



# UPDATE No. 92

For members *first*

April 2010

**In this Update:**

	Page
• Ethiopia – new on the map of SPICA Directory. Special report	14
• Special Bahrain – Moving Business Incubation to new Frontiers	6, 10
• Biotechnology in German Regions: Berlin Brandenburg	1, 2
• From the African Network AIN	13
• New information and features on SPICA Directory Online	18
• Reports from Algeria, Bahrain, Belarus, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, and USA	

Dear Member & Friend,

This SPICE Update in 2010 reports on two countries in more detail: Bahrain and Ethiopia. The reason is the both countries experience significant developments in business incubation. But also in general terms the newsletter section on MENA and Africa contain interesting information – this is not to say that

others don't. As usual the SPICE Update tour around the world of incubation is worth reading – including the announcements of upcoming events, such as the **21<sup>st</sup> Global Summit** of Associations in Orlando (see below) or other conferences listed in pages 15 – 17 and on the SPICE website.

## **21<sup>st</sup> Global Summit of Business Incubation Associations to be held in Orlando, USA**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Global Summit, the (bi-)annual meeting of leaders of national business incubation associations will meet May 16, 2010 at the NBIA conference in Orlando, USA. Members of GBIN, Global Business Incubation Network, have received invitations already. Representatives of national associations that did not yet receive an invitation should contact the GBIN secretariat at [spice@spice-group.net](mailto:spice@spice-group.net).

Topics of the Summit will be related with the GBIN work groups regarding recent developments in work groups: Professional Development, Business Incubation Research, Global Alliance of Business Incubators in Clean Energy and Environmental Technologies (GABICEET), Information Dissemination, and Incubator Commonalities.

Contact: Megan Bulow, NBIA, [mbulow@nbia.org](mailto:mbulow@nbia.org)

## **Bio Technology in and around Germany's Capital**

Several clusters in biotechnology are effectively working in Germany. The region Berlin / Brandenburg is one of them offering outstanding development potential and excellent conditions for the biotechnology industry. The high concentration of higher education and scientific institutions in this region is second to none in Europe: five universities, three technical high schools, more than 20 research institutions, and six biotechnology parks are working in this region. More than half of the 190 biotechnology enterprises in the region are spin-offs of universities and other research institutions. Areas of special competence in the region are proteom and gene research, development of new medicine, molecular diagnostic, regenerative medicine and “white” biotechnology.

To coordinate the activities within this biotechnology cluster

**BioTOP Berlin Brandenburg** has been established as the contact point for all interests regarding biotechnology in the region around Germany's Capital. The organization is working to link all activities related with biotechnology and to establish a functioning network of the institutions involved.

One of these activities is organizing the “**German Days of Biotechnology 2010**”, a bi-annual event that started in the year 2008. This event is organized by the “**Work Group of German Bio Regions**” and supported by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (see also articles on page 2)

Further 13 regional specialized networks bringing together the player form research and industry complement the activities of **BioTOP Berlin Brandenburg**. More information see report TOP50 on page 3



### **BioParks 2010**

It is late, but not too late. Still it is a few days to go until the AURP conference opens in **Chicago**, April 30 – May 1, 2010 (see also page 16). Early bird registration ends April 23,

but later birds also are welcome to attend the conference.

For more information and registration, visit the conference website [www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=802709](http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=802709)

### **A leader's Anniversary**

TechnologyZentrumDortmund opened in 1985 as one of the first incubators in Germany. Meanwhile it became one of the most successful and a leader in incu-

tion accepted far beyond the Country borders. Join the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the ADT conference in Dortmund, May 15 – 17, 2010. Website: [www.adt-online.de](http://www.adt-online.de)



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## ***Bio Technology Parks in the Berlin Brandenburg Region***

The region Berlin Brandenburg has a strong basis in biotechnology (see report on page 1 of this Update). Part of this cluster are six bio technology parks a geographic concentration of unique in Germany and probably in all of Europe. The parks differ in their offers and strategic focus and provide ideal conditions for newcomers:

### **CAMPUS Berlin Buch**

SDO Profile <http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=221>

### **berlinbiotechpark**

SDO profile: <http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=2228>

### **BIOTECH CAMPUS Potsdam**

SDO profile: <http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=564>

### **Bio Technologiepark Luckenwalde**

SDO Profile <http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=1283>

### **Technologiepark Adlershof**

SDO Profile: <http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=2138>

The **Bio Technology Center Hennigsdorf** is just undergoing a management change. Further two technology parks add to

this potential with a special focus on the biotechnology sector.

### **Innovationspark Wuhlheide**

SDO Profile: <http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=2230>

### **GoIm Innovation Center**

SDO Profile: <http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=2232>

The availability of suitable laboratory and office spaces is one of the success factors responsible for the growth of the biotech industry in the region. More than half of the 194 companies are currently utilizing the infrastructure of a publicly or privately managed park. In addition, the young companies benefit from the closeness to science and the permanent contact and exchange.

Another factor for success is the availability and activity of functioning network, for example, the **Network White Bio Technology Berlin Brandenburg** does not only link the bio technology parks of the region, it also integrates enterprises as well as higher education and research institutions <http://www.weisse-biotechnologie-bb.de/>

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## ***TOP 50 Technology Transfer in Life Sciences***

TOP 50 is a concerted effort to accelerate technology transfer in the life sciences. As a joint project of Free University Berlin, Charité – University Medizin Berlin, the University of Potsdam and BioTOP Berlin-Brandenburg TOP 50 is devoted to intensifying technology transfer in the life sciences. - to close the gap between fundamental and applied, commercially oriented research and development.

The project aims to accelerate the transfer of promising science projects in the field of the bio- and life sciences to commercial application in the coming years. Communication and cooperation between science and industry in the early stages of concept

development are to be improved considerably so as to further enhance the competitiveness of biomedical research facilities in Berlin-Brandenburg.

TOP 50 is focusing on the decisive step of ‚proof of concept‘. The conversion of scientific insights into innovations often fails because individual projects are not developed far enough or proof of concept is not achieved, so that the concept is not adopted by industry. TOP 50 is aimed at scientists who are planning to commercialize their scientific projects in the form of a spin-off, cooperation with a company or by licensing.

Send project proposals to Volker Erb, [erb@biotop.de](mailto:erb@biotop.de)

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## ***BioTOP 50 Building a Biotechnology Cluster in and around Germany's Capital***

The importance of networking for successful development of clusters cannot be overestimated. Acknowledging this fact the two Federal States of Germany Berlin and Brandenburg have established BioTOP under the responsibility of the TSB Innovationsagentur Berlin. An advisory board of 12 leading experts from industry and science supports this strategic work.

The main objective of “**BioTOP Berlin Brandenburg**” is to function as the central contact and coordination office and to provide links and support in all matters related with biotechnology in the Capitalregion. This includes to coordinate all regional activities in biotechnology by networking with all key players and to initiate specific projects in order to turn Berlin-Brandenburg into a globally leading competence center for biotechnology regarding the target groups universities,

research institutes, start-up companies, small and medium businesses, service providers, investors, and policy makers.

On this background the services of BioTOP include technology transfer science- industry, initiation and implementation of research groups, initiation and support of networks, support for technology-oriented start-ups, funding support for innovative project concepts, provision and presentation of biotechnology information, building and coordination of scientific and interdisciplinary networks, establishing contacts between experts from all disciplines, design and organization of events, as well as public relations work for the biotechnology region.

For more information, please visit the BioTOP website at <http://www.biotop.de/about/index+M52087573ab0.html> or contact Kai Uwe Bindseil, email [biotop@biotop.de](mailto:biotop@biotop.de)

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## ***A Nationwide Network of Bio Technology Businesses in Germany***

End of 2004 initiative was taken for establishing a nationwide association of German businesses active in biotechnology. Since its start this association “**BIO Deutschland**” with 11 founding members the network grew to more than 270 members within only three years time. This development clearly illustrated the growth of this business sector and at the same time the understanding for needed coordination.

The main missions of the association are the establishment and communication of **BIO Deutschland** as the single voice of the German biotechnology industry as well as establishment of an independent representation of all companies active in the biotechnology sector for national and European political advocacy and networking and support of German Bio-Regions.

More information: <http://www.biodeutschland.org/>

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## ***The SPICE Art Ball is rolling on Video***

[http://www.art-ball.net/keep\\_rolling.php](http://www.art-ball.net/keep_rolling.php)

Now available on the SPICA Art Ball website: The Triangle Bulgaria with the “story behind” as well as information about the artist that create the triangle and the host.

The Triangle Bulgaria is one of the 42 countries represented on the SPICE Art Ball that has been initiated at the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the year 2006 and since then rolled around the globe. Presentations on 3 continents, in 12 countries, 17 cities exhibited the SPICE Art Ball under the motto “Creativity for Innovation and Entrepreneurship - globally”:



China (Shanghai), Dominican Republic (Julio Dolio), Germany (Berlin), Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek Issyk-Kul), Latvia (Riga), Lithuania (Vilnius), Macedonia (Skopje; Ohrid), Poland (Gdansk, Poznan), Russia (St. Petersburg, Petrozavodsk) Sweden (Stockholm) Thailand (Bangkok), and USA (St. Louis, Kansas City)

Another example shown on the Art Ball website is the “Triangle Lithuania” that was among the early contributions and illustrates the Lithuanian individualism: It is the only triangle painted “top down”.

**Triangle Bulgaria:** [www.art-ball.net/spice\\_art\\_ball\\_country.php?cnt=bulgaria\\*](http://www.art-ball.net/spice_art_ball_country.php?cnt=bulgaria*)  
**Lithuania:** [www.art-ball.net/spice\\_art\\_ball\\_country.php?cnt=lithuania\\*](http://www.art-ball.net/spice_art_ball_country.php?cnt=lithuania*)

### **SPICA Art Ball Videos**

Also on the Art Ball website videos of ArtBall presentations are available to give an impression of the respective event. For getting your own impression, please visit [http://www.art-ball.net/keep\\_rolling.php](http://www.art-ball.net/keep_rolling.php) Please note: the clips shown on the website are low resolution samples – you may order full quality clips on CD through the ArtBall website.

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## ***Heidelberg will host conference of Technopolicy Network***

The Technopolicy Network has announced its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, to be held September 30 & October 1 in Heidelberg, Germany under the theme

**‘Building a World-Class Knowledge Region’.**

The conference is organized in cooperation with BioRN Cluster Management GmbH, one of the first round winners of the Leading Edge Cluster Competition in 2008.

This years’ theme focuses on the role of interregional alliances to elevate a region to a world-class knowledge region. How to create such regions and what are the key factors for success?

During the two days, international speakers from government, industry, research institutions and others will give their insights and discuss the ingredients necessary to build a world-class knowledge region. The conference will take place in the Rhine-Neckar Triangle, a leading life science cluster in Europe with the Technology Park Heidelberg being an important part of this cluster.

(SDO Profile: <http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=449>)

For more conference information, please visit the website <http://www.technopolicy.net/annualconference/>

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## ***Business Incubation Management Certification Program***

To enhance skills in business incubation management and increase professional credibility are aims of NBIA’s Incubator Management Certificate. Also at NBIA’s Conference in May 2010 in Orlando, Florida, participants can start or complete their own qualification program by attending conference workshops and sessions designed for this purpose.

To earn a certificate of incubator management, participants must attend three full-day workshops and five specially designated 75-minute conference sessions. Two of the workshops

offered during the conference: *Serving Client Companies*, and *The Fundamentals of Incubator Management*. Several sessions that qualify for the certificate program also will be offered. These workshops feature much needed in-depth information.

For more information about the certificate including details of the Preconference Institute, please visit the NBIA website [www.nbia.org/certificate](http://www.nbia.org/certificate) or [www.nbia.org/events/conf2010/sessions.php](http://www.nbia.org/events/conf2010/sessions.php)



## NBIA President at Hearing before the US House of Representatives

David Monkman on March 17, 2010 testified before the U.S. House Small Business Committee at a hearing examining “Business Incubators and Their Role in Job Creation.” He saw this as an opportunity to help educate members of Congress about why business incubation should feature prominently in any discussion dealing with jobs creation.

In her opening statement, Rep. Nydia Velázquez, chairwoman of the House Small Business Committee, said that today’s hearing was about “putting Americans back to work.” She also noted that because most Americans recognize that young, growing firms create jobs, “the question becomes how to create conditions that maximize the chances for budding enterprises to get off the ground.”

A copy of the complete written testimony is available for download [www.nbia.org/downloads/download.php?dlid=74](http://www.nbia.org/downloads/download.php?dlid=74)

The hearing also included testimony from five other witnesses: Lou Cooperhouse, director of the Rutgers Food Innovation Center; David Lewis, assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at SUNY, Albany; Timothy Early, president & CEO of the Hampton Roads Technology Council; Robert Strom, director of research & policy at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation; and Peter Linder, chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Angel Group Fund and board member of the Angel Capital Education Foundation

Copies of all written testimonies can be downloaded from the website of the House Small Business Committee at <http://www.house.gov/smbiz/>

NBIA will continue to educate both government officials and the media about the role business incubation plays in job creation, and NBIA will keep informing about business incubation.

## Global Search for Social Entrepreneurship

Under the title “Leveraging Business for Social Change; Building the Field of Social Business” Artemisia and Ashoka’s **Changemakers** have launched a global search for model initiatives and ideas that help build the emerging field of social business. The aim is to strengthen the exchange of information about solutions for building social businesses.

Changemakers is a community of action bringing people together to collaborate for finding solutions. The aim is to join forces for solving the world’s most pressing social problems.

Changemakers talk about the issues, share stories, mentor, advise, and encourage each other in group forums, even engage in friendly competition. Key to success is to form connections and partnerships across the globe “that turn the old ways of problem solving upside down”.

The mantra is “Everyone a Change maker.”™ The solutions are all around us. To join the Changemakers Group, visit <http://www.changemakers.com> or contact [connect@changemakers.com](mailto:connect@changemakers.com) For participating in the actual competition **Submit** your social enterprises

that demonstrate how social business initiatives can thrive and scale-up their impact on quality of life.

**Present your entry by the early entry deadline, April 28, 2010.** The 2 winners of the early entry prize will receive a digital camera each one. **Enter before the competition deadline of June 9, 2010** and you may be one of three winners that receive USD \$5000 to advance your project. For project examples and more information about the competition, please visit <http://www.changemakers.com/en-us/socialbusiness>

### Solar Sisters – One of the Early Winners

One quarter of the World population, that is 1.6 billion people do not have access to reliable electricity. 70% are females living in developing countries.

They rely on kerosene lanterns and candles for light and have to spend hours each day collecting wood to burn for cooking and heat.

Solar Sister is a woman-to-woman direct-sales distribution system for solar lanterns that is based on women’s natural networks of family, friends and neighbors and brings the solar technology right to the women’s doorstep Solar Sister engages women as solar entrepreneurs, giving them the opportunity to earn independent income and bring the transforming power of solar light to their families and communities. Solar Sister supports the women by partnering with them on solar projects to light schools, clinics or enterprise centers, and community improvement projects such as solar powered water pumps.

For more information contact Katherine Lucey, email [lucey.katherine@gmail.com](mailto:lucey.katherine@gmail.com) or visit Solar Sisters website <http://www.solarsister.org>

## Entrepreneurs' Innovation Summer School (EISS)

Universities and research institutes of Schleswig Holstein (the most Northern State of Germany) see a significant potential for technology based entrepreneurship within their staff and students. However, experience shows that “would-be” entrepreneurs lack business management experience as well as knowledge needed for developing a business plan. Entrepreneurs Innovation Summer School (EISS) of the CAU Christian Albrechts University Kiel is aiming to close this gap. This initiative is financially supported through the EXIST II program of the German Federal Ministry for Economy and Technology EISS is an intensive training program for potential start-up entrepreneurs. In the year 2010 this summer school will be organized already the fourth time and aims especially at scientists

with a business idea that want to learn how to make this idea a real life business..

The workshops of the summer school are held along the business concepts of the participants and provide the needed knowledge and experience for a successful business start up. Trainers are renowned teachers from the university as well as entrepreneurs and business people. The financial support from the Ministry makes it possible to offer this training program at a nominal fee.

The EISS this year will be held May 5-7 and participants after the summer school may choose to continue their business development supported by the “Kieler Gündungspraktikum”.

More information: <http://www.eiss.uni-kiel.de/>

## Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship

### Results of infoDev's global work group on Youth and Incubation

Self-employment for many young people is not an opportunity but a necessity. World Bank reports that in the year 2015 three billion people in the world will be younger than 25. Between 1995 and 2005 the number of young people grew 13.2 per cent – employment of this age group increased only by 3.8 per cent. In late 2008, the infoDev incubator initiative began supporting three global thematic work groups: Women, Youth, and High-Growth IT Enterprises. The work group Youth and Incubation first focused on how business incubation can help developing youth entrepreneurship. Beginning with an analysis of the needs and situation, further activities of the group were to learn about good practices and existing instruments of incubation of young entrepreneurs, and finally to identify and start actions.

More than 50 members from 30 countries have joined the working group. **Radu Big**, coordinator of the work group and general director at CDIMM Maramures in Baia Mare (Romania), says about the first year of the group that “acting on global scale you have to have flexibility, adaptability and a vision of the phenomena you discuss. First, we all had to learn how to communicate in a work group. There is no single recipe for successful promotion of youth entrepreneurship.” In fact, internationally there is no standard for the term “Youth”. “In Africa, business is considered to be a big white elephant and not a toy for young people. Business for people in Africa means big business. In India the situation is much different, where young people are encouraged by their communities to start enterprises.” says **Rajeev Aggarwal**, director of TBIF incubator in Kigali (Rwanda), who facilitated the work group in Africa.

The work group found only limited experiences in starting and managing a business, the lack of supportive networks and social capital, limited availability of financing but also an overall low level of awareness on the opportunities and benefits of self-employment are major barriers for youth entrepreneurship.

The entrepreneurial perspective is added by **Steliana Economu** a young entrepreneur from Romania and founder of Ithaca Journey: “We should not only look at barriers. Being young can be an advantage, also in the perception of people. Young people have energy and fresh ideas, and they quite often have the willingness and commitment to succeed”.

To address the barriers and to make use of the opportunities, the work group recommends improving legal frameworks and

support programs for young entrepreneurs, to raise awareness for entrepreneurship among young people and policy-makers, and to support youth entrepreneurship and mentor networks. Also integrating entrepreneurship into education, improving access to finance and markets, and building capacities on both youth and youth support levels are actions to be taken.

One of the key questions the work group aimed to answer was the role and status of business incubation in youth entrepreneurship development today. “Most incubators work with young entrepreneurs here in Asia but very few do really focus on youth entrepreneurship” says **Annuar Saffar**, executive director at Kulim Hi-Tech Park, Malaysia and facilitator of the working group in Asia. The research conducted by the work group indicates that business incubation tools specifically addressing the needs of young entrepreneurs are rare.

There is much potential and need for international cooperation and exchange of experiences in the key action areas:

- Providing incubation and business development tools designed to address specific needs of young entrepreneurs;
- Providing social capital and market access in form of contacts and networks, also internationally;
- Collaborating with universities and vocational schools helping to integrate entrepreneurship education ;
- Improving access to finance through micro-credit programs, angel investors, and fundraising;
- Raising awareness and advocating the interests and needs of young entrepreneurs;
- Building up capacities and helping young entrepreneurs finding their life objectives;
- Demonstrating the value of business incubation to young people.

The work group plans to continue especially the Y2i Youth to Innovation Contest. Y2i aims to support innovative thinking and acting among young people in both entrepreneurship and business incubation. Concentrating on Eastern Europe and Central Asia in 2009, the contest received 21 applications from 8 countries. The work group plans to bring the next contest in 2011 to the global level and to allow participation from all infoDev global incubator network regions.

For more details and links, please visit the infoDev website: <http://www.idisc.net/en/Article.38975.html>

### The Euro-Med Youth Platform

The Euro-Med Youth Platform was officially launched in September 2003 and is now a body that contributes to the implementation of the Youth in Action Program. Based in Malta, the Euro-Med Youth Platform Secretariat is hosted within the European Union Programs Agency (EUPA) that is responsible for the management and implementation of a number of programs. The Platform aims at bringing young people from the region together in an environment of tolerance and mutual understanding, facilitating networking, assisting in the capacity building of organizations, increasing participation, sharing of relevant information, and exchanging good practice.

The platform provides networking services for youth initiatives

in the region by assisting in the search for partners, facilitating the creation of networks of youth groups, publishing a magazine in 3 languages, or-

ganizing meetings, providing a forum for discussion, researching the situation of young people, and distributing information about the Youth in Action and Euro.Med Youth Programs.

With its activities, the Platform contributes to developing cooperation in the youth sector between thirty-five countries, parties to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Agreement.

Info: <http://euromedp.org/default.asp>



## Women Entrepreneurship and Incubation

### Women Business Incubators - globally

In SPICE Update no 90 we informed about an a Federal agency in Germany, the „gründerinnenagentur bga“ (Women Entrepreneur Agency), working to promote women entrepreneurship by providing information and advice. Important components of the support system are women business incubators. This is why we begin a series of short introductions to women business incubators. With these reports SPICE Update will provide spotlights on different experiences and offer contacts for promoting the exchange of information, experiences and know-how.

#### Germany **gig7 – a Women Business Incubator in Mannheim, Germany**

The "Gründerinnenzentrum in G7" (gig7) is a project of the "Women Office" of the City of Mannheim. With support from the EU-Program NOW (New Opportunities for Women) the Women Office already in 1992 began with a model project initiated and steered by the City Commissioner for Women, **Ilse Thomas**. Already at that time a basic concept for a women business incubator was drafted that could be realized in the year 2000 with EU financial support. The building in G7, 22 became a women business incubator.

The aim of gig7 is to support women on their way to entrepreneurial success. The specific approach of gig7 is a "holistic" view on this matter. Not only the business planning and development is taken care of, also the personal life situation of the start-up women entrepreneurs is taken into account when gig7 provided consultancy, coaching, and mentoring

A specific focus of gig7 is the art sector. Female artists and

women with artisan skills as well as women intending to start a business in other cultural areas find specific offers in gig7. At this time 22 women entrepreneurs are working here. The spectrum of business areas reaches from accounting, financial advice service, food and education advice, psychological therapy, and translation though Chemical Market Monitoring, building construction expertise, business advice and coaching to a CAD Fashion School, book restoration, and jewelry.

This overview is not complete, but it shows the spectrum of possibilities entrepreneurial women are taking advantage of. In general terms the maximum duration of work within gig7 are three years – with a possibility to add another two years. And: the center does not allow two competing businesses to be "on-site" clients at the same time.

Contact: Ilse Thomas, [ilse.thomas@mannheim.de](mailto:ilse.thomas@mannheim.de)

SDO profile [www.spice-group.net/admin/users/edit.php?id=3293](http://www.spice-group.net/admin/users/edit.php?id=3293)

#### Bahrain **Bahrain starts important Initiative towards supporting Women Entrepreneur-**



Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King, Chairwoman of the Supreme Council for Woman patronized on February 22, 2010 the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Center for Development of Bahraini Women.

The Center aims at developing women's skills in managing business start-up projects and self-employment and giving them a chance to succeed by providing a supportive environment for the first stages of establishment of women owned businesses. Part of the centers' offer is raining and advisory services as well as marketing to support women's projects and enhance the skills and creativity of women entrepreneurs. The new center reflects the partnership between the state institutions to achieve economic vision of the Kingdom of Bahrain 2030. These efforts are a good basis for action-oriented institutional support programs for the empowerment of Bahraini women economically. This project is aimed at establishing a culture of leadership, creativity, and innovation among women.

At the beginning of the ceremony, His Excellency Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Bahrain Development Bank applauded the efforts to improve the status of Bahraini women, calling the project a quantum leap in enhancing the women empowerment, to enable them to participate in the economy and make them a worthy partner in nation-building.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka congratulated His Excellency Professor Lulwa bint Saleh Al- Awadi, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Women, to implementing the initia-

tive of building an integrated center for empowerment and development of women's economic capacity, stressing that partnership and cooperation with the Bahrain Development Bank will provide a the needed economical knowledge and support. The initiative will further strengthen leading Bahraini pioneer women and contribute to realizing the ambitious economic vision of Bahrain, to "provide ways to all of our citizens to enable them to reflect their full potential to live a safe and decent life based on the principles of sustainability, competitiveness and justice."

A presentation of a film on the status of women's development regarding critical competencies and objectives the new Center seeks to implement followed the opening presentations. This film illustrated the Center's activities in providing an appropriate environment

for the first stages of starting a business. The center will support Bahraini women from starting a new business through the transition to small and medium enter-

prises. It will reduce the cost of incorporation and help making the necessary investment available to develop the companies

Contact: Supreme Council of Women, Manama, Bahrain



## Views & Facts

### Technopolis Expanding in Tampere

Source: Technopolis press release 4.1.2010

Technopolis is expanding the wellbeing and healthcare campus in Finn-Medi area in Tampere. Technopolis is planning a patient hotel for Norlandia Care Oy and office premises for multi client purposes. Both premises which are now in the planning phase would be constructed into same new building complex with a Joint Municipal Authority of the Pirkanmaa Hospital District's Eye Center. When the campus is completed it will pull together hospital, university research and education, private healthcare companies and other knowledge intensive companies and related service providers.

Net size of patient hotel will be about 7.100 brutto square meters including restaurant and 136 hotel rooms. Net size of office premises will be about 2.400 square meters. The final decision about investment of patient hotel and office premises will be made in spring 2010. Net size of whole project, including the patient hotel, office premises and eye center is 16.000 square meters and total investment is about 32 million €. Based on preliminary plans the buildings of wellbeing and healthcare campus will be ready by the end of 2011.

Information: Keith Silverang, [keith.silverang@technopolis.fi](mailto:keith.silverang@technopolis.fi)

### Bio-Breakfast in Chicago

The conference BIO 2010 in Chicago is the occasion for having a good Bio-Breakfast (see conference announcement page 7) This traditional breakfast event will take place in one of the most prestigious places in town, The Chicago Club, and will be hosted by **Heidelberg Technology Park** an international Life Science Park. It is the Center of the Heidelberg BioCluster, founding member of the International Association of Science Parks (IASP) and of the Council of European Bio-Regions (CEBR). The Park is part of a worldwide Life Science Network.

**BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg** as the State-wide service and marketing agency for Baden-Württemberg, Germany, pursues targeted support of research institutions and companies of the

biotechnology and life sciences sector. Special focus is translational research to innovate classic industry sectors by means of modern biotechnology.

**BioRN Cluster Management** is charged with the development and marketing of the Biotech Cluster Rhine-Neckar (BioRN) – one of the leading life science clusters in Europe. The focus of the BioRN cluster is the development of innovative drugs, diagnostics and platform technologies in the field of personalized medicine and cancer.

If you wish to attend and have not yet received an invitation, please contact Technologiepark Heidelberg GmbH

E-Mail: [technologiepark@heidelberg.de](mailto:technologiepark@heidelberg.de)

SDO profile: [www.spice-group.net/admin/users/edit.php?id=49](http://www.spice-group.net/admin/users/edit.php?id=49)

### BIC Pilsen: Serving businesses and Promoting Entrepreneurship

BIC Pilsen as member of EEN, the Enterprise Europe Network provides services to support innovative companies in the south-west Bohemian region. Through EEN BIC Pilsen benefits from the contacts to more than 500 network members in 45 countries. Knowing local conditions and having international contacts are good preconditions for providing unique services to local companies.

One of the most important international actions in 2009 organized by BIC Pilsen in collaboration with Technology Centre of Academy of Science of the Czech Republic with support of EEN was the **Nano Brokerage Event**. It was organized accompanying the international conference EuroNano Forum 2009. The brokerage event attracted companies, universities and R&D institutes from 12 countries. More than 120 bilateral meetings were organized and gave the opportunity to the participants to start new business or to find new research partners in the area of nanotechnologies. Based on the positive response from the participants a similar event is planned to be organized this year. The brokerage event will be a part of an international conference NANOCON 2010. Nanomaterials and their applications in different areas including biotech and medicine are the main topic of the event in October 2010

in the Czech Republic. More information will be on the web <http://www.nanocon.cz/en/>.

Another important sector of activities of BIC Pilsen is the focus on promoting new businesses "at home". Business planning, searching for funding, technology transfer services, commercialization of R&D results and internationalization are the main BIC Pilsen support activities provided to companies.

To promote the entrepreneurship BIC Pilsen closely cooperates with the University of West Bohemia. A new joint project for the university students was initiated in 2009. Business planning workshops for students are the main responsibility of BIC Pilsen. New businesses can use BIC Pilsen incubation and technology centre premises. For matured enterprises the newly developed buildings of the science and technology park in Pilsen (STPP) are available. In the STPP as international R&D companies are located next to companies that graduated from the BIC Pilsen as well the university research centre for the new technologies. A new facility for innovative companies and research and development activities is expected to be built in the years 2011-12 as the next step of expansion of the STPP.

Contact: Jana Klementova, email [Klement@bic.cz](mailto:Klement@bic.cz)

SDO profile: <http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=206>

### Europe –Mediterranean Information

Readers interested in being updated continuously about projects and developments within the European – Mediterranean area find an informative EU website, The ENPI Info Center. This portal informs about the Euro-Mediterranean

Partnership, EuroMed projects, and offers various search options. [http://www.enpi-info.eu/indexmed.php?lang\\_id=450](http://www.enpi-info.eu/indexmed.php?lang_id=450) For a guidebook "Plan and manage a science park in the Mediterranean": [www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=326&id\\_type=9](http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=326&id_type=9)



### **Business Incubation in ASIA**

This page provides information about incubation activities from the ASIA region. **APIN, the Asia Pacific Incubation Network** is the regional networks of business incubators and technology parks that has been set up with support from the infoDev program. More information on website <http://www.incubationasia.com/index.php> or contact Suresh Kumar, [psgstep@vsnl.com](mailto:psgstep@vsnl.com)



### **Good knowledge Base of IKED Institute of Korean Entrepreneurship Development**

There are not too many associations around the world that can provide full statistical information about the development of business incubators and their client companies. Although this kind of information is important for evaluating the outcome impact of business incubation activities it appears to be difficult to get the necessary information. Partly this may be caused by the lack of understanding at individual incubators for the necessity to monitor and evaluate the won activities. Not only for the “outside world”, but almost more importantly for optimizing the internal processes and for being prepared for the needs of future client businesses.

IKED, the Institute of Korean Entrepreneurship as the national association of business incubator in South Korea (formerly KOBIA) is one of the few associations having a solid data base.



Even better, IKED makes this information available for other members of GBIN, Global Business Incubation network as well as for other parties interested in the topic.

Contact: Yongsam Lee, email [lysbusan@hanmail.net](mailto:lysbusan@hanmail.net)  
SDO: <http://www.spica-directory.net/associations/?id=39>

### **4<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Conference successfully held in Coimbatore**

APIN, the Asia Pacific Incubation Network with the support from infoDev, World Bank, Department of Science & Technology Government of India and AABI, Asian Association of Business Incubation held its 4<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference on Business Incubation on the theme “Global Recession : An Opportunity for Business Incubation?” in August 2009 in Coimbatore, India. The conference was organized by PSG-Science & Technology Entrepreneurial Park (PSG-STEP) that is also hosting the APIN Secretariat.

About 200 delegates representing 85 member organizations from 17 Asia Pacific countries participated in the conference. 31 speakers representing business incubation community and policymakers across the world shared their experiences and provided the informational basis for fruitful discussions.

The sessions in the conference included: Role of Business Incubators in Recession, Attracting Angel Investors, Rural Innovation & Entrepreneurship, New Opportunities for Business Incubation in Food, Security and Clean Technologies as well as topics related with practical incubation management like “



Building Entrepreneurial Pipeline for Business Incubators” or “Writing a Winning Proposal”. The event emerged as a wonderful platform for the delegates representing business incubation managers, policymakers, investors and incubatees to establish network and to share the good practices of business incubation. APIN at this conference also hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> AA-BI General Assembly.

For more information about the conference as well as APIN in general, visit website [www.incubationasia.com](http://www.incubationasia.com) or write to [step@psgtech.edu](mailto:step@psgtech.edu) / [info@incubationasia.com](mailto:info@incubationasia.com)

### **India: Transforming lives in Rural India**

Villgro called people interested in a “Villgro Fellowship” to send their resume by **April 20, 2010** to [fellowship@villgro.org](mailto:fellowship@villgro.org). A Villgro fellowship means to support and mentor successful commercialization of innovation, deploy imaginative leadership in working with innovators, and acquire in-depth understanding of innovation in the social entrepreneurship sector.

Since inception in 2001, Villgro has been spotting and grooming innovations with rural benefits. An irrigation model that conserves water by more than 70 % and a stove that uses farm waste for fuel, are only two of the many innovations that have impacted countless lives in the heartlands of India’s villages.

Villgro’s uniqueness lies in the spectrum of its offerings. There are very few organizations in the world that provide the entire bouquet of services required to take an idea to the market. By virtue of its extremely well organized network of Investors, technical experts, domain specialists, mentors and marketers,

eight years back Villgro started to develop the system as it works today. The founder & CEO of Villgro, Paul Basil, took initiative. Being a mechanical engineer and management degree holder from the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, he had the basis for bridging the gap between technology and business. Villgro has so far, identified and activated close to 2000 social innovators, impacted more than 360,000 rural users and created social returns worth USD 5 million.

Villgro supports innovations and inventors in 3 ways.

**Funding:** Up to Rs. 25,00,000/- as an interest-free loan, repayable upon the successful completion of your project.  
**Mentoring:** The project team is experienced in both strategic and operational areas, and will help you tackle business/ technological challenges.

**Recognition:** The web of media contacts, enables incubatees to get the right kind of marketing when needed most.

Website: <http://www.villgro.org/>



## Capacity Building for Asian Business Incubation

The second Capacity Building Program for Business Incubation Managers of Asia Pacific Incubation Network (APIN) was organized by PSG-Science & Technology Entrepreneurial Park (PSG-STEP) - the APIN Secretariat in December 2009 at Ooty, India. The program was attended by 35 Business Incubation Managers, 10 speakers including incubation practitioners, entrepreneurs and policymakers from US, Switzerland and India.

The sessions in the training program included:

- Technology Commercialization
- Understanding Fund Raising for Start-ups. Angel and VC Funding
- Meet the Good Incubation Manager
- Engaging the Policy Maker in Business Incubation.
- Experiences of Incubation Manager turned Entrepreneur

Website: [http://www.incubationasia.com/newsevent\\_details.php?type=events&id=10m](http://www.incubationasia.com/newsevent_details.php?type=events&id=10m)

## 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 network of business incubators and technology parks that has been set up with support from the infoDev program. For more information, please visit website <http://idisc.infodev.org/en/Region.5.html> or contact Mr. Omer Oz at [omeroz1@gmail.com](mailto:omeroz1@gmail.com)



## MENA

### MENAinc Project Report delivered

MENAinc, the business incubator and technology park network for Middle East and North Africa, has finalized an infoDev supported project and delivered the final report. Main components of the report were Technology Commercialization in the MENA Region, Technology Entrepreneurship and Education, both under the lead of **Laith Kassis** (PCTI, Palestine), National Network Building with three country studies Morocco (**Ilyas Azzoui**), Tunisia (**Nejiba Khalfallah**), and Syria (**Rima Shaban**), and Cross Network Cooperation for International Business Development (**Bagratt Yengibaryan**, Armenia).

With the following summary we begin providing information about the results of the project (next issues of SPICE Update will provide further information)

The **Technology Commercialization Project** started on the basis that job creation and poverty alleviation in the MENA region is best dealt with by enabling people to create economic value by visioning a preferred future into the present.

The challenge in the MENA region is that many of the supporting infrastructure and elements that create the innovation ecosystem and the value chain of the commercialization process are either not in place on a national level or not integrated in the MENA region. As a network of incubators, MENAinc is seen as an important stakeholder to cooperate with existing initiatives that promote entrepreneurship and innovation, above all, to integrate several activities together toward the commercialization of technology through the path of establishing start-ups.

MENAinc highlights a path towards technology commercialization in establishing start-up companies. If an invention appears to be commercially strong, the inventor may recommend that a new company be formed to commercialize it. In this case the inventor in collaboration with supporting organizations such as incubators will start to assemble staff, resources and capability to proactively assist in the formation and launch of a new enterprise, should such assistance be desired by the inventor(s). MENAinc, being part of the global network of the infoDev has a vested interest in promoting more of start-up companies in the MENA region focusing on technology.

Innovation develops through an iterative process in which the

inventor learns from mistakes and builds on that learning until the goal is achieved. In this process business incubators provide significant support. Although governments in the MENA region have taken initiative for supporting entrepreneurship and innovation, more action to raise awareness about the potential of technology entrepreneurship is needed. One tool the report suggests for this purpose is promoting competitions for entrepreneurs. For MENAinc main objectives of being part of a regional Technology Business Plan Competition are:

1. Promoting innovative thinking amongst entrepreneurs, students, professionals and academia.
2. Identifying talented management teams and innovators
3. Bridging the gap between academia and business to facilitate establishment of market driven industry-university linkages.
4. Nurturing and support commercialization of ideas and enhance development of dynamic start-up enterprises.

As a practical option, the report suggests that MENAinc joins a regional business plans contest as co-organizer, for example

- Arab Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF) Technology Business Plan Contest <http://www.tbpc-astf.net>
- The OECD EFN MENA 100 Business Plan Contest launched by the MENA-OECD Enterprise Financing Network©, in co-operation with the Islamic Development Bank and the MENA Centre for Investment. <http://www.mena100.org>

The **Technology Entrepreneurship Forum** is another possible initiative for MENAinc. The Forum promotes efforts to bridge the gap between those who generate technology, and those who seek opportunities for investments. The ultimate aim of this merger is to create strong, innovative and competitive knowledge-based businesses that can add value, generate jobs and create wealth. Such a Forum also will be a platform to discuss the factors for fostering an Arab Venture Capital Industry and Business Angles Network to actively engage in economic and technology development in the Arab region and for knowledge sharing in general.

Info: iDISC website <http://idisc.infodev.org/en/Region.5.html>

## Bahrain

### ***Business Incubator Center (BBIC) important part of National Strategy***



The Bahrain Development Bank (BDB) created and implemented the concept for promoting small and medium enterprises in Bahrain. An important part of these initiatives is the BBIC, Bahrain Business Incubator Center. The successful development of BBIC over recent years has resulted in a major building expansion that has been completed end of last year. To the initial 5,500 m<sup>2</sup> of space now 3,200 m<sup>2</sup> have been added. Also an Enterprise Center was established to serve the graduates from the incubator with a total area of 10,500 m<sup>2</sup>.

The chief executive of BDB, Nedhal Al Aujan, said: "The Bank is continuing to implement an integrated concept for contributing effectively to stimulating start-up and growth of SMEs which are now receiving increased worldwide attention. SMEs play a substantial role in the development of the nation-economy, in line with the Economic vision of Bahrain for the year 2030 and National Strategy for 2009/2014". He continued, "Business incubators play a key role in the development of SMEs and raise attention of young people for the entrepreneurial option."

Nascent business – namely if technology and innovation based - is facing many challenges related to management and marketing, competition and training, technology and other factors that make it difficult to secure survival in the market and achieve the intended growth Business incubators are providing a supportive environment for these enterprises and provide the needed advisory and support services. Nedhal Al Aujan also sees an important function of the BBIC in attracting new

technologies and global experiences by allowing entrepreneurs to partner with other institutions.

The expansion of BBIC will provide significant additional space for SMEs and also linkages for financing industrial enterprises as well as service through BDB. This offer is aimed at attracting companies with high-tech and knowledge-base, and also targets at direct foreign investment, businesses industry-leading excellence in domestic and global market positions with potential for rapid growth and new jobs.

Opened in the year 2003 the BBIC at this time as 38 client

firms in the production and service sectors The expansion provides room for ca. 74 additional companies as well as for growth of existing client firms. At this time 12 enterprises are preparing to move into the Enterprise Center.

As an important part of the orientation towards international markets BBIC also serves as the focal point the network of incubators in the Middle East and North Africa, MENAinc. BDB seeks to take advantage of the BBIC experience for the development of emerging enterprises in the Kingdom through the establishment of business incubators for specific target groups, as different as medicine technology or handicrafts.

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SDO profile: <http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=1980>



## Bahrain

### ***University gets involved with Business Incubation***

The Bahrain Development Bank (BDB) and the University of Bahrain (UoB) in November 2009 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a business incubator at the UoB through the Bahrain Centre for the Development Emerging Industries.

The move has come as part of assisting the Bahraini youth, particularly UoB graduates, to achieve their objectives and present their innovation that and creativity in a way that could improve the local economy in the Bahrain. The BDB and the Bahrain Centre for the Development of Emerging Industries will be accountable for consultancy services, technical assistance, the incubator development process as well as for the incubator's management and operation.

The President of the University of Bahrain, Dr. Ibrahim Janahi and the CEO of Bahrain Development Bank, Mr. Nedhal Al Aujan announced the cooperation agreement and stressed the importance of opening all the way to the youth energies in order to strengthen their ambitions, including professional help in supplying the domestic economy of Bahrain through inno-



ative initiatives. This cooperation aims to activate and strengthen the efforts of the parties in support innovation and entrepreneurship in Bahrain that already has an experienced and well developing business incubator and just laid the corner a women business incubator. Through the "University Incubator Bahrain", the parties involved will create an effective partnership to promote and support university / technology based entrepreneurship, in addition to working to support programs and specialized research in entrepreneurship for stimulating entrepreneurship and innovation among Bahraini youth.

In this regard, said Al Aujan "This cooperation demonstrates the devotion of the partners to contribute to the development of society", saying that especially for the students of the University of Bahrain the incubator will be a solid starting basis providing the needed support and promoting entrepreneurship especially for youth in general.

This cooperation between the education and research sector on one and the financial sector on the other also will strengthen the process of creating successful projects to develop the knowledge-based economy. For the management and development of the incubator the experiences of BBIC, the Bahrain Business Incubation Center, will be an important backing.

Contact: Omer Oz, BBIC, email [omeroz1@gmail.com](mailto:omeroz1@gmail.com)

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**Bahrain** *Bahrain starts important Initiative towards supporting Women Entrepreneurship*

Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King, Chairwoman of the Supreme Council for Woman patronized on February 22, 2010 the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Center for Development of Bahraini Women.

The Center's will provide an appropriate environment for the first stages of starting a business and thereby support Bahraini women from starting pilot micro-businesses through the transition to small, medium enterprises. For more details, please see article on page 6 of this newsletter

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**Algeria** *5<sup>th</sup> Congress on Developing SME's was held in Algeria*

Algeria already at the 4<sup>th</sup> Arab Conference on SMEs held in Sana'a (Yemen) proposed the development of an Arab charter for the promotion of SMEs in the Arab world. Now the 5<sup>th</sup> Congress in March 2010 was attended by ca. 450 representatives of 17 Arab countries including the presence of several cabinet members.

This symposium, organized by the **Ministry of SMEs and Craft**, in collaboration with the **Arab Industrial Development and Metallurgy (AIDMO) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB)**, was part of the efforts made to identify the conditions necessary for the development of SMEs in the Arab countries and eliminate the problems facing this sector.

The meeting also examined the possibility of coordination between networks of SMEs and support institutions and ways to raise awareness among policymakers of the importance of joint efforts. It also was an opportunity for Arab officials and experts to exchange experience on development of SMEs in particular regarding the creation of new jobs and reducing the isolation of rural areas. Other themes included intellectual property, innovation and the role of ICT in the development of SMEs. Participants also discussed the role of technical centers in support of productive capacity and technological industries and finance, marketing and technical assistance for SMEs.

Nejiba Khalfallah, email [knejiba@yahoo.fr](mailto:knejiba@yahoo.fr)

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**Saudi Arabia** *BADIR Technology Incubator Network*

*By John Mercer*

King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) continues to take a leading role in the development of technology incubation in Saudi Arabia. KACST has now created a network support organization for its incubator development. It established the BADIR Program for Technology Incubators in January 2010 which is headed by Chief Executive Officer, Abdulaziz Alhargan who was part of the Management Team that established the first KACST incubator – BADIR-ICT.

BADIR will provide specific services to the BADIR incubator network, whilst each incubator will maintain incubator management autonomy but ensuring an integration in various processes and systems. KACST has continued its strategy of utilizing international consultants to support the establishment of its incubators with the objective of training local Saudi management to take over operations as soon as possible. Two KACST funded incubators are now operational.

In January 2010, BADIR-ICT was handed over by consultants CREEDA Projects Ltd., Australia, after their initial two years contract to local Saudi management and staff. The incubator currently has 27 incubatees of which 6 are virtual tenants based in various parts of the Kingdom. Several client companies began to generate income. The next stage with these companies is to start to look for global opportunities.

BADIR-BIO became operational in February 2010 with initial operational management by consultants Oxford Innovation, UK. This technology incubator is a strategic relationship between the Ministry of Health and KACST. The Ministry provided facilities within its new College of Medicine building in King Fahd medical city in Riyadh, in which the labs and offices have been created. BADIR-Biotech has just entered an agreement with its first incubatee.

The other three incubators are in various stage of development. BADIR-Advanced Manufacturing which is in very early establishment stage assisted by consultants Season South, South Africa. KACST in the process of appointing consultants to do

feasibility studies for BADIR-Nanotech and BADIR-Energy.

KACST have made a long-term contract with CREEDA Projects to assist the strategic development of the BADIR Program for Technology Incubators. BADIR is about to commence a program of assisting regional universities in the Kingdom by doing feasibility studies and development plans for University Technology Incubators that may integrate in some way into the BADIR network.

CREEDA will train local BADIR staff over the next year for them to develop skills in incubator feasibility studies and development planning as part of the knowledge transfer strategy. The first University incubator development process will start in April 2010 with Al Baha University in the western part of Saudi, south east of Jeddah.

KACST has developed a National Technology Incubation Policy Framework and a final stakeholder review workshop will be held in early April. Once approved, KACST and BADIR will start to implement the Policy with the initial focus on incubator performance monitoring / certification system and an incubator management training program.

KACST will run their second Incubator Forum in June 2010 following on from the success of the first Forum held in March 2009 with much international participation.

Knowing about the importance of information and knowledge exchange BADIR initiated the establishment of the Saudi National Incubator network (SBIN), which has met three times since the 2009 Forum with representatives from other organizations that have established or are establishing business incubators. Organizations that have established or establishing incubators include King Fahd University for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, King Saud University, King Abdulaziz University, Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and the Royal Commission for Yanbu and Jubail.

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SDO Profile: [www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=2043](http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=2043)

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## Business Incubation in ECA

This page provides information about incubation activities and programs from the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region. ECABit has been set up with support from the infoDev program as the regional networks of business incubators and technology parks. For more information, please visit the website <http://www.ecabit.org/> or contact Todor Yalamov [todor.yalamov@online.bg](mailto:todor.yalamov@online.bg)



### Belarus

#### Belorussian Academy of Science active in Search for Partners

The Belorussian Academy of Science intended to present at the Hanover Fair (April 19 – 23, 2010) – the World's largest industry exhibition. ([http://www.hannovermesse.de/homepage\\_e](http://www.hannovermesse.de/homepage_e)) With the aim to attract international partners for technology transfer and commercialization the AoS wanted to present search results. However, unfortunately a volcano on Iceland caused a several day long interruption of all air traffic in Europe. So AoS as exhibitors from many other countries could not show the "full program".

But AoS anyhow provides support for establishing cooperation. The Belorussian AoS with 17.500 employees is not only the largest research institute of the country but also has production facilities available (see [www.nasb.gov.by](http://www.nasb.gov.by)) and a data base including all research results of the AoS. Contacts can be prepared at any time.

Contact Sergei Bukaev, email [bukaev@presidium.bas-net.by](mailto:bukaev@presidium.bas-net.by) or SPICE Member **Karl-Heinz Jach** who is acting as advisor to AoS, email [khjach@yahoo.com](mailto:khjach@yahoo.com)

### Russia

#### Female Entrepreneurs now at 37 per cent in Polarstar Incubator

37,5 per cent of the client companies of Polarstar, SIVA's Norwegian – Russian Incubator in Murmansk, Russia have female leaders. This percentage of female leaders already now is exceeding the goal and expectations (set at 30%) initiators of this incubator had.

As a part of the equality policy promoting equal right between men and women, SIVA's incubator «Polar Star» in Murmansk encouraged female leaders to join the incubation process.

The incubator, which will soon celebrate its second anniversary, is presently developing eight companies. Three have female general managers and that means that 37, 5 % of the

companies are steered by female leaders. The eighth company was incubated in January 2010. It is a Norwegian company staking at the Russian market and its general manager is also a woman. This gives positive effects in the local community in Northwest Russia and promotes of gender equality.

SIVA as an organization facilitating industrial growth – is the coordinator behind this effort to promote and support women's business development. For more information about the incubator please have a look at the profile in SPICA Directory Online: <http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=2047> or visit <http://polarstar.barentsnova.com>

### International

#### Cross-Border Program Poland - Belarus - Ukraine

The ENPI-funded 'Cross-Border Cooperation Program Poland - Belarus - Ukraine 2007-2013' (PBU CBC) was launched with a conference held in Lviv, Ukraine, in January 2010.

The program newsletter, 'The Crossborderer' ([http://www.pl-by-ua.eu/upload/en/Cross\\_borderer%202.pdf](http://www.pl-by-ua.eu/upload/en/Cross_borderer%202.pdf)) reported in its April edition that the first call attracted 306 project applications – a clear sign for significant interest in the program. The event introduced participants to the opportunities offered by the EU through the cross-border program and informed applicants about the program priorities and measures. The conference brought together government officials from Poland, Ukraine and Belarus as well as interested representatives of NGOs, state organizations of the participating countries.

A 'Partner Search Web Platform' is available is on the website, together with the database link to the list of organizations in Partner Countries interested in submitting proposals under ENPI CBC calls.

Also in the newsletter the program's planning, including the 2010 Annual Work Program is highlighted and information is made available about trainings for the large scale projects with partners from all participating countries. The PBU CBC Program is one of the two cross border programs in the ENPI East managed by EU member state Poland. The total Program budget is €202.9 million.

Contact: Joint Technical Secretariat, Cross-Border Cooperation Program Poland - Belarus – Ukraine, [www.pl-by-ua.eu](http://www.pl-by-ua.eu)

### Belarus

#### Minsk Incubator offers International Business Incubation Services

The Minsk Business Center of the joint stock company MAP JSC as an incubator is not only taking care about its start-up client firms, the center also offers services to businesses seeking access to the Belorussian market.

The team of specialists of the business center has a long-term experience of consulting, generation (starting from scratch) and development of different businesses, project management, and activity on capital and securities market.

Part of these international incubation services are

- Research and analysis of the market, market segments and industries of Belarus; analysis, conclusions;
- Consulting on reorganization of sectors of the economy

(e.g., energy sector) and privatization in Belarus together with international consulting companies;

- Search for, selection and preparation of the assets and enterprises for sale to foreign customers; arrangement and maintenance of M&A transactions;
- Pre-investment project justification, preparation and maintenance of the projects with participation of foreign investors on the territory of the Republic of Belarus.

Please, send your offers and requests to: [info.investpartner@gmail.com](mailto:info.investpartner@gmail.com).

Sergey Naidovich General Manager of joint stock company MAP JSC [vikachanov@gmail.com](mailto:vikachanov@gmail.com)

## Business Incubation in Africa

This page provides information about incubation activities and programs from the AFRICA region. AIN is the regional network 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://www.infodev.org/en/Project.22.html> or contact Lalane van Rensburg, [lalane@sbti.co.za](mailto:lalane@sbti.co.za)



### AIN

## **African Business Incubation Conference in Durban – A great Success**

Titled “Growing Africa through incubation” this year’s conference of AIN was held in Durban, South Africa with the support of SEDA and infoDev in collaboration with the Ethekezi Municipality, the African Incubator Network (AIN) and the Southern African Business Technology Incubation Association (SABTIA) with over 130 delegates from Benin, Botswana, India, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, USA, and Zambia as well as all parts of the South Africa.

Honorable Mike Mabuyakhulu; MEC - Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, (RSA) addressed the delegates at the Gala Dinner evening.

This three day conference of African incubator professionals, economic development agencies, private and public incubation experts, invited speakers, and guests was packed with delegates. None of the sessions lacked an interested and inspired audience.

From the opening sparring on the Wednesday, about Durban as the best conference venue in Africa to the final visit at the magnificent new World Cup Stadium on the Friday the program was full of inspiring and emotional impacts, best in class incubator performances and challenging entrepreneurial programs.

Following the official welcome and opening addresses the program featured important topics, for example “Support for Incubation - The International Perspective” with Valerie D’Costa, (infoDev), (David Cromar, AIN), and Jayesh Ravjee, SEDA as speakers. Other session topics were “Incubation as a lever Local Economic Development”, “Targeted Incubation - Women, Youth and Rural Incubation”, including a Global Research Report –Incubation support for Women into Business form the international infoDev work Group on Women Business Incubation presented by Mbarou Mbaye, Senegal, “Replicating Incubation – Good practices and Economies of Scale”, and “Technology Incubation – BioTech, and ICT,. Each of these forums was delivered by experienced practitioners who showcased and evidenced the economic impact of business incubation programs, benchmarked internationally by infoDev as a developing continent with its political and human problems

### AIN

## **African Business Incubation Conference in Durban – A great Success**

At a meeting in Addis Ababa in February 2010 AIN, the African Business and Technology Incubator Association, unanimous agreement that

- AIN was the future of incubation in Africa
- A formal structure was essential to sustainability
- A workable action plan was necessary

Based on the above the representatives present elected Michael Reddy as Chairperson and Julie Momah as Vice-Chairperson of AIN. The meeting participants committed themselves to a 12 month action plan.

Michael announced at the conclusion of the sessions – “We As a developing continent with its political and human problems

and challenges, Africa is coming from behind the BRIC contingent. Africa may not have the critical mass of established incubators that Brazil, China and India have - but those who are on the ground expending their energy within Africa are reaping the rewards.

Growing Africa through Incubation: On the continent South Africa (40 incubators) and Nigeria (27 incubators) have led the way during past 20 years but this conference has shown that countries like Kenya (15), Ethiopia (7) Botswana (6), Uganda (6), Tanzania (6), Senegal (4), Zambia (3), Ghana (3), Mozambique (2), and Rwanda (2) are investing in building new incubators and expanding existing incubation programs. The conference illustrated that different incubation models can be used successfully - from virtual incubation, satellite, hub and spoke networks, bricks & mortar incubators, to technology training centers – for serving a wide range of goals depending on the specific needs in a certain place or region from AgriTech, Communications, Construction, Crafts and Design, ecommerce, and IT, to Manufacturing, & Software.

Despite often difficult circumstance, environmental and human, in hard times and the current recession, incubators are graduating sustainable SME’s that are employing staff, generating GDP, and entering global market sectors.

Minister Mike Mabuyakhulu informed how South African municipal, provincial and national government have been so convinced by the successes and impact of incubation upon economic growth that they are allocating additional resources and investing in new incubators across RSA. He is also advocating that South Africa do more to help its neighbors and especially sub Saharan governments to do like-wise for the common good of Africa. Africa needs to be in control of its economic development, adding value and climbing up the supply chain. The conference publication in each delegate pack “celebrating incubation in Africa 2010” includes selected success stories and best practices from around our African network.

For more information about the conference, please visit <http://africanincubatornetwork.wordpress.com/>

have set ourselves some challenging but very exciting goals and I am sure that the commitment shown by the team at the meeting will be the driving force in achieving our goals.” In this respect Michael especially mentioned the efforts of Steve Giddings, Leon Lourens, and David Cromar and thanked them expressing that AIN appreciated their continued support.

The AIN Team includes Michael Reddy (Furntech, South Africa), Julie Momah (Technology Incubation Centre, Nigeria), Jayesh Ravjee (SEDA, Past Chair), Chris Vermeulen (Bandwidth Barn, South Africa), Tessema Geda (Uganda), Rajeev Aggraval, (Rwanda), and Mbarou Gassama Mbaye (Senegal). The AIN Webmaster is David Cromar

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE), through the Ministry of Capacity Building (MoCB) and with an International Development Association, the World Bank recently started an incubation program in Ethiopia. This is implemented through the Ethiopian ICT Development Agency. The establishment of Incubators under the ICTAD project aims to promote technology-based entrepreneurship by pro-actively supporting the formation and accelerated growth of new business ventures for technology related products, processes and services in the ICT sector.



The initiative currently operates 5 incubation centres in each of the main cities Addis Ababa, Mekele, Adama, Bahir-Dar (left picture) and Hawassa (right picture). The centres

Mekele, Adama, Bahir- Dar and Hawassa are fully operational real estate centres with 10, 7, 13 and 12 incubatee companies respectively. Considering that the centres in Bahir Dar and Hawassa have only very recently started, this is impressive.

The initiative in Addis Ababa is based on a virtual incubation model with various clients within the city limits. The Addis plans include the creation of the Ethiopia Information Technology Park with a fully fledged Incubator Building. This Technology Park and the incubator will become the centre of excellence for technological entrepreneurship and development of world-class, knowledge-based ventures in Ethiopia.

The Incubator in Bahir Dar has its own 2000 sq.m building and two more buildings are being erected in the cities of Mekele and Adama. Operating from their own buildings will greatly enhance the long term sustainability of the centres. The incubation models applied are a real source of inspiration for incubation in Africa. The aim is to create a technology hub in the city

But at the same time create a city “destination”. Bahir Dar will have a state-of-the-art internet restaurant on the roof of the building with a big screen TV (i.e. for the 2010 Soccer World Cup) and with retail shops on the ground floor. The restaurant will not only cater for the centre residents but will be open to the public and service the large, well equipped conference center. The retail shops will not necessarily be incubatees but will be selected to supplement the services required by the community. The incubator will become a centre of attraction and the social hub of the city. Combining all this with a well tured royalty program and training facilities, the centre will be self sustainable in a short time. Granted, the unwavering support of the Federal, Provincial and Local Governments with the support of the universities helped to make all this happen - and it proves that successful incubation requires support from all the levels of government. The incubation program in Ethiopia, like in most developing countries faces many challenges, but they have shown that through persistence, commitment, hard work and continuous improvement that they can make a positive contribution towards employment and wealth creation.



Granted, the unwavering support of the Federal, Provincial and Local Governments with the support of the universities helped to make all this happen, but it proves that successful incubation requires support from all the levels of government. Ethiopia is a country filled with opportunities, not only in ICT but in other industries such as leather and coffee. The initial development of these ICT incubators will be an example for the development of other sectoral incubators in Ethiopia and will serve as a model for other African countries.

Contact: Leon Lourens, email [leon@buffelskloof.info](mailto:leon@buffelskloof.info)  
Profiles: <http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?c=18>

Entitled **Science, Innovation and Entrepreneurship**, the second Science with Africa conference will be held June 23-25, 2010, to explore policies, measures and mechanisms for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship for meeting development challenges in Africa.

Africa faces many challenges that can be addressed by making use of the potential of entrepreneurship and innovation. Africa can unleash the potential of universities and research centers to provide key services to communities and create business opportunities through technology commercialization and knowledge diffusion. Africa also needs to stimulate the private sector to provide entrepreneurial talent with a supportive ecosystem. For reaching this African countries need to put in place the needed mechanisms and regulatory frameworks. The conference will address innovative policy tools and measures to build the necessary human capital, STI infrastructure, financial instruments, strategies targeting underrepresented groups (e.g. youth and women) and international collaboration. Lessons will be drawn from experiences in STI policy implementation.

Specific themes will look at ways for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship:

1. Science, technology and innovation policies
2. Energy, water, transport and infrastructure
3. Agriculture, health and life science
4. Climate change in Africa
5. Intellectual property rights and technology transfer
6. Information and communication technologies
7. Innovation and entrepreneurial capacities
8. STI capacity building

The Conference will combine plenary and breakout discussions with an Innovation/ Patent Fair, an investment round table, a round table with women scientists and inventors, tailored training and a Science and Technology Exhibition.

**Organizing partners include:** The Government of Finland, Research Triangle Institute (RTI - USA), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the African Regional Intellectual Property Rights Organization (ARIPO), the Organisation Africaine de la propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI), International Council of Science –Africa Region (ICSU - Africa) and the Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) Website for more information and registration: <http://www.uneca.org/sciencewithafrica/main.html>



## Important upcoming Events

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

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

### **April 21- 22, 2010 in Berlin, Germany: The German Bio Technology Days 2010**

**German Days of Biotechnology 2010**, a bi-annual event that started in the year 2008 and this year will be held in Berlin. This event is organized by the "**Work Group of German Bio Regions**" that builds an important backbone for bio technology

related activities in the county. The German Federal Ministry for Education and Research supports the conference after it had organized the first event in 2008. For details see website <http://www.biotechnologietage-2010.de/>

### **April 25- 27, 2010 in Joensuu, Finland: FINPIN 2010 Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Universities**

The third international FINPIN conference "Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Universities: Presenting Best Practice, Case Studies, and Research Results" is aimed to be an inspiring and discussion forum for practitioners and researchers. Interested experts are invited to present their experiences concerning entrepreneurship and innovation activities in higher education. The Conference is organized by FINPIN and North

Karelia University of Applied Sciences. Conference themes will be "Innovation and Innovativeness"; "Creativity in entrepreneurship Education"; "Entrepreneurship models", "Measuring impacts and effects", and "Entrepreneurship Research"

Website: <http://www.finpin.com/English/Home/tabid/706/language/fi-FI/Default.aspx>



### **April 30- May 01, 2010 in Chicago, USA: AURP BioParks Conference Entrepreneurship in Universities**



Creating Communities of Innovation

AURP knows there are "No Boundaries to Innovation" when the world's biotech community shares best practices and the latest on building biotechnology parks. In advance of the BIO conference in Chicago, Illinois, AURP presents **BioParks 2010: No Boundaries to**

**Innovation April 30 to May 1** at the Swissôtel, Chicago. Hosted by the University Technology Park at Illinois Institute of Technology, this meeting of the minds will go beyond infrastructure and explore the global efforts of research, science technology parks in the economic recovery.

Contact: Chelsea Simpson [chelseasimpson@aurp.net](mailto:chelseasimpson@aurp.net)

### **May 10-13, 2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: VI Annual Meeting of INSME**

The INSME Association (International Network for Small and medium Sized Enterprises) in cooperation with SEBRAE announces its VI Annual Meeting, "**SME Innovation: boosting development and growth in times of change**"

International innovation stakeholders from public and private sector will gather to exchange knowledge, network and learn

mutually on the main issues related to making innovation; happen in SMEs: how to promote innovation and entrepreneurship; innovation financing and networking; open innovating; sustainable innovation. For details visit:

<http://www.annualmeeting2010.insme.org>

Contact: [insmerio2010@insme.it](mailto:insmerio2010@insme.it) website: [www.insme.org](http://www.insme.org)

### **May 13 - 15, 2010 in Wroclaw, Poland: 21<sup>st</sup> Annual PBICA conference**



The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Polish Business and Innovation Centres Association will be held in Wroclaw - Szczawno Zdroj – Ksiaz (South West Poland) under the conference topic "Knowledge based entrepreneurship"

At this event the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Technology Transfer Centre of Wroclaw Technical University will be celebrated. An exhibition of the Science and Technology Parks resident companies will accompany the conference.

Contact: [www.sooipp.org.pl](http://www.sooipp.org.pl), [zasiadly@hotmail.com](mailto:zasiadly@hotmail.com)

### **May 16- 19, 2010 in Orlando, USA: Annual NBIA conference**



NBIA's International Conference on Business Incubation 2010 will take place in Orlando, Florida. NBIA is working to put together a top-notch educational program that will address the needs of the audience through preconference workshops and topical sessions. The

Preconference Institute will feature full- and half-day workshops, while the conference will include sessions, round-table discussions and forums.

**Conference session descriptions now are online** at website <http://www.nbia.org/events/conf2010/sessions.php>

Contact: mail [education@nbia.org](mailto:education@nbia.org)

#### **Special price for international groups**

NBIA is offering a special conference registration price to international member delegations that want to attend the conference. Those who have already registered for the conference can be included in a delegation taking advantage of

this special pricing program. Conference attendees who need a nonimmigrant visitor's **visa** to be able to enter the U.S. should begin the application process immediately and contact NBIA for an invitation: Megan Bulow, email [mbulow@nbia.org](mailto:mbulow@nbia.org).

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**May 16 - 17, 2010 in Dortmund, Germany: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Technology Park Dortmund & ADT conference**



Celebration of the **25th Anniversary of the Dortmund Technology Incubator and Park** will be an important part of the ADT Spring Conference 2010.

ADT, the Federal Association of Business

and Technology)Incubators itself can look back on more than 20 years of (formal ) history. Taking the activity as an informal work group into consideration ADT is approaching its thirtieth year of operation already.

Contact: Simone Herrmann, email [herrmann@tzdo.de](mailto:herrmann@tzdo.de)

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**May 25- 27, 2010 in Lappeenranta, Finland: First EU- Russian Innovation Forum**



The First EU–Russia Innovation Forum will be the first high level Innovation Event between the EU and Russia. It is strongly supported by the Prime Minister of Finland and the key innovation policy makers and actors in the EU and Russia.

The Innovation Forum will focus on four specific themes: (1) Commercialization of Russian Innovations; (2) Roadmaps for the EU–Russia Innovation Cooperation for 2010 – 2013; (3) Energy Efficiency; (4) Modernization of Russian Industry.

**Contact:** Katja Keinänen., email [katja.keinanen@lprinno.fi](mailto:katja.keinanen@lprinno.fi)

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**May 26- 27, 2010 in Novi Sad, Serbia: Entrepreneurship beyond crisis - channeling changes to advantage**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Regional Development – ICEIRD 2010 “Entrepreneurship beyond crisis - channeling changes to advantage” will be held in Novi Sad, Serbia, organized by the University of Novi Sad in cooperation with UNESCO, and CISCO.

ICEIRD 2010 is targeted at policy makers, practitioners, professors, business people and scientists in this subject area and

will bring new ideas on competitiveness in the region.

The key conference areas are **Entrepreneurship** as a process of identifying opportunities and putting ideas into practice; **Innovation** as the driver of national, regional and global economy; **Regional development** and the possibilities for closer cooperation between South East European economies.

Contact: Organising Committee, email [info@iceird.org](mailto:info@iceird.org)

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**June 1-6, 2010 in Romania: Training Seminar to Develop the Dialogue between Cultures**

The Anna Lindh Foundation is inviting national networks to attend a regional contact-making and capacity-building training seminar.

The aim of the seminar is to encourage Network members to develop common projects at the regional level, with the call open to project leaders in the 43 Euro-Med countries who are interested in developing intercultural initiatives and can work in English

or French. Each country network will have one representative and countries with more than 100 members will have two.

The training seminar will gather about 50 persons from different National Networks plus about 10 from the co-organizing Romanian National Network. Deadline for applications; **May 1, 2010**

[www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id\\_type=1&id=21316&lang\\_id=450](http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id_type=1&id=21316&lang_id=450)

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**June 10-11, 2010 in Valencia, Spain: MOBIP 2010 Partnership and Investment for Mobile Services**

To foster competitiveness of high-growth businesses in the mobile services sector and to strengthen their opportunities for market access within Europe and beyond is the aim of this **Partnership and Investment Forum**. Valencia will host this event for SMEs, experts, corporate partners and venture capital inves-

tors that are interested in knowledge-sharing on strategic information, market opportunities and new business trends for the Value-Added Services in the Mobile industry.

For more details visit the conference website [http://www.e-unlimited.com/events/view.aspx?events\\_pages\\_id=492](http://www.e-unlimited.com/events/view.aspx?events_pages_id=492)

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**June 23-25, 2010 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia : Second Science with Africa conference**

The second Science with Africa conference, entitled **Science, Innovation and Entrepreneurship** will be held in the United Nations Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and will explore policies, measures and mechanisms for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship to meet development challenges

Africa. This is based on estimates that suggest Africa’s investment in R&D, acquisition of technology and exploitation of existing, new and emerging knowledge is lower than that of other developing regions.

Info: <http://www.uneca.org/sciencewithafrica/main.html>

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**July 1, 2010 in Astana, Kazakhstan: Innovative Congress and National-Innovative Exhibition**

The Innovative Congress and National-Innovative Exhibition, in Astana will be part of the III Astana Economic Forum that will be attended by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The Congress will discuss applicable models of development of an innovative economy and take concrete decisions, sign

agreements and memorandums. International organizations active in cooperation and the joint organization are invited to attend the forum as well as the exhibition.

Applications for participation need to be send to the Organizational committee:

E-mail: [mansur.smagambetov@nif.kz](mailto:mansur.smagambetov@nif.kz); [shalabaev\\_t@mail.ru](mailto:shalabaev_t@mail.ru)

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**July 8- 9, 2010 in Arnhem, Netherlands: 20<sup>th</sup> intent conference on Education Entrepreneurship**

Internationalizing Entrepreneurship Education is the main motto of this conference. The special theme this year is “**Entrepreneurship and the (fine) Arts**” for this **20<sup>th</sup> IntEnt world conference** in Arnhem, Netherlands. Papers or best practice to be presented during the conference are invited by

**April 15, 2010**. Main conference topics are: (1) The impact and effect of entrepreneurship programs ; (2) Stimulation of entrepreneurial behavior , (3) The role of education in the start-

up process; (4) Entrepreneurship education and creativity ; (5) Best practice from schools to universities; (6) Innovative ways of teaching entrepreneurship; (6) role of education in the start-up process, (7) the private sector in fostering entrepreneurship education/ training; and (8) Training of the Trainer

For more information, see [www.intent2010.com](http://www.intent2010.com)

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### September 15- 17, 2010 in Minnesota, USA: AURP International Conference



Global research park leaders will meet in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2010 for the **AURP International Conference: Building the Innovation Engine.**

Featuring pre-conference intensives and unmatched networking opportunities, the conference will focus on research park best

practices and new opportunities to grow this emerging sector. Hosted by the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center in one of the country's emerging life science centers, this conference will draw the brightest minds in innovation to on the future of research parks.

Contact: Victoria Palmer: [vickiepalmer@aurp.net](mailto:vickiepalmer@aurp.net)

### September 15- 17, 2010 in Riga, Latvia: Baltic Dynamics 2010



The Baltic Dynamics 2010 conference, the meeting place for innovation & entrepreneurship professionals will be held in Riga, Latvia with the main topics

- Sustainable development of Innovation Systems
- Education & Research - components of innovation systems
- Technology transfer - catalyst for efficient knowledge flow
- The role of cooperation (associations, networks, clusters, etc.) in the development of innovation system

The following pre-conference events are planned:

- Baltic Sea Region Cooperation (BSR)
- Soft landing program for SMEs in BSR – project SMEDGE (Interreg)
- EEN Network on technology transfer project EEN Latvia (CIP)
- How to evaluate efficiency of research systems in small countries – project ERA-PRISM

A SPICE Group Workshop will complement the program.

Information: <http://www.balticdynamics.com>

Contact: [info@balticdynamics.com](mailto:info@balticdynamics.com)



### Sep 28- Oct 1, 2010 in St. Petersburg, Russia: St. Petersburg International Innovation Forum

The St. Petersburg International Innovation Forum 2010 and the Innovation Russia Exhibition this year it will be held September 28 – October 1 in St. Petersburg, Russia as part of the Russian Innovation Week. The organizer, RESTEC Exhibition Company was founded in 1990 and today is one of the five leaders of Russian exhibition business. For example, in 2008 RESTEC held 112 exhibitions in Russia, 20 abroad, and organized 20 congresses with 7436 Russian and 909 foreign companies from 40 countries participating.

The 2010 Forum program covers all the market levels (from technology innovation to consumer goods) and reflects the Russian priority innovation trends, especially: ICT, manufac-

ing technologies; advanced materials and chemical products; fuel and power energy; technology and environmental management and transport.

The Innovation Forum is a main scientific and technical and innovation event of St. Petersburg. The Forum is a complex umbrella event composing congresses, exhibitions, business and cultural programs. The Exhibition will feature Russian and foreign experience of creating and implementing innovative strategies.

Contact: Mr. Kirill Pakhryaev, [skandmarket@restec.ru](mailto:skandmarket@restec.ru)



### Sep 30- Oct 1, 2010 in Heidelberg, Germany: Building a World-Class Knowledge Region

The Technopolicy Network has announced its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, "Building a World-Class Knowledge Region. The conference is organized in cooperation with BioRN Cluster Management GmbH. The conference focuses on the role of interregional alliances to elevate a region to a world-class knowledge region.

During the two days, international speakers from government, industry, research institutions and others will give their insights and discuss the ingredients necessary to build a world-class knowledge region. For conference information, please visit website <http://www.technopolicy.net/annualconference/>

### October 24-26 in Hangzhou, China: Global Collaboration of SME

The 12th West Lake International Conference on Small & Medium Business (WLICSMB 2010) under the theme **Global Collaboration of SME** will be held Hangzhou, China jointly organized by Hangzhou Municipal Government, Zhejiang University of Technology, Zhejiang SME Bureau, and World Association of Industrial & Technological Research organizations.

The conference will provide an international forum for professionals from academia and industry as well as from developing and developed countries. Hangzhou, located some 130 km of Shanghai, is an ancient lake city with profound Chinese culture and character.

for detailed information visit website: <http://www.wlicsmb.org>

### About members



#### Four SPICE networkers

Took advantage of an opportunity for exchanging information about actual developments and projects.

**Karl-Heinz Jach** on his way from Zagreb, Croatia back to Minsk, Belarus informed about an EU project on technology transfer and innovation support  
**Karl-Heinz Klinger** intended to be in Ufa, Russia to work on a

project helping to develop measures for supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. But being caught by the ash cloud from Iceland traveling across Europe and blocking all air traffic he chose to join this "SPICE Meeting" on short notice.

**And finally, Larisa Brovarska and Heinz Fiedler** had the shortest distance to bridge – just a short way from the SPICE Secretariat in Berlin to the meeting point, a bistro right in the center of Berlin





### **Leon Lourens**

Recently has spent two months undertaking a strategic review of incubation program in Ethiopia and has found some interesting results that are summarized in the “Special Ethiopia” in this newsletter (see page 14).

Leon has a solid basis of experience in

business incubation with a special interest in Africa. For example, until September 2008 he had worked for five years as the CEO of the Softstart Business & Technology Incubator. He also served as a past chairman and current Exco member of the Southern African Business and Technology Incubator Associa-

tion (SABTIA, 2008 – 2010) and was instrumental in developing the AIN, Africa Incubator Network under an infoDev contract. He currently works internationally as an incubation and small business development consultant and has also worked on projects in other countries like Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Uganda, Ghana, Brazil, Botswana, Mauritius and of course South Africa.

Leon was also instrumental in developing a web-based Incubator Management System used in a number of developing countries with a special focus on satellite and virtual incubation management.

Contact: Leon Lourens, [leon@buffelskloof.info](mailto:leon@buffelskloof.info)



### **Klaus Plate**

since 1994 CEO of the Heidelberg Technology Park, Germany’s first biopark, will speak at the AURP conference BioParks 2010 in Chicago, USA (April 30 – May 1, 2010) about “**Global Collaboration for Innovation**”: Innovation is borderless. It’s about people who love meet and exchange new ideas and it’s about stimulating environments. They are found in university research, science and tech parks all over the world, born for innovation. University research parks are cooperating worldwide, stimulating and promoting innovation globally. The Heidelberg Technology Park is an example of Global Collaboration for Innovation.

Klaus Plate also served as director of the Department of General Administration and Economic Development of the City of Heidelberg and managing director of the Heidelberg Economic Corporation until 2007. Dr. Plate was the IASP International President (2000-2002), member of the Advisory Committee of Zhongguancun Science Park in Beijing, China, Council of Biotechnology Centers board member and member of the Group of the Council of European BioRegions (CEBR). Dr. Plate studied law at the Universities of Hamburg, Freiburg/Br. and Göttingen, Germany and has qualified as a lawyer and judge since 1972.

Contact: Klaus Plate, email [klaus.plate@heidelberg.de](mailto:klaus.plate@heidelberg.de)

Conference information: [www.AURP.net](http://www.AURP.net)

## **Services for Members**

SPICE Group members can take advantage of new services provided through the SPICE Group website ([www.spice-group.net](http://www.spice-group.net)).

**Send a message to all members.** Use the simple tool the SPICE Group website offers in the PUMBAA section Your own SPICE Group email address is available worldwide (like [name.familyname@spice-group.net](mailto:name.familyname@spice-group.net)).

Contact [spice@spice-group.de](mailto:spice@spice-group.de) for more details.



**Publish your personal profile:** You can decide if your personal profile is accessible by members only or by all website users. The option is accessible in the PUMBA section that you can access with your user ID and password. .

There is more to come. Meanwhile, please let us know if you find the additional features useful and easy to use.

Contact: Larisa Brovarska, [larisa@spice-group.net](mailto:larisa@spice-group.net)

## **SPICA Directory Online (SDO) – More actual information**

Since publication of the recent SPICE Update many profiles of incubators, technoparks and associations in SPICA Directory Online have been updated and adapted to the new format. It is worth having a look, for example for the profile of **IKED, Institute of Korean Entrepreneurship** (the national association of business incubators of South Korea).

Regarding information about individual incubators and parks we want to draw your information on new profiles

- **Of six business incubators in Ethiopia.** There are not only new profiles of individual incubators. With this presentation now Ethiopia is new on the map of SPICA Directory
- **The Bahrain Business Incubator Center** completed and updated the SDO profile to reflect the development not

only of this incubator, but incubation activities in the country (see report on page 6, 9, and 10)

These incubators did not only complete and update information in their profiles; they also took advantage of the new layout that allows providing visual information (logo and pictures) as well as general introductory text with the aim to make the profiles more “inviting” for directors users.

“Behind the scenes” SPICA Directory now began with providing comparative statistical data – only available to individual incubators and parks that provide up-to-date and complete information. For updating a profile or inserting a news one just visit [www.spica-directory.net](http://www.spica-directory.net)

For a user ID and password (needed for updating existing profiles), please contact [update@spice-group.net](mailto:update@spice-group.net)

SPICE Update is the newsletter of SPICE Group. In general this newsletter is published 6 - 8 times per year and regularly delivered free of charge to members of the network as well as selected partners. Articles for publication are invited and will be published under the name of the author. Although we do our best for making sure that published information is correct we cannot accept responsibility for errors that may occur nor for the content of website links provided. Editor: Heinz Fiedler, SPICE Group, Niedstr. 40, 12159 Berlin, Germany, Email [update@spice-group.net](mailto:update@spice-group.net)