologies, Ukraine, Olga Lapteva, Innovation Incubator, Tambov, Russia, Ruslan Stefanov, ARC Fund Sofia, Bulgaria, Radu Ticiu, IT Incubator Timisoara, Romania, and Andriy Tarelin Kharkov Technologies, Ukraine. All jury members represent members of infoDev's Global Network of Business Incubators.

Y2i Project Manager Radu Big, CDIMM Maramures, Romania, member of infoDev's Global Network of Business Incubators: "The 2009 contest showed much interest of young entrepreneurs and experts to join this initiative. The excellent cooperation among project staff and jury members was an important prerequisite for successful project implementation."


Information: Project Manager Radu Big, [radu@cdimm.org](mailto:radu@cdimm.org).




### Birmingham to spend £10 million on Young Enterprise with Incubator Units

Youngsters in Longbridge are to benefit from one of two £5 million new youth centers to be created in Birmingham. The other centre is to be built in Aston after the city secured £10 million share from a £25 million Government funding pot earmarked for youth facilities across the West Midlands. The Longbridge youth centre will be constructed on the former MG Rover site which was announced would be the focus of a regeneration plan that will create 10,000 new jobs and at least 1,450 homes. The youth centers will each feature a cyber-café, sports hall, performing arts venue, training rooms, media suite and recording studio. They will also include business incubation units where youngsters will be able to pursue business and enterprise opportunities. The centers are to be designed and developed in conjunction with young people in the area and follows extensive consultation with them about the kind of provision they want. As well as providing a base where

meet, the centers will also be a multi-media resource and provide information, advice, guidance and counseling services. They will aim to be iconic buildings where youngsters can meet with their peers and benefit from the facilities on offer to develop their skills and confidence. Carol Morgan, area youth officer for Longbridge, said: "Following the closure of MG Rover, everything has been knocked down. There is very little for the young people in the area." Rob Phelps, area youth officer for Ladywood and Perry Barr – the area in which the Aston/Lozells youth centre will be located, added: "This is great news for Aston. It will help get young people from different backgrounds working together and promote a positive image of today's youngsters getting involved in positive activities. "It has already gained the support of local voluntary sector youth groups who have shown great enthusiasm and commitment to this project."

 The SPICE Group website provides information about many topics interesting and important for business incubation practitioners. For example, the "Events" page is the point of reference for conferences, workshops or seminars all around the globe

section offers access to information about development of business incubators or technoparks. And. The "Hot news" page alarms you on important deadlines that should not be missed: [http://www.spice-group.net/hot\\_news](http://www.spice-group.net/hot_news)





## Women Incubation

### First Workshop on Women Business Incubation held in Kyrgyzstan

In early April 2009 the first international workshop of infoDev's international Work Group on Women Business Incubation was held in Bishkek and Issy-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic. This event was organized by Congress of Women of Kyrgyz Republic, and funded by the infoDev program. The goal of the meeting was to discuss findings on women business incubation in the different regions to create a body of knowledge as a basis for decisions of future activities.

Participants of this workshop were International Women Work Group (IWWG) members; Zamira Akbagysheva, Project Leader; the Regional Project coordinators Annuar Saffar (Asia); Mbarou Mbaye (Africa); Rosita Djambazova, (Eastern Europe/Central Asia); Soukaina Rahmani (representing Nejiba Khal-fallah; Middle East / North Africa, MENA). Larisa Brovarska, SPICE Group, Poland attended to provide assistance and information about women entrepreneurship support in Poland; and Heinz Fiedler, participated as infoDev Project Facilitator

The workshop opening ceremony at Park hotel in Bishkek was attended by more than forty women entrepreneurs and government officials. The ceremony was graced by Mr. Isabekov K Satindevich, Vice-Speaker of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic. This event was highly publicized by local media: radio, TV, and newspaper.

The workshop continued with an evaluation and planning session in Issyk-Kul, attended by WBI WG member, to discuss the interim reports prepared by the respective regional coordinators. Other than current status and issues, the session discussed challenges, obstacles, best practices, as well as strategies, on women business incubation and entrepreneurship programs.



The following questions were discussed during the two-day workshop. The regional reports were used as a basis to summarize and discuss findings and to agree on the next steps

1. In general – despite of regional and national differences – it is not easy to identify women business incubation activities and collect valid information. The WG agreed to strengthen activities in this respect and recommended measures how to proceed in this matter.
2. Main common challenges for women entrepreneurship that have been found so far are: lack of self confidence and role models, lower education, negative perception of the society of working women, and limited access to information, advice, and support (networks). Tools and methodologies for supporting women entrepreneurship collected during the first project phase will be analyzed for finding which are specific to women needs.
3. For strengthening arguments that WBI is important a set of key statistical data (template) has been drafted that will be completed by the regional coordinators and their partners.
4. For the Global Forum a report will be prepared summarizing main findings and possibly being the basis for a draft resolution that Forum participants may agree on.

The WBI WG also agreed on recommendations for overcoming experienced obstacles for example to expand qualified and active WG membership by attracting more partners to collaborate. The workshop concluded with WBI WG members committed to complete and submit a detailed report in preparation for the infoDev Global Forum in Brazil (October 2009).

The workshop concluded with a reception in Bishkek that was attended by the Vice Minister of Industry, energy two members of the parliament, women entrepreneurs and clients of the WBI Kyrgyzstan And provided opportunities for an intensive exchange of experiences and information.



In conjunction with this workshop, more than ten additional events were held in the cities of Bishkek, Osh and Issyk-Kul, involving senior government officials, women entrepreneurs and the local media. For example, Annuar Saffar met with the Governor, Mayor, and women entrepreneurs in Osh-Oblast region and Mbarou Mbaye, Africa Regional Coordinator met three organizations and women entrepreneurs around city of Bishkek.



**WBI Workshop in Issyk-Kul**



**Successful Women Entrepreneurship Promotion in difficult Terrain**

Palestine does not only have successful business incubation initiatives (for example PICTI, the Palestine ICT Incubator, West bank), but also a very active associations taking care about supporting women entrepreneurship in this area: **ASALA, the Palestinian Businesswomen's Association**

ASALA, headquartered in Ramallah, has eight strategically located branch offices throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The association has been actively providing loans to women since its establishment in 1997. ASALA's targets impoverished and excluded Palestinian women in order to empower them and put them on a track that will lead to financial independence and stability. ASALA provides Palestinian women entrepreneurs with a comprehensive package of support including guidance, counseling, training, micro, small, and Islamic loans, and extensive follow up. Success stories are real, tangible, and documented. ASALA, in partnership with women entrepreneurs, is alleviating suffocating and detrimental poverty in Palestine one family at a time. Progress may be slow, but it is stable, sustainable, and recyclable. **ASALA** Association is a

leader in small and micro financing and believes in the role of micro-credit in the fight against poverty. ASALA also believes that its microfinance program serves as a leading model for reaching sustainable long term development. Palestinian women, often the only individual able to revive the economic life of the family due to the suffocating and exacerbating political reality, are given real opportunities to pull themselves and their families out of poverty.

**ASALA** was born 1997 of a dream to empower and sustain impoverished Palestinian women with a relatively small lending capacity. Only ten years later, ASALA's small loan volume has rotated over 8 times, and resulted in a loan portfolio of 2.2 million USD. ASALA has successfully served over 10,000 women all over Palestine, and is now bracing itself to take some very large steps. ASALA has remained true to its vision of enabling and assisting Palestinian women to achieve economic independence.

For more information, please visit <http://www.asala-pal.com/> or contact [salma@asala-pal.org](mailto:salma@asala-pal.org)

**The 6th International Conference: "Woman - A Creative Personality of the Third Millennium"**

The 6th International Conference: "Woman - A Creative Personality of the Third Millennium, How Can Women's Entrepreneurship Help Us Face The Global Crisis" will be held in New York, NY 10021, **May 21 and 22, 2009**. This will be a great networking opportunity and a chance to learn about and discuss women's entrepreneurship and business strategies. Main topics

- State of Women's Entrepreneurship Worldwide
- Women Businesses Navigating the Current Economic Crisis Support for Women's Entrepreneurship & Fair Trade Business and NGOs
- Networking, exchange of experience between women
- Creation of a platform for formal and informal discussions

entrepreneurship, especially small and medium-sized companies owned and managed by women

- Cooperation between business and NGO sectors
  - a) Collecting and publishing successful projects and ideas to support women entrepreneurship in the world
  - b) Preparation of international educational courses for university students (business and economics), held in Vilemov Castle in the Czech Republic
- Preparation of the 7th international conference in Nairobi, Kenya, 2011

The conference fee is US\$180

**Info:** Martina Jezkova: [martina.jezkova@viaperfecta.cz](mailto:martina.jezkova@viaperfecta.cz)

Website: [www.creativewoman.info/about\\_en.html](http://www.creativewoman.info/about_en.html)



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## **Women's Entrepreneurship Development Conference**

The Business Development Centre and the International Training Centre of the International Labor Organization (ITC-ILO) was conducting the Women's Entrepreneurship Development Conference (WED) in Amman, Jordan end of April 2009 to foster collaboration, create linkages and knowledge sharing among WED promoters in the region, as well as networking between females entrepreneurs, investors and support organization.

The WED Conference represented a unique opportunity for female entrepreneurs, government agencies, business support organizations and investors to come together and share knowledge experience and successful approaches towards women's entrepreneurship development in the Arab region.

Speakers were representing different international and national institutions such as business development centers, entrepreneurs associations, banks, universities, labor agencies and government from different countries like USA, UK, Italy, Netherlands, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia and Egypt.

The conference addressed many issues and case studies:

1. Women entrepreneurship and sustainable growth based on civil society/ private sector partnership initiative in Morocco
2. Women entrepreneurship development in Egypt
3. Tunisian entrepreneur's experience using development programs to finance entrepreneurial businesses.
4. Developing female entrepreneurial businesses in Sudan.

Information: I's Of Innovation [yousef.abuhmeidan@ioi-jo.com](mailto:yousef.abuhmeidan@ioi-jo.com)

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## **Entrepreneur Institute Helps Female Lawyers in the Middle East Become Successful Entrepreneurs**

Recognizing the importance of business and entrepreneurial training for society in general and for women in Arab/developing nations in particular, the Cisco Entrepreneurship Institute at the Queen Rania Center for Entrepreneurship (QRCE), Amman, Jordan has conducted the first regional training workshop in business for female lawyers from Lebanon, Kuwait and Palestine, taking part in the Women in Law Program (WILpower).

WILpower, an extension of the Academy for Educational Department (AED), is supported by the Middle East Partnership Institute (MEPI) of the U.S. Department of State, and represents a cooperative regional information exchange network dedicated to female law students and young legal practitioners in the MENA region. In essence, WILpower addresses the challenges female Arab lawyers and law students face by providing them with training and networking support as well as developing communication technology solutions.

Recently, WILpower launched a web site which includes seminars and lectures that discuss the region's decisive legal issues ([www.womeninlaw.net](http://www.womeninlaw.net)) to create an opportunity for lawyers to exchange skills, resources, and knowledge on laws. The QRCE organized the first session of business training during the regional WILpower workshop in January, followed by 12 online training sessions conducted using interactive internet training tools. The thirteenth session will be held during the second regional workshop in May. The first session of the training included the first module of the "Starting a Business" workshop developed by the Cisco Entrepreneur Institute, focuses on building entrepreneurial skills for legal practitioners.

In mid 2008, The QRCE was announced as a regional partner for the Cisco Entrepreneur Institute Initiative. This relationship aims to improve the entrepreneurial spirit among the Jordanian youth through extensive training.

More Information: Email [pr@qrce.org](mailto:pr@qrce.org)

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## **UK aim to INSPIRE in business incubation**

UKBI has launched the *Inspire monitoring, development and accreditation process*© for business incubation, possibly the world's first national accreditation program.

Based on the national Business Incubation Development Framework, it covers 'physical' and 'virtual' activity that provides specialist and targeted business growth support and development to early stage companies. In addition, the *Inspire monitoring, development and accreditation process*© provides quality assessments for stakeholders, funders and supporters helping them to identify and develop practices leading to the application and public recognition of best practices.

**Inspire** allows to identify and develop best practice in a particular incubation program, city or region, to maximize investment in this program, prove the impact, identify strengths and weakness and provides detailed action plans and strategic input to ensure that the business support infrastructure is providing the right environment for sustainable growth and development. With recent changes to the criteria for public funding, the need for accreditation has never been stronger. Central and regional government in the country require public funding bodies to ensure that business incubation environments that they support are accredited and monitored against national best practice. This is a key element of the UK Government's Business Sup-

port Simplification Program. UKBI have launched the **Inspire** accreditation process which benchmarks business incubation against best practice through UKBI's Business Incubation Development Framework to support its members and the wider community.

The process is straight forward and cost effective. Incubators are assessed using internationally recognized Business Incubation Development Framework; identifying compliance with best practice and measuring and evaluating impact.

**Inspire** awarded status

- Proves that the incubator is committed to grow innovative businesses
- Provides proof that the incubator is an ideal place to start and grow businesses
- Provides the incubator with a competitive advantage over others – essential when attracting clients and funding

Although only launched in early April, there are already 20 incubation environments beginning the process – with a further 30 planning to go through the process this year.

Information: [www.ukbi.co.uk/inspire](http://www.ukbi.co.uk/inspire)

Contact: Keiron Broadbent, [k.broadbent@ukbi.co.uk](mailto:k.broadbent@ukbi.co.uk)

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## Views & Facts

### **Abu Dhabi – Germany** *Abu Dhabi cooperating with Heidelberg Technology Park*

CERT has the mandate to develop the human resources of the UAE, to help develop a strong national workforce and introduce innovative technologies to the UAE and the Region that enhance organizational efficiency and performance. CERT has extensive experience in the UAE and the region in establishing forums and platforms across various disciplines to serve specific business and industry segments. In particular regarding the life sciences there are a lot of similarities and common working areas between Abu Dhabi and Heidelberg. To build a strong national workforce in the field of human resources CERT is working with the Heidelberg based Reutax AG.

His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Abu Dhabi expressed his interest in a long-term collaboration between Abu Dhabi and the UAE with science cities like Heidelberg. Lord Mayor Dr. Eckart Würzner is convinced, that there are a lot of common goals, a source to develop a number of projects for mutual benefits.

Klaus Plate, CEO of the Heidelberg Technology Park, wants to speed up the development of the first common projects in the educational field of “Youth and Science” and in establishing “International Partner Ports” for helping with the internationalization of companies and institutions. This is a Heidelberg initiative that is part of a coming EU-funded project. If it is possible to include Abu Dhabi and the International Network of the Heidelberg Technology Park this will become a network of collaboration much broader than staying Europe wide.

The Heidelberg Technology Park, focused on Life Sciences,

*In the presence of Lord Mayor Dr. Eckart Würzner the Heidelberg Technology Park, Germany, signs a Memorandum of Understanding about international collaboration with the Centre of Excellence for Applied Research and Training, UAE (CERT) in Abu Dhabi.*



was founded in 1984 offering 6 000 sqm lab and office space for 11 start-up companies. It was the first Biopark in Germany. Today the Park offers more than 50 000 sqm space for rent. About 80 companies and research institutes are working in the Park. All buildings are private investments of a real estate company. The services are offered by the Technologiepark Heidelberg GmbH, owned by the City of Heidelberg and the Chamber of Industry and Commerce Rhine-Neckar.

It is the goal of Heidelberg Technology Park to establish an attractive and innovative environment for start-ups as well as for growing and for mature companies by offering specified services, active clustering and networking to its tenants. Together with 200 Associated Members the Heidelberg Technology Park strengthens and accelerates the clustered development in the BioRegion Rhine-Neckar. International collaboration opens global business opportunities for the Park's companies and members.

Contact: Technologiepark Heidelberg GmbH, Managing Director Dr. Klaus Plate [technologiepark@heidelberg.de](mailto:technologiepark@heidelberg.de)

### **United Kingdom** *NETPark Net*

NETPark, the North East's premier science engineering and technology park, and NETPark Net are two sides of the same coin: they both offer all the benefits of the science park environment but one is delivered through buildings and another is delivered via an online platform. Companies at NETPark and members of NETPark Net will be part of the same innovative, like-minded community that enables companies to flourish, grow and compete with the best in the world. It is a linked group of companies and organizations, including other incubators, Universities and Centers of Excellence, all around the focus of science, engineering and technology. It enables companies located around County Durham and the North East to access the services that are available to companies at NETPark

itself. Companies who are members of NETPark Net have access to the same services as companies on NETPark itself – from the simple provision of an address, a phone number and use of meeting rooms right up to support in turning new technology into a commercial success and rapid response market research. Companies at all sizes and at all stages of maturity throughout County Durham and the North East belong to NETPark Net – companies from pre-start up right through to multinationals. The only common factor is a focus on science, engineering and technology. NETPark Net was recently praised in the House of Commons as an excellent example of how to maximize the benefits of science parks.

Contact: Catherine Jones [catherine.johns@durham.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.johns@durham.gov.uk)

### **Albania**

#### ***Biodiversity and the Protected Areas System in Albania***

*By Mehmet Metaj*

Albania possesses a wide range of ecological systems including coastal zones, estuaries and lagoons, lakes and wetlands, grasslands, middle-low altitude coppice forests, high altitude forests, alpine vegetation and glacial areas. The country possesses about 3,250 species of vascular plants, 165 families and more than 900 genera. Medicinal plants (botanicals) and non-timber forest products have a long history of importance in the culture and traditional knowledge of Albania. Proper legislation and especially legal and regulatory framework enforcement for the regulation of this developing industry remains lacking. A Strategy of Biodiversity plan developed in 2000 calls for an increase in the

Protected Areas system which currently covers some 6 % of Albania's area to a total area of 435,600 ha, approximately 15 % of the country's territory. Changes in the legal and policy framework as well as institutional structures is required to move forward and provide an environment for biodiversity conservation and a sustainable protected areas system. The various threats to biodiversity and constraints to improvement are outlined as well as recommendations for sustainable use, assessment and regulation.

For more information and a copy of the full report. contact: Mehmet Metaj, email: [albaforest@yahoo.com](mailto:albaforest@yahoo.com);

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**Chile****Spin Off: A new way to form companies**

By Jill Forde

In Chile, the *Spin Off* initiative is being led by the International Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, 3IE, of the Federico Santa Maria University of Technology (UTFSM). In the framework of this project, several workshops and seminars are being held focused on establishing a basic work methodology inside several organizations and at the same time, planning strategic alignments of their innovation areas, business plans and project management.

For the majority of underdeveloped nations, *Spin Off* is an unknown term. However, in industrialized *Spin Off* is a well-known methodology that is focused towards the creation of new businesses. In the beginning of the 1970's prestigious universities like Stanford and Harvard began to put several economic initiatives into motion, including supporting scientists to spin off the research sector and start own companies.

Without a doubt, universities play a very important role in respect to the emergence and consolidation of new companies; a task that today in Chile is being led by the Federico Santa Maria University of Technology (UTFSM). Their International Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship-3IE, started in 1991, focuses on converting knowledge and ideas into prototypes, products and new technology based companies. This activity of 3IE is based on a well functioning university-

government link that is crucial for success. The Spin Off projected led by USM consists of establishing the methodology inside several organizations, and at the same time, planning strategic alignment of their areas of innovation, business plans, and project management. A characteristic of this project is that 3IE will work directly with the executives and directors of large companies that in addition to supporting the initiative, will become generators of technological *Spin Offs*.

Part of the activities being developed in the *Spin Off* project is the seminar "Strategic Alignment of Corporate Technological *Spin Offs*", held in early April, with participation of experts from many countries. Two new *Spin Off* seminars are being developed and the next one, "Commercialization of Corporate Technological *Spin Offs*", to be held May 15 - 16, 2009.

Finally, this project will be organize a public contest that will proposals will be awarded with the possibility of being able to found a legally formed company that will be transformed into a new business unit. Contact: Jill Forde [jill.forde@usm.cl](mailto:jill.forde@usm.cl) or visit [www.3ie.cl](http://www.3ie.cl)



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**Thailand****Thai - BISPA - Business Incubation Association in Thailand**

AABI Newsletter

The National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), the Office of SMEs Promotion (OSMEP), and the Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), which are key agencies on the promotion of business incubation, have jointly established the Thai Business Incubators and Science Parks Association (Thai-BISPA) to be the hub for incubation's coordination, development, and information dissemination. The

new organization will located at Thailand Science Parks.

With aim to launch Thai-BISPA to the recognition of all organizations in the public and private sectors, as well as the entrepreneurs interested in incubation, the grand-opening of Thai-BISPA was set on January 16, 2009, at the Thailand Science Park Convention Center, Pathumthani province.

Contact: Naowarat Ayawongs, [naowarat@tmc.nstda.or.th](mailto:naowarat@tmc.nstda.or.th)

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**Singapore****SPRING launches \$30 Million Incubator Development Program**

AABI Newsletter

Young companies that have better access to critical resources and support can grow faster and stronger. To help speed up their growth, SPRING Singapore is launching a \$30 million Incubator Development Program (IDP) to enable incubators and venture accelerators to enhance the services they provide to startups. Full-suite incubators and venture accelerators, who provide only a certain service, may apply for funding under the

IDP if they have a unique value proposition that caters specifically for innovative startups. The types of assistance to be provided to startups may range from access to local or international markets, platforms to raise funds, access to qualified management or mentors as well as infrastructure and shared services.

Contact: <http://www.spring.gov.sg/Content/HomePage.aspx>

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**Bosnia - Herzegovina****Technology Commercialization – Basis for New Companies**

ICU (Intelligence Commercializing Unit) was initiated in April 2009 as joint initiative of UNZE, University of Zenica, and the Business Start-Up Center BSC Zenica which formed collaboration between two cooperative, action-oriented programs focusing on technology venture incubation. The project is funded by SPARK Amsterdam, University in Zenica and private entrepreneurs. This coalition allows ICU and BSC Zenica to provide invaluable services and benefits to its client companies.

ICU is aimed to be an economic development tool in ownership and management of BSC Zenica designed to help technology-based and other businesses to start and/or accelerate their growth. The purpose of ICU help creating firms that will mature from the program financially usually in two to three years time. Creating jobs, commercializing new technologies and

strengthening local and national economies are related goals of the initiative. ICU is streaming to provide services to technology-oriented entrepreneurs located in the Zenica region who have innovative products and services with a unique environment which will increase their company's chances for success.

ICU offers a unique opportunity for technology-based ventures in the combination of low-cost, furnished office facilities; hot-desk, computing, telecommunications, and office equipment; strategic advice from the on-site Management Team and through the "Know-How Network" of professional service providers, experienced business advisors, industry experts and academics from around the world; access to funding sources; and a culture of quality and cooperation.

Contact: Nino Serdarevic [info@bsczenica.org](mailto:info@bsczenica.org)



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## Business Incubation in MENA

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



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### Syria

#### **MBRF Signed MoU With Syrian Computer Society's ICT Incubator**

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation of Dubai has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Syrian Computer Society's Information and Communication Technology Incubator. Established to build the information society in Syria and nurture entrepreneurial ideas, the ICT Incubator provides services and training to start-up businesses.

The MoU was signed by Sultan Lootah, Vice President of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation's Entrepreneurship and Employment sector, and Dr Rakan Razouk, Chairman of the ICT Incubator, Syrian Computer Society, in the presence of senior Foundation officials and key Syrian officials from the private sector, public sector and academia.

The agreement marks a new milestone in the Foundation's Entrepreneurship and Employment sector, which seeks to develop cooperative programs to advance the creative talents of Arab entrepreneurs and create new job opportunities, as well as enhance research methodologies and information exchange.

The agreement mandates the creation of an extensive online network for regional incubators to encourage interaction, share

experiences, discuss best-practices and exchange information between entrepreneurs and incubators throughout the Arab world.

The Foundation aims to build the Arab incubator network into a framework that fosters fruitful relationships between corporations and academic institutions to ensure that new companies being incubated receive appropriate industry know-how and financial support. The network will also contribute to developing research methodologies and related studies that will be shared with relevant organizations. In its efforts to empower the Arab youth to better contribute to the region's overall growth, the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation has, to-date, launched collaborative ventures with Morocco, Lebanon and Bahrain.

Earlier this year, the Foundation signed an agreement with the Palestine Information and Communications Technology Incubator (PICTI) to initiate joint efforts for encouraging and stimulating entrepreneurial activity within Palestine and across the Arab world.

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### Jordan

#### **QRCE Selected to Join Microsoft BizSpark Program**

The Queen Rania Center for Entrepreneurship has recently announced that it has been selected to join the Microsoft BizSpark Program as a Network Partner. The BizSpark Program is a new global program designed to accelerate the success of early stage Startups by connecting them to Network Partners: active members of the global software ecosystem who can provide mentorship, guidance and resources to BizSpark Startups. BizSpark creates an ongoing, mutually beneficial ecosystem between Microsoft, Startups and Network Partners.

The BizSpark Program provides Startups with software, support and visibility at a time when they are most valuable and least affordable - during their first three years, with no upfront costs and minimal requirements. BizSpark gives Startups fast and

easy access to Microsoft's current full-featured development tools, platform technologies as well as production licenses to bring to market innovative and interoperable solutions for the next generation of user experiences.

To be eligible for the Microsoft BizSpark Program, Startups must be actively engaged in development of a software-based product or service that is a core piece of their business model, have been in business less than three years, and have less than USD\$1M in revenue. Startups may enroll for the program by obtaining sponsorship from a designated BizSpark Network partner.

For more information or assistance contact [ezoubi@qrce.org](mailto:ezoubi@qrce.org) and website <http://www.qrce.org>

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### Jordan

#### **Made in Jordan Competition Graduates its Participants of Soft Skills Training**

The Made in Jordan Competition (MIJC), a major program of the Queen Rania Center for Entrepreneurship (QRCE) has recently concluded soft training courses which took place at the El Hassan Science City, Amman, Jordan. The courses had two components: first, presentation skills in which the participants learn and practice powerful presentations, second, negotiation skills which focus on training the participants about effective negotiation and communication skills.

Participants involved Jordanian professionals and senior university students in the fields of technology engineering and information technology. Upon completion of the training, the participants received their certificates.

The MIJC aims to extract innovations from Jordanian universities and researchers focusing on graduate and postgraduate research projects and theses with the goal of developing industrial and software prototypes that will solve challenges and problems

for different industries in Jordan and the region. The MIJC has three major categories: graduation projects of undergraduate students in their final year, university and research staff (holders of Higher Diploma, Master, PhD, and researchers, and finally professionals representing themselves, provided they are not being funded from their employers. The competition fields for this year are: automotive technology, biomedical engineering, communications & networking, computer engineering, electronics, information technology & software engineering, materials science/chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, petroleum geology & engineering, power engineering, renewable energy sources/green technologies, robotics & automation technology, and water desalination.

The MIJC winning prototypes will receive JD 10,000 of cash awards and in-kind that aims to commercialize and introduce them to the global market as products with high value. (cont...)

(continued from page 11) QRCE has promoted this competition among its target audience through seminars conducted at universities and public venues around Jordan.

The award ceremony for the MIJC will be held in Amman in June 2009 where the winning teams will be nominated to the "Made in the Arab World" (MIA) competition, which is orga-

nized by the Arab Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF) of the League of Arab States to compete for the finals that will be held in Cairo in November 2009 under the patronage of H.E. Amr Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. Total MIA cash prizes amount to \$ 50,000. Information: <http://www.qrce.org>

### **Jordan**

#### **Promoting Innovation and Intellectual Property**

The Jordan Innovation Center for Engineers & Industrial Enterprises at Royal Scientific Society (JIC) in cooperation with Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Business Forum conducted workshop "Promoting Innovation and Intellectual Property for Development" that end of April 2009 at the Royal Scientific Society.

Speakers of the workshop were from local public and private organization in Jordan and will tackled the following subjects

- Innovation and IP as a Tool For Economic Growth and Trade Competitiveness
- The impact of disclosure over the innovation patentability
- Patenting the invention vs. keeping it as a trade secret
- Innovation commercialization and licensing
- Innovation and Intellectual Property challenges

Contact: Yousef Abu-Hmeidan, [yousef.abuhmeidan@ioi-](mailto:yousef.abuhmeidan@ioi-)

### **Lebanon**

#### **MBRF Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in American University Beirut**

The Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation (MBRF) announced plans to establish a center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Olayan School of Business, American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon, as part of its efforts to install the spirit of entrepreneurship in the Arab world.

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, aiming to serve as a regional nucleus for entrepreneurship research and knowledge dissemination in the Arab world, will be established in collaboration with AUB with an endowment of AED18.3 million (nearly US\$5 million). The Foundation and AUB's Olayan School of Business will combine forces to support and develop entrepreneurship-related research, training material and expertise in the Arab world. Through the new centre, the Foundation and AUB will also work towards enhancing regional business capabilities.

The new Center will develop and provide research and training materials fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, thereby contributing to creating conditions conducive to furthering employment and supporting economic activity. It also will conduct

regional entrepreneurship studies to identify barriers to entrepreneurship that individu-

als, business leaders, corporations and governments can help alleviate. The center will serve as a knowledge center for e-students, entrepreneurs and policy-makers by providing sector and country analysis, profiling and policy recommendations, as well as data surveys and business case studies. Operating as an open source institution, the centre will offer access to its resources to eligible entrepreneurs, researchers and stakeholders. Aimed at promoting job growth and business creation in the region, the Foundation seeks to develop entrepreneurship programs that facilitate business mentorship, expertise and services among successful and aspiring entrepreneurs. In developing related programs that support young businesses, the Foundation aims to assist emerging entrepreneurs to explore, identify and seize potential business opportunities across the Arab world.

Contact: Nicolas Rouhana, email [nrouhana@bth.berlytech.org](mailto:nrouhana@bth.berlytech.org)



### **Important upcoming Events**

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

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

#### **May 12-14, 2009 in Cairo, Egypt: 6<sup>th</sup> ASTF Investing in Technology Forum**

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

- Discuss the factors for fostering an Arab Business Angel and Venture Capital Industry in the Arab region.
  - Allow Multinational Corporations to present their programs
  - Establish an informal network between technology leaders
  - Announcing the winners of ASTF annual Business Awards.
- Information: Wissam Rabadi, Director – Jordan ASTF Office  
Email [ahmad.takatkah@astf.net](mailto:ahmad.takatkah@astf.net) Website: <http://www.astf.net>

#### **May 14-16, 2009 in Gdynia, Poland: 20<sup>th</sup> Conference of Polish Business Incubation Association**

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

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

for new technologies and innovative services within Business Innovation Centre, (3) New tendencies in supporting innovative entrepreneurship - International panel, (4) Best practices. PBICA sections: Section of Technology Parks and Incubators, Section Entrepreneurship and Labor Market, Section of Technology Transfer, Section of Academic Business Incubators. Info: [www.sooipp.org.pl](http://www.sooipp.org.pl), [www.kreatywna.gdynia.pl/](http://www.kreatywna.gdynia.pl/)



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**May 18-20 2009 in Minsk, Belarus: Conference TRIN 2009 "Inventions. Innovations. Investments"**

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

The conference /exhibition will offer following main sections:

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

Contact [info@innosfera.org](mailto:info@innosfera.org)

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**June 4-5, 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey: 1<sup>st</sup> Women Entrepreneurship & Leadership Summit**

Guided by the vision of "creating a world in which women will play an active role in all decision-making processes through production and free self-expression", KAGIDER is holding the "1st Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership Summit" on June 4-5, 2009 at The Marmara Hotel in Istanbul with the main sponsorship of Garanti Bank and support of the American Turkish Friendship Council (ATFC).

This event encourages women entrepreneurs to discover, participate and play a more significant role in the global arena. KAGIDER's Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership Summit aims to bring 300 women leaders and entrepreneurs from all over the world to strengthen women's economic and social position in society.

Website: <http://www.kglzirve.org/en-EN/summit.aspx>

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**June 9 + 10, 2009 in Barcelona, Spain: Learning from the Best - to be a Leading Edge Business Incubator**

This two day special conference is for managers and directors who are aspiring to be leading edge business incubation practitioners. Participants will hear how experienced colleagues from across Europe have ensured that their environments meet the core principles of best practice business incubation, providing them with a competitive advantage over others. The event will be held in Parc d'Innovació La Salle, Barcelona, Spain.

Like their clients, business incubators go through phases in their life cycle. Leading Edge Incubator tools tackle all the crucial issues including the establishment and maintenance of deal flow (clients), optimization of their operations, developing self sustaining business models and the use of indicators to evidence the real added value of the business incubation process.

**June 16-18, 2009 in Damascus, Syria: Follow-up on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes in Western Asia**

The „Follow-up on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes in Western Asia“ will be organized by the ICT Division of ESC-WA in collaboration with the Syrian Ministry of Communication and Technology. The Conference aims at reviewing the progress made towards implementation of the WSIS outcomes, the Regional Plan of Action (RPoA) for building the Information Society in Western Asia, the Arab ICT Strategy as well as national Information Society strategies and plans of action.

The Conference will include policy- and decision-makers who are involved in the implementation of the WSIS action lines and regional and national plans of action. An information note with details of the Conference is available.

For more information, please visit conference website: <http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNUM=850e> (English).

Contact: Yousef Nusseir, EWCA, [nusseir@un.org](mailto:nusseir@un.org)

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**June 24-26, 2009 in Vienna, Austria: Call for Papers: ISPIM 2009 Conference on "The Future of Innovation"**

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

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

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

Contact: ISPIM Conference Secretariat [conference@ispim.org](mailto:conference@ispim.org)

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**July 8-11, 2009, Karelia, Russia: 2<sup>nd</sup> International Business Extreme Forum: Innovation. Personality, Growth**

Business Extreme

Innovations. Personality. Growth

Again the Karelian Forest in North-Western Russia will offer an unusual environment for an event dealing with innovation in a way different to what is to be expected in general.

Organized by the Russian National Business Incubation Association this forum is aimed at sharing experience in economic development promotion. A number of specialized conferences

will complete the program of the forum, for example "Small Business and Innovation", "Branding of the Territories as the Way of Positioning in the Global Markets", "Microfinance and Regional Development: Positive Experience" or "Active and Extreme Tourism as a Form of Business"

A Training "Practice in Small Innovative Business Development" will be offered as well.

Contact: [inna.gudovich@gmail.com](mailto:inna.gudovich@gmail.com)

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**August 5-7, 2009 in Coimbatore, India: 14th AABI General Assembly and Asia Conference**

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

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

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

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**September 30 – Oct. 3 2009: BALTIC DYNAMICS 2009 “The Dynamics of Innovation Spaces”**

The annual **Baltic Dynamics Conference** is organized since 1995 in turn by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and this year will be held in the Capital of Lithuania, **Vilnius**. “**The Dynamics of Innovation Spaces: Bringing Innovation to Society**” will bring together experts and policy makers in innovation and SME development from around the world. **Conference Topics** are Triple Helix – Implications for Policy and Practice; Regional Innovation Environments; International Co-operation in Knowledge Transfer; Innovation Processes and Management.



The deadline for early registrations and proposed paper outlines is **May 31, 2009**.

Contact: Pranas Milius, [info@balticdynamics.com](mailto:info@balticdynamics.com)  
Conference homepage: [www.balticdynamics.com](http://www.balticdynamics.com)

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

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

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

Contact: Ms. Ana Carrasco, email: [acarrasco@worldbank.org](mailto:acarrasco@worldbank.org), or visit the website [http://infodev.org/en/Article\\_268.html](http://infodev.org/en/Article_268.html)

**October 29-30, 2009 in Leipzig, Germany: 13<sup>th</sup> Interdisciplinary Start-Up Forum**

The "13th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Start-Up Research" (G-Forum) will be held October 29 – 30, 2009 in Leipzig, Germany.

As in earlier years also this G-Forum will be organized in the form of automatic Workshops to present and discuss actual research results

and projects from the fields of entrepreneurship and SME development. A focus of this year's conference will be "Ethics and Entrepreneurship". The organizers have issued a **Call for Papers with a deadline of June 14, 2009** For more information about the topics, please visit <http://www.gforum2009.de>

**November 19-20, 2009 in Stockholm, Sweden: 8<sup>th</sup> Best Science Based Incubator Conference and Award**

Mark your calendar for the 8th Best Science Based Incubator Award and Conference "**Incubators as Stimulators and Creators of Regional and International Clusters**" and look out for the documents allowing you to apply for the awards.

The conference will be organized in cooperation with the Swedish organization Innovationsbron. First time the Most Entrepreneurial Scientist Award will be announced.

Contact: Tanja Pijpaert, email: [t.pijpaert@technopolis.net](mailto:t.pijpaert@technopolis.net)

**December 1-3, 2009 in Belfast: 11th International UKBI conference**

UKBI announced the 11th International conference to take place in Belfast, December 1-3, 2009. Building on the success of BI:10 in Bristol the conference will offer something for everyone regardless of your level of experience. With interactive

workshops, incubator tours, plenary sessions roundtable discussions and a prestigious international gala dinner there are lots of opportunities to learn.

Information: <http://www.ukbi.co.uk/index.asp?SID=208>

**New members – Welcome to the network**



**Catherine Johns**

has a career in both private and public sector that resulted in a sound commercial awareness and customer focus, and an understanding of how regional economic strategies are managed within government structures to achieve tangible results. She has experience in strategic planning improving business processes, marketing and communications, developing new business, managing teams and finance, and managing stakeholders and partners across different sectors. Most recently she has been responsible for all aspects of science park development including funding, design

development of new builds and the extension of science park benefits to the wider business community through the development of a virtual science park. Her current role is as Director of Innovation Development for County Durham Development Company, the organization responsible for encouraging innovation and investment in County Durham, North East England. This includes the North East Technology Park, one of the fastest growing science parks in the UK.

Catherine is particularly interested in hearing from members involved in projects regarding printable electronics, functional surfaces, homeland security, nanotechnology and medical devices to see if partnerships can be built.

Contact: [catherine.johns@durham.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.johns@durham.gov.uk)

**And finally...**

As we are approaching the middle of the year 2009 no sign is to be seen for slower motion because of the summer break approaching in the Northern Hemisphere. Conference organizers have discovered the summertime as an option for organizing events that do not fit into the congested “event seasons spring and autumn. So there is a good chance for meeting SPICE Girls and Boys at upcoming events

*Heinz Fiedler & Larisa Brovarska*