



UPDATE No. 83

For members *first*

December 2008

In this Update:

	Page
• First Global Business Incubation Day: A Success Story	2
• TRI-STEP India won Prestigious World Bank Award	1
• About members / New members	13-14
• Back-to-back: Thessaloniki Double Pack: ICEIRD2009 and TH 2009	16
• News from Eastern and Central Europe	4
• The MENAinc Special pages	10-12
• Awards announced in Paris: Best Science Based Incubator 2008 and much more ...	1, 6

Dear Member and Reader,

Again a calendar year is approaching its end. SPICE Group now is in its 18th year of networking and our newsletter is only a little younger. The first issue was sent to members in July 1996. By this way, this issue already asked members to update their profiles in SPICA Directory – a request and task as actual as 12 years ago.

The year 2008 was (at least) as full of exciting developments in business incubation as the years before. For the first newsletter in 2009 we intend to publish different views on the year that now almost is over. What was the most fruitful event? ...the most important achievement? We invite members and readers to send their views or reports.

7th Best Science Based Incubator Conference and Awards 2008 in Paris, France



The Award Winners 2008

First established in 2002, the international conference “Best Practices in Science Based Incubators” has developed into an memorable event with the yearly Best Science Based Incubator Award ceremony. Annually, over 50 incubators

from around the world competed for this award. This year the conference and award were organised by The Technopolicy Network, a network established and managed by Science Alliance in cooperation with biotechnology park Genopole that celebrated its 10th anniversary at the event. More than 120 participants attended the conference that took place mid December in Paris La Defence in the “Leonardo da Vinci” University Center. ...more on page 6...

TREC-STEP has won the prestigious World Bank’s Development Marketplace Award 2008

TREC-STEP has won the prestigious World Bank’s Development Marketplace Award 2008 for its project on Mini Cold Storage Ventures as one of the 22 Awardees from 16 countries out of 1800 applications received worldwide.

The Award carries a grant support for implementing the project up to \$ 200,000. The Award was received by **R.M.P Jawahar**, Executive Director, TREC-STEP and member of SPICE Group at a function at the World Bank Head Quarters at Washington DC on 26th September 2008 from the Vice President of World Bank, Ms Katherine Sierra. Earlier 100 finalists from 42 countries out of the 1800 applicants were called to Washington DC for a final presentation and interview by a reputed Jury Panel.

The Project is a technology response to meet the requirements

of Small Farmers in saving the wastage of vegetables at Farmers Market by developing a specialized mini cold store unit to be run by trained youth as a business venture to provide value added service to farmers, increasing their income.

More information: <http://www.trecstep.com/award.html>

The details are available at the following World Bank links

<http://dmblog.worldbank.org/>

<http://www.infodev.org/en/Article.271.html>



RMP Jawahar, after receiving the Award in front of the Project Display at World Bank, Washington, DC

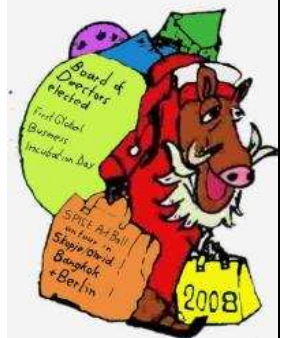
New experiences made in the year 2008 fill the bags of Christmas PUMBAA. For members & friends of SPICE Group celebrating Christmas we wish enjoyable and relaxing Holidays with family or friends

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2009

خير عيد أضحي مبارك و كل عام و انتم بألف

For those who celebrated Aid EL Adha (sorry, with a little delay like last year) we wish you could enjoy the holidays and gain new energy for the activities to come.

For the coming year 2009 we wish all readers peace and health, happiness and success, and that your visions, dreams, and wishes become reality.



The First Global Business Incubation Day: A Success Story

Here we only can provide a few spotlights on the contributions to celebrations of the First Global Business Incubation day that has been held December 8, 2008. Initiated and organized by UK Business Incubation during this day more than **60 countries** on all continents and **more than 2000 incubation environments** participated and made this a truly global event – for example New Zealand Incubators / Canterbury Business Incubator with an animated video that kicked of the Day (you can see the video on <http://www.ukbi.co.uk/index.asp?SID=232>)



Also SPICE Group launched its first video. It shows the SPICE Art Ball in Berlin and informs about the network in general. A short version is available on website http://www.spice-group.de/index_video.php. Best is to check the GBIN website yourself. Contact: Toni Wanklin t.wanklin@ukbi.co.uk

Germany 25 years of Business Incubation in Germany

Celebrated at the Global Business Incubation Day 2008: 25 years of business incubators in Germany. ...and it began in Berlin: On November 30, 1983 the first German Business Incubator opened its doors The BIG, Berliner Innovations- und Gründerzentrum (Berlin Innovation and Business Incubation Centre) had been initiated by the Technical University of Berlin and was started with financial support of the Berlin State Government. The first German incubator opened doors in the historical buildings where exactly 100 years earlier the German industry pioneer Emil Rathenau had founded a technology start-up firm: the German company AEG based on Edison-Patents. At its opening ceremony and party the BIG already was fully occupied by the first 14 client firms and more potential tenants were waiting. This is why already during the opening ceremony and party the main supporters of the concept, **Elmar Pieroth**, at that time Berlin Senator for Economy, and Prof. **Jürgen Starnik**, President of TU Berlin, began talks about expansion – “phase 2” of the initiative, more space for start-ups in the incubator and the Technology and Innovation Park Berlin. Both key supporters of the first business incubator in Germany attended the anniversary reception – together with other key players of that time, for example **Gottfried Kupsch** (when the BIG started head of the building department of TU Berlin and driver of the renovation / construction for the BIG and later the technology park), **H.J. Tunnat**, Fehr-Partner who was the architect for the works of restoring the historical industry build-



Elmar Pieroth

Florian Seiff

Rolf Friedrichsdorf

ings that housed the incubator and the technology park, or **Heinz Fiedler**, manager of the incubator from day one and later co-founder, managing director and board member of the German association, ADT.

Today the BIG is managed by IZBM, the Innovation Center Berlin Management GmbH that also is operating two other business incubators in Berlin: The IGZ, Innovation and Enterprise Center Berlin Adlershof and the OWZ, East-West Cooperation Center (the first international business incubator in Europe) both located in the science park WISTA Berlin Adlershof. Good reason for **Florian Seiff** and **Gerhard Raetz** (both ITBM GmbH) and ADT, represented by **Rolf Friedrichsdorf** together with Deutsche Bank to host the GBID celebration “25 years of Incubation in Germany”. Deutsche Bank already in 1983 when the BIG was started put special attention on financing technology based start-up companies and 25 years later still is considering an important business.



Prof. Starnik + H.J. Tunnat

G. Kupsch + R. Friedrichsdorf

H- Fiedler + E. Pieroth

G. Raetz + H. Fiedler

D. Reiblich, R. Friedrichsdorf, M. Koop

Germany Business Incubation in the Berlin Region

In the 25 years following the start of the BIG, Berlin Center for Innovation and New Enterprises more than 300 Innovation and Business Incubators and Technology Parks have been established in Germany and proved being a highly efficient infrastructure to promote business development in Germany. December 8, 2008, the Network of Innovation Centres in the Berlin Region, InnoKolleg, celebrated this anniversary as part

of to the First Global Business Incubation Day. 25 Years of experience in Business Incubation in the Berlin Region has led to: 17 Business Incubators, 4 Technology Parks, 3 Pre-Incubators in universities of Berlin and more than 15 support organisations in an open network which are working together in the InnoKolleg.

Actually about 1,200 companies are working in the innovation centres in the Berlin region, almost 1.000 of them in the city of Berlin. The centres of the region supported almost 3,000 companies (2,400 of them in Berlin) since their respective opening. Contact: Gerhard Raetz, email: raetz@izbm.de



7th MENAinc Workshop in Ifrane, Morocco hosted by Al Akhawayn University

The 7th MENAinc workshop, under the title “**Incubation and Technology Parks for Economic Growth**” was held October 29 -31, 2008 - immediately following the ASTF conference in Fez, in Ifrane, Morocco (see report on page 6). Hosted by Al-Akhawayn University and supported by infoDev this workshop was held on the campus of this business oriented university. More than 30 participants from 8 countries attended this event that was intended to offer space for intensive discussions between participants to exchange knowledge and experience as well as to share ideas related to incubation, technology parks and economic growth. Also the 5th meeting of the MENAinc Board was held at this workshop. The main content of this



meeting was approving new members of the network and finalizing the first MENAinc election of the Board of Directors.

This MENAinc workshop was held under patronage of Dr. **Rachid Benabdellah**, President of Al- Akhawayn University. In his opening speech, Dr. Rachid stated that Al-Akhawayn University is supporting entrepreneurship and concentrate not only on academic quality but also on applied sciences and practical impact of research for the development of economy and society at large. He underlined such statements by describing the role and responsibility a university has for its immediate environment and provided practical examples how Al-Akhawayn University is meeting this challenge especially regarding entrepreneurship and business incubation.

The first session of the workshop “**Business Incubation in MENA – State of the Art and Perspectives**”, discussed the

experiences from the ASTF conference in Fez and concluded by emphasizing the need of such an event. Especially updates and information about business incubation developments in the region were valued positively as an important source for learning from each other and developing ideas for new initiatives.

Mr. **Omer Oz**, MENAinc Coordinator presented the development in business incubation in MENA, especially the projects of MENAinc: Building National Networks, Commercialization Technology and Cross Network Exchange Program.

Dr. **Abdulaziz Alhargan**, Deputy Executive Director of BADIR-ICT, presented business incubation in Riyadh, where an incubator with focus on ICT was launched as an initiative of King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST).

The following sessions of the Workshop dealt with “**Business Incubation in Morocco Experiences and Perspectives**” providing an overview on the situation of business incubation, technoparks, as well as innovation and entrepreneurship support in Morocco. Khalil Azzoui and Lotfi Sadiki described the situation, challenges, and perspectives for further development especially regarding financing start-ups and growth enterprises.

Ilyas Azzoui presented the role of universities in entrepreneur-



ship support (6 Moroccan universities have active incubators) and the socio-economical development.

Further sessions of the Workshop focused on the activities of the MENAinc project 2008/9. The full report on this Workshop can be obtained from the MENAinc Focal Point in Bahrain, Mohammed Allam, email m3allam@gmail.com

ECAbit – Innovation in ECA 2008 held in Tambov, Russia, October 9-11, 2008



More than 200 participants from about 20 countries across Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECA) gathered in Tambov, Russia, to discuss the potential and challenges for innovation and SME development outside the megapolises in the ECA region. Focus areas included education and youth, social innovation, industrial and technology innovation, tourism and agriculture, including a training session on local economic development and stakeholder management.

Economic growth and social wealth in the Eastern European and Central Asian region increasingly depends on the ability to foster economic and social development and innovation in small and medium sized towns and rural areas. Small and medium sized towns have become increasingly interesting for investors and innovative entrepreneurs. Business incubators and other business development instruments together with the government play a key role in this process.

Focus areas of discussion included education and youth, social innovation, industrial and technology innovation, tourism and agriculture. Special attention was given to investment policies of small and medium sized towns and rural areas and the specifics of financing innovation in these regions. The conference also in-

cluded a training session on local economic development and stakeholder management moderated by ProSME/GTZ Armenia. ICT was discussed as an integrated innovation enabler in these areas. The participants also had a chance to visit the Agricultural Science City (Naukograd) of Michurinsk.

The third day of the conference hosted ECAbit's annual network meeting. ECAbit agreed on its 2009 activity plan and discussed collaboration potential with the Southeast European Network of Start-up Centers and Incubators (SENSI). During provided by ProSME/GTZ, the two networks jointly developed an activity plan that aims to increase the capabilities of incubator managers and clients in the field of investment for innovative SMEs and the effective application of ICT in this.

From this ECAbit event **Mr. Todor Yalamov** from ARC Fund Sofia, Bulgaria take responsibility to coordinate the network. ECAbit thanked **Mr. Andriy Tarelin** (Kharkov Technologies Incubator, Ukraine) for his excellent coordination of the ECAbit network since 2005.

For further information, please contact Mr. Todor Yalamov, email todor.yalamov@online.bg or the iDISC website <http://idisc.infodev.org/en/Article.38811.html> where also photos are available

Conference presentations have been made available in English and Russian on the official conference site

Technology Transfer and Innovation Support Networks.

An International Workshop "Technology Transfer and Innovation Support Networks. International Experience and Prospects for Ukraine" was held in Kharkov, Ukraine in September 2008 in partnership with the Academy of Technology Sciences of Ukraine and Central European Initiative (CEI). The Workshop was devoted to learning experience of the European Union and other countries in technology transfer and innovation development, as well as to discussing the issues and prospects of creation of the Ukrainian Technology Transfer Network.

59 participants representing leading experts in technology transfer, managers of business incubators and innovation support structures, local authorities and governmental business support organizations from France, Slovenia, Germany, Bulgaria, Austria, Croatia, Poland, Byelorussia, Russia and Ukraine took part in the Workshop.

The first day of the workshop was devoted to learning experience of international technology transfer and innovation support experts. During the second day Ukrainian participants discussed issues of creating Ukrainian Technology Transfer Network based on gained knowledge. The workshop provided a great opportunity for discussions and sharing knowledge. It helped participants to better understand how TTN work in other countries, to establish good contacts among participants and to learn as much as possible from each other.

An Important feature of the Workshop was the development of UTTN handbook which includes methodology and rules for newly created Ukrainian Technology Transfer Network.

During the workshop participants had an opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss:

- Current status of technology transfer and innovation support in the European Union countries,

International Experience and Prospects for Ukraine

- International experience of existing technology transfer networks and new European Projects EC for Ukraine,
- Practical experience and regulatory conditions of TTN in NIS countries and countries with similar legal systems,
- Current status of science and technology in Ukraine, innovation potential of regional and national science, State Policy and Prospects for European Integration,
- Existing regulatory and legal basis for technology transfer and innovation in Ukraine,
- Conditions and opportunities for creating Ukrainian technology transfer network in Ukraine.
- Methodology and rules for development of Ukrainian technology transfer network



The Working Group on creation of Ukrainian Technology Transfer Network discussed issues such as Regulatory and Legal Basis of UTTN, suggested design and management of UTTN, external and internal relations and communications, functionalities and responsibility, technology profiles, forming and support of regional database, visits to companies, technology audit, organization of work of Regional Coordinators of Ukrainian Technology Transfer Network. This session was moderated by the Workshop organizers – **Inna Gagauz** and Sergey Yegorov. Result of the Workshop was signing the Memorandum of UTTN and outlining future steps for the network development and meetings of the network coordinators.

More information, workshop presentations and photo gallery is available at <http://www.tt.kharkov.ua>
Contact: Inna Gagauz, gagauz@isc.kharkov.com

Spotlight on The Philippines

by Barbara Harley

Throughout the last four years I have spent time assisting individuals and projects in business incubation in Southeast Asia – Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. I have not been alone there, of course. There are many initiatives that draw into the region some of the most experienced incubation professionals worldwide. In addition, infoDev has been active there through its invaluable grants, meetings, and dynamic networks. An example of one country making great strides in the region is The Philippines. It has four exceptional advantages in its development of business incubators:

1) English is one of their primary languages, facilitating knowledge transfer. 2) The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) is a strong and consistent champion of incubation both financially and as a facilitator of events and workshops. 3) The



Philippine Incubator Champions at breakfast with Barbara Harley: Dr. Virginia Novenario-Enriquez, Congressman Joseph Aguinaldo Abaya, and Dr. Reynaldo Ebor, Executive Director, PCASTRD
New S&T Park Building that includes The TechnoHub



One month until Inauguration Day at the TechnoHub



Michi Barcelon and Luis Sison (in center) lead tour of UP-Ayala Technology Business Incubator

University of the Philippines at some of its campuses hosts or plans to host TBIs (technology business incubators). 4) One of the leading Philippine companies, The Ayala Corporation, through its Foundation and Ayala Land Inc. has been a long-term financial and management supporter of incubators.

The Ayala Foundation's latest TBI is TechnoHub located in the entrance to its new Science and Technology Park near the University of The Philippines Diliman, north of Manila. The official inauguration was held on November 21 followed by several training programs and a TechBootCamp. Two of The Philippines' best-known incubator experts, Michi Barcelon and Luis Sison, were prominent in development of the TechnoHub, including successfully signing up clients for all 12 of its units before the inauguration.

Contact: Barbara Harley, Blharley@aol.com

How to create Infrastructure for Innovation Ecosystem”

by Julia Fomina

October this year Technopolis again organized a **Technopolis Open Training**: “How to create Infrastructure for Innovation Ecosystem”. The training shared experience from developing Finnish innovation ecosystem and also presented good practices from the fastest growing Scandinavian chain of technology parks: Technopolis Group. The aim of the training was much more than just showing **how** things are done in Finland and in Technopolis. It targeted to explain **why** Finland support innovations in its specific way and **why** they became successful.

Participants of the training represented technology park management, public authorities and private companies involved in the development of innovation infrastructure. Most of the par-



ticipants were just in the beginning of creating or at the stage of expanding own technoparks. The training offered a holistic understanding of innovation systems and tools for analyzing local environment, which are important for creating technology parks and business incubators that match local demand and are based on local strengths.

This was 4th Technopolis Open Training and again it was very international: 16 participants from Canada, Latvia, New Zealand, Russia, Slovenia, Spain and The Netherlands. All together in last 18 months training about 90 people **from 21 countries** from all continents participated in the training.

Based on feedback from previous events, this year training atmosphere in the group was very open and friendly; participants shared their own experience and had chance to get comments for their projects.

Many participants took the most out of visit to Finland by organizing additional visits to relevant organizations in the Finnish innovation system. Technopolis experts helped to establish new contacts and set individual meetings.

Contact: Julia Fomina, Email: julia.fomina@technopolis.fi

BI 10: UKBI's 10th International Conference and Award

BI 10: Celebrating Innovation and Entrepreneurship through Business Incubation and was a resounding success with over 200 delegates in attendance from all over the world.

The event was kicked off with presentations from Dr. Allyson Reed from the Technology Strategy Board, Prof. Stephen Hagen from the University of the West of England and Jamie Murray Wells the Founder of Glasses Direct. This was followed by plenty of learning from speakers and other attendees, networking in the exhibition halls and interactive workshops.

The winners of this year's UKBI Awards were announced at the BI 10 Gala dinner. In a break from tradition we awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Pre-Conference Reception as its recipient **Walter Herriot** OBE was unable to attend the dinner. The International Champion Award this year went to **Olle Stenberg**, Chalmers Innovation Centre, Sweden. For more information about the award, please visit the website [http://www.ukbi.co.uk/uploads/awards%20brochure%20final%20\(web\).pdf](http://www.ukbi.co.uk/uploads/awards%20brochure%20final%20(web).pdf) Information UKBI website www.ukbi.co.uk/index.asp?SID=208

5th Congress of Scientific Research Outlook in the Arab World held in Fez, Morocco

The 5th Congress of Scientific Research Outlook in the Arab World titled "Scientific Innovation & Sustained Development" and organized by ASTF, the Arab Science and Technology Foundation, was held in Fez, Morocco October 25-31, 2008 under the High Patronage of His Majesty The Monarch of Morocco King Mohammed VI.

Part of this event that brought together thousands of delegates was a one-day conference "**Incubation and Technology Parks for Economic Growth**" which offered interesting presentations not only from practitioners in incubator and technology park management, but also from scientists discussing innovation, incubation, and entrepreneurship from a more technological perspective. MENAinc members and other representatives of technoparks and business incubators reported on their expe-

riences and recent achievements in supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. Both kinds of interventions together provided an excellent basis for a fruitful discussion.

The Congress was aimed at sharing the challenges incubation and technology parks in the Arab world are facing and proposing practical solutions to overcome them. Other aims of the event were to reach a model for regional cooperation to maximize technological innovation within the Arab World, to review and develop elements of success of Arab performance in science and technology, while linking the various sectors that contribute to sustained development of the Arab countries, and to introduce new trends of co-operation in scientific research and technology development, and investing in technology.

Information: www.astf.net/site/zone/zone.asp?ogzid=10020

Continued from page 1: 7th Best Science Based Incubator Conference and Awards 2008 in Paris, France



After the opening by **Jean-Louis Missika**, Deputy Mayor of Paris, who presented the creative, innovative, and dynamic city the first conference session, provided an excellent overview on SME policies (EU Small Business Act), US and European experiences and trends in incubation, and the need for an "eco system" supporting to enterprise development. Following sessions covered the full range of topics important for start-up and growth companies from the perspectives of incubators, enterprises, and financiers. The high quality presentations and the engaged discussions chaired by **Heinz Fiedler**,



President of SPICE Group made this event an extraordinarily fruitful experience. The conference reception in the headquarters of Caisse de Depot located in a historical building in the centre of Paris, hosted by **Laurent Arthaud**, Deputy CEO was a very enjoyable conference highlight.



Last not least the award ceremony with **Lawrence Albertson**, President of LPA Associates, USA and Chairman of the Jury (see photos above with Jim Flowers, Rainer Döhl-Oelze, and Jürgen Bath, I.t.r.) handing the prizes to the winners showed the high quality of business incubation activities from all around the world. More than 50 applications from all continents were received for this award and **Jack Malan**, Center for Strategy and Evaluation Studies, UK described the set of criteria used for deciding about the winners in the different categories. Even after seven years of practical experience with this matter evaluation and ranking has not become an easy task.



Agnès Flémal, Wallonia Space Logistics Incubator in Liege, Belgium, winner of the 2007 overall award handed the "Best Science Based Incubator 2008 Award" to the winner 2008:

Incubatore d'Impresa di Città della Scienza, Naples, Italy.

The second and the third prizes were awarded to

IPN-INCUBADORA (Portugal) and

First Flight Venture Center, USA

The awards for special categories (highest performance, fastest growth, sustainability, and return on investment) for both new and established incubators also were announced and will be published on the organizers's website shortly. Also the proposals for to-be awarded good practices and the conference presentations will be available in January 2009 through

Science Alliance, contact [Tanja Pijpaert t.pijpaert@technopolicy.net](mailto:Tanja.Pijpaert@technopolicy.net)



SWITCH - EU Program for Asia

The SWITCH ASIA program focuses on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and directly contributes to sustainable growth and the fight against poverty.

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is an attempt to reconcile the increased demand for goods and services that respond to basic needs, while minimizing the use of resources, toxic materials and emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle, in order not to jeopardize **the needs of future generations**. Materials, Water and Energy are the three key elements.

Sustainable Production concerns the **supply side**, focusing on the economic, social and environmental impacts of production processes; while Sustainable Consumption addresses the **demand side**, focusing on consumers' behavior in use of goods and services, i.e. demand for products that environmentally friendly both in their production and in their use, as well as by promoting a sensible consumption behavior, avoiding spillage and waste.

In Asia, major challenges also concern the region's increasing energy consumption leading to rising greenhouse gas emissions. Increased adoption of SCP will lead to improved energy efficiency in the life-cycle of our products **preventing Climate Change**.

The SWITCH program with its particular focus on SMEs **contributes directly and indirectly to poverty alleviation** by improving the living conditions of poor households in the surroundings and down-stream of sub-urban SMEs by reducing water pollution, solid waste, and air pollution.

The SWITCH program seeks to enhance the uptake of SCP by working simultaneously on the production and consumption sides, employing a multi-stakeholder approach with strong and intensive working relationships with SMEs, building upon existing structures and networks. Projects will have to disseminate their results and facilitate exchange of good practices, and will be supported the SWITCH program **Network Facility**.

National Innovation Program of Mongolia

The national program "Developing the national innovation system in Mongolia" was approved by the Government of Mongolia in November 2007. The program consists of four sub-programs, "Creation of innovation system", "Development of progressive technology", "Support for scientific and research works of state-owned universities", and "Training and promotion of young scholars". The main aim of the program is to determine more

Under the Switch Asia program, **activities should aim to:**

- Promote the use of environment friendly technologies;
- Promote a change in consumption of less environmentally damaging products and services;
- Reinforce and implement legal environment and safety;
- Develop and apply effective economic instruments that enhance sustainable consumption and production.

To achieve tangible impact, SMEs should be selected from sectors or industrial areas that:

- Substantially contribute to overall pollution and/or are resource (water and/or energy) intensive;
- Have sufficient potential for improvement;
- Form a substantial share of the economy;
- Have sufficient potential for further multiplication.

SWITCH will award grants to **EU-Asia partnerships of non-profit making organizations** interested in pursuing sustainable development. These organizations must demonstrate an ability to reach out to large numbers of SMEs or consumer groups. Partnerships will have a **minimum of two partners**, one from each Europe and Asia. Switch is running from 2007 to 2010 and **three calls for proposals** are expected during that period. The first call was launched in 2007 with a deadline in March 2008. The evaluation is over and the procedures are ongoing. The list of provisionally selected projects is published. The second call for proposals was expected in November 2008.

You can find details; the application forms and related attachments are available on the section of the web site <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/asia/regional-cooperation/> (under the reference 126274).

For further information concerning the program you also may contact EuropeAid-Switch-Asia@ec.europa.eu

National Information Technology Park of Mongolia celebrated its 5th Anniversary

The National Information Technology Park (NITP) of Mongolia celebrated its 5th anniversary this year. It is the first business incubator in Mongolia and was established in 2002-2003 by the Government of Mongolia with a grant aid of one million USD from the Republic of Korea. It aims to support Information Technology development in Mongolia by creating a favorable business environment for IT incubatees - both start-up and offshore outsourcing companies. NITP incubated about 50 companies since the launch of its incubation program in September 2003. Twenty companies, including Interactive LLC, USI LLC, Starsoft LLC, and ECM LLC, successfully graduated from the NITP, and became leading IT companies with 40-100 employees. The incubation period is up to 2 years for IT start-up companies, 2.5 years for offshore outsourcing companies, and 3 years for bridge companies. Services provided by the NITP for the incuba-

adequate policy, objectives, and measures to be taken by the Government to ensure socio-economic sustainable development and to improve competitiveness industry, effectiveness of scientific work as well as to lay the foundation for an effective national innovation system. The program is expected to implement in 2008-2015. The full version of the program is available at <http://mecs.pmis.gov.mn/images/Undesnii.pdf>.

By Tsetseg-Ulzii Yadamsuren

tees are rent-free office space, discounted internet service and shared facilities (meeting/conference rooms, exhibition hall and other equipments), and free internal telephone service.



Besides, the NITP provides various kinds of business development services like mentoring, guidance and support, business development and professional training, promotion of incubator tenant companies' products and services, assistance in finding projects. The NITP acts as a bridge between the Government, incubator tenant companies, and foreign enterprises for IT offshore outsourcing projects.

Contact: Tsetseg-Ulzii Yadamsuren, tsetsegu@magicnet.mn

Views & Facts

New Zealand *New Funding for Incubator Support Program*

New Zealand's Minister for Economic Development recently approved a 65% increase in funding and an extension to 2015 for the Incubator Support Program run by Richard White (SPICE Group member) at New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, the government's national economic development agency. The program provides funding assistance as well as advisory support to New Zealand's network of technology business incubators. The program's funding will increase from NZ\$2.75m to \$4.55m. Another critical program change will allow future funds to be approved on a multi-year basis. This will improve qualifying incubators' financial stability, allow them to plan with more certainty, make it easier to recruit and retain top

quality managers, and reduce the transaction costs associated with the previous annual funding process.

Qualifying incubators will be those with proven track records who apply the highest standards of good incubation practice. The rollover of funding will be done on an annual basis subject to ongoing performance assessments and meeting KPIs and agreed milestones.

The expansion of the program is a long awaited recognition for the incubation industry's successes since the first incubators were established in 2001. Anyone seeking more information on the New Zealand program is welcome to contact Richard at Richard.white@nzte.govt.nz.

Thailand *Cluster Development in Thailand*

According to the 9th and 10th National Economic and Social Development Plan, Thailand has been initiating cluster policies for more than five years mainly aimed to spur and help reshaping the country's competitiveness. In order to push forward the cluster development policies into action towards the country's bottom-up approach competitiveness, the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), a national central planning organization, has not only outlined cluster development framework and strategies, but also encouraged the cooperation of implementing organizations and related associations in carrying out the cluster development to action.

The CDA annual meeting, an annual meeting for cluster development agent initiated in 2006, also is aimed to encourage the relevant stakeholders to share, exchange, and review expe-

riences, as well as tighten their cooperation and networks.

The 3rd CDA annual meeting held in August 2008 at Cholchan Resort Pattaya, assembled 117 attendees from public, private, academic institutions and related associations. The aim of this meeting was to analyze progress of cluster development, strengthen industrial clusters and intensify public / private sector cooperation. Discussion on CDA career path and training programs led to feed back on desirable curriculum amendments and development of CDA training programs.

The next CDA annual meeting will be held in July or August 2009. Additional meetings, particularly focusing on local issues, will be organized in regional Thailand throughout the year. For further details, please see website www.nesdb.go.th or email. CDA-NESDB@nesdb.go.th

Latvia *Riga TU in the Context of innovation and Technology Transfer*

by Laila Elina



Riga Technical University (RTU) is the oldest technical university in the Baltic States and the second largest in Latvia which provides a full curriculum, as well as is engaged in science, research and arts. RTU can be described as the

Latvian center of technical and engineering education with high academic and scientific capacity, wide opportunities for studies and well-considered base for research development. RTU mission is to ensure scientific research in its basic scientific branches. One of RTU strategic objectives is qualitative research with active participation in international, national and thematic research programs by stimulating technology transfer and innovation to contribute to the development of the national economy. Besides the traditional university missions – education and research – technology transfer; active involvement with socioeconomic processes specifically commercialization of inventions gain increasing importance. In Latvia in late 2005 first technology transfer contact points at universities were introduced. Due to the initiative of this project separate structural units were introduced at several universities to activate technology transfer and promotion of innovation within their educational institutions. In RTU the Innovation and Technology Transfer Center (RTU ITTC) was founded with the main objec-

tive to promote innovations and technology transfer, to increase awareness for intellectual potential and competitiveness, as well as to stimulate development of new technologies friendly and open environment.

Currently the RTU ITTC can be assessed as successful. Several topical events have been organized with good publicity in media creating interest in the public as well as awareness of the scientific potential of the RTU.. One of the activities to promote awareness is the **RTU Innovation and New Technologies Conference** held twice a year to demonstrate achievements of the scientists; namely new and innovative products, technologies, and processes which can be commercialized and introduced to the market.

RTU ITTC also helped collecting information for the catalogue **High Tech in Latvia** containing inventions as an offer to commercialize. This publication is financed by the Latvian Education and Science Ministry and realized by the Latvian Technology Park. 44% of the offered inventions are products offered by the scientists of the Riga Technical University. In general it can be said that technology transfer processes in RTU are developing – but still much is to be learnt.

Contact: Laila Elina, laila.elina@rtu.lv



France - Russia**Shifting the Donor-Beneficiary approach towards Partnerships**

France is implementing a commercialization of science program with the Russian Federation that is testing a shift from classical Donor to Beneficiary projects towards a more balanced approach. This new Project is developed under the G8 Global Partnership Program (www-pmg8.cea.fr/index.php/en/accueil). What is considered as innovative are three interrelated building blocks:

1. The Project is driven by concrete and measurable outputs and not by the means deployed,
2. The need to give a measurable Return-on-Investment to the Donor, and
3. Penalties for the contractor if he fails delivering the above mentioned results.

Everyone will understand that this shift of paradigm (especially output driven and RoI) changes completely the implementation methodologies in comparison to classical technical assistance programs. The teams deploy activities with a different focus (a set of results versus a group of means). But the most important change is the relationship with the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries start acting as partners and become ready to co-invest (although in a modest manner) to make sure results are obtained in their benefit. The “What is there in for me” is clear and motivation grows accordingly.

The French Atomic Commission (CEA) was appointed by the French Government to implement activities financed under this G8 initiative. The overall goal of the G8GP is to facilitate the decrease of proliferation of arms of mass destruction in Russia and the Former Soviet Union. The Project mentioned is one among many other activities deployed by the French government as well as by the other countries associated in the G8GP. This Project relates to the need to help former weapons scientists and technicians to convert activities into civilian programs.

The CEA implements this project with the support of a contractor (Valodia brought together CEIS and Lindholm-Consult, France and AEA Technology, UK.). The VALODIA Consortium was awarded the contract for implementing this program. The official kick-off of the Project took place late August.

The VALODIA team is liable for creating concrete and measurable results in a selection of Russian locations. This includes the following over a four-year period:

- Creating 80 Russo-European pairs between European firms and Russian scientific teams (including 14 pairs during the first 12 months of operation);
- Creating 500 stable jobs in Russia;
- Facilitating the launch of 10 technology-based start-ups;
- Creating a financial value of at least 10.000.000 Euros.

In terms of methodology, the terms of references are very specific: this is a “demand driven” approach. VALODIA has to find concrete and bankable demands from French/European companies. Once these demands are found and validated a search is carried for the best possible response from Russian R&D teams located in a selection of Russian locations. In other words, VALODIA is not hired to go and sell Russian technologies abroad that are not supported by commercial demands.

This methodology will ensure that the Russian R&D teams receive sustainable finances from “real clients” ready to work with them on a long term. If the program proves to be successful it will create direct value for the Russian sides as well as for the French counterparts. Within the past two months 30 solid demands from French/ European companies have already been collected and a first joint-venture between French and Russian partners is under preparation

Contact: Peter Lindholm, peter.lindholm@wanadoo.fr

Turkey**Technocities move forward in Turkey**

by Krzysztof Zasiadly*

Technocities are sprawling up in Turkish cities, thanks to the Technocities Law issued seven years ago. Turkey currently has 18 technocities (technoparks), involved in the field of defense, electronics, health, nano-technology and biotechnology. Thirteen more are in pipeline. Turkey’s capital looms large with its four technocities. The Technocity at the Middle East Technical University (METU) currently operates with 242 firms, each of which work on 2-3 projects. The R&D income of companies was \$1,9 million in 2002 and reached \$103 million by the end of 2007. The 50-fold increase in five years is an important indicator of R&D’s contribution to Turkish economy.

Ankara Cyberpark, a technology zone founded in 2001 ranks first in business volume, includes 160 firms. Established under the roof of private Bilkent University, it reaps a total of \$600 million in turnover annually. Cyberpark has also received the status of Virtual Technology Incubator. By 2012 Cyberpark is expected to include over 300 firms and more than 5000 qualified software development and R&D staff.

Hacettepe Technocity founded 2003 and attaining a growth rate of 200 percent last year, hosts 98 companies, 3 of those from US, two from Germany and one from Belgium. It aims to become the top technocity in medicine and biotechnology. Its management aims to have 200 firms in its scope in 2009.

Gazi Technopark, founded under the roof of Gazi University in Ankara started to accept companies in May 2008 as the capital fourth technopark. It focused on nano-medicine, clean energy, mechatronics, defense and aviation. The technopark also draws attention with its smart drip irrigation systems run on solar energy, and systems for burning dusty waste and scrap coal. Currently in the park operate 50 companies mainly in the sector of software, electronic, mechatronics, nano-medicine, defense aviation, environment and energy. Chairman of the Gazi Technopark is rector of Gazi University.

The draft law amending the Technocities Law will include new funding models and mechanism such as providing long-term loans with low or no interest to investors. New Technocities will operate at Istanbul University, Yildiz Technical University, Ataturk University in Erzurum, Gaziantep University, Ankara University, Pamukkale University in Denizli, Firat University in Elazig, Cumhuriyet University in Sivas, Trakya University in Edirne, Dicle University Diyarbakir, Gaziosmanpasa University in Tokat, TOBB University in Ankara, and Sakarya University.

Contact: Krzysztof Zasiadly: krzysztof.zasiadly@kisgem.org ,
* Using articles in “Turkish Daily News” 6.11.2008 and weekly “Ekonomist” magazine)

Europe *eBusiness Support Guide*

The European Commission created a web-based guide as part of the European eBusiness Support Network (eBSN). It provides a review of the eBusiness and IT solutions market and supports companies and consultants to find and select appropriate software products, solutions, and service providers.

Suppliers may use the free platform for detailed presentations

of their product and service offerings and will be able to address specific customer groups. Information on products and services is entered by the suppliers as well as by independent experts. The platform is supported by European IT associations and policy makers, such as the national eBSN representatives.

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/e-bsn/index_en.html

Women Incubation

Senegal *Business Incubation for Women*

The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. is managing the Women Business Incubator in Senegal with (3 Staff Persons in Washington, DC and 5 Staff Persons in Senegal (Dakar & St Louis). The basis for this initiative is the strong interest of women entrepreneurs in incubation and use of ICT, and a stable supportive government and commitment to ICT. However, the project also faces challenges, such as unemployment, high illiteracy rate, poverty, and barriers to business growth (access to market, capital and equipment, management skills). The incubation services are focused on technical support for women in business (textile, fashion, art and craft), coaching, training based on specific needs of clients, and marketing.

Women entrepreneurs stay in the incubator for three months to two years to get business support. In the first year seven women entrepreneurs graduated and in the future the WBC plans to graduate up to 15 to 25 annually. Women entrepreneurs pay rent and fees of about 30 USD, of which NCNW subsidized.

Officially opened in January the NCNW WBC has raised self confidence among women entrepreneurs, provided an opening

to the global market, and helped to use ICT more efficiently: for example Microsoft excel spread sheets are now used to better facilitate journal entries and understanding of sale. One incubator client said "Before the incubator we operated in the dark ... the incubator is an eye opener about the importance of ICT". Internet and ICT tools have helped bridge the gap: For instance women who have never touched a computer and with less than a 10th grade education can now manage their business through the use of a computer. Usage of Internet has opened doors for women in underserved areas throughout Africa.

The NCNW WBC has developed partnerships that help developing this initiative further, e.g. in May 2008 PACE and Stony Brook Universities (New York) have started developing software applications for women entrepreneurs. Additionally, a course was offered in fall 2008 at Stony Brooks. The partnership with the Peace Corps and Williams University brought volunteers to help developing the incubator and the client businesses.

Contact: Mbarou Mbaye, mbarou.gassammbaye@gmail.com

Turkey *Women Business Incubator Centers in Turkey*

By Krzysztof Zasiadly

Women Business Incubator Centres in Turkey project which started in August 2007 has entered the final months. It will terminate in December 2008. Overall Project Objectives are: (i) to increase economic welfare of women, (ii) to increase the contribution of women entrepreneurs to national economy. The project is co-funded by EU. Beneficiary is KOSGEB, Small and Medium Industry Development Organisation in Turkey.

Project components are: (i) Institution building of KOSGEB, and (ii) of local incubators, (iii) Business support to Women Entrepreneurs through Incubators. Selected Project Deliverables up to date: 4 Business Incubators are operating with 47 resident firms. A Business Incubator Toolbox including monitoring contract and incubator performance; and evaluating incubator outcomes and results has been finalized as well as a Business Incubator Management Manual,

Under development are: Further potential incubator clients are selected and assisted in business planning and consulting services towards specific needs of clients as well as a strategy

proposal for KOSGEB to manage and expand. This includes a Business Incubator Network in Turkey, a professional development plan for incubator staff, and a success stories brochure. A Workshop "Enhancing Women Entrepreneur Businesses" was held in Pendik/Istanbul, in early November 2008. Targeted at active and potential women entrepreneurs the workshop led to synergy between two EU Women Entrepreneurship Support Projects (training/consulting and incubator component), strengthened consultancy services, encouraged women to establish and grow their businesses and assisted in overcoming hurdles in setting up a business. It also offered opportunities for testing and developing incubator management tools.

The Organisation of Islamic Countries and KOSGEB Small and Medium Industry Development Organisation in Turkey are now planning to organise international business incubator conference in Ankara at the end of February – beginning of March 2009. Details will be announced as soon as available

Contact: Krzysztof Zasiadly, email zasiadly@hotmail.com

Women Incubators in Turkey



Corum



Hacibektas



Kutahya



Pendik/Istanbul

Business Incubation in MENA

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



MENA *MENAINC elected Board of Directors*

Aimed at professionalizing the work of the business incubator network in Middle East and North Africa during the weeks prior to the Ifrane Workshop of MENAINC network members participated in the first election of a Board of Directors. At the MENAINC Workshop in Ifrane, Morocco results of this election have been announced.

The first elected board of directors of MENAINC consists of:

Omer Oz as President and **Laith Kassis** and **Rima Shaban** as Vice Presidents. Further Board Members are **Ilyas Azzioui** (Morocco) and **Nejiba Khalfallah** (Tunisia).

The Board of Directors will be complemented by electing two additional members as soon as the number of full members of MENAINC has reached the appropriate level.

More information: Mohammed Allam, m3allam@gmail.com

Egypt *Series of ICT Incubators in Egypt*

By Ahmed Laiali

In August 2008, the Minister of Communication & Information Technology accompanied by the Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research witnessed the launch of the ICT incubation center at Mubarak City for Scientific Research & Applied Technology at Burg ALARAB, Alexandria Governorate.

The center's capacity is 8 incubatees, hosting at its first phase 4 ICT projects. This is a start to series of incubator openings planned to take place in many governorates within Egypt to in-

crease the outreach of the Incubation program.

By the end of this year 2008 ITIDA is preparing to celebrate the graduation of 5 companies from its role Model Incubator located in the Smart Village. The event is planned to have a lot of new activities & services to be announced for the existing companies as well as for graduate companies.

Contact: Ahmed Laiali, Technology Incubation Program Manager, Alaiali@itida.gov.eg

Tunisia *First Event of Enterprise Creation*

Within the framework of the national strategy to promote the private initiative and entrepreneurship, launched since 2005, Elgazala Business Incubator marked its participation in the 1st "Salon de la Creation des Entreprises", held in exhibition centre of ElKram, Tunis – Tunisia in October 2008. Under the high of the President of the Republic, this event was organised by the Agency of Promotion of Industry in collaboration with the ministry for Higher education, the Scientific research and Technology, and that of the Employment and the Professional insertion of the young people and inaugurated by the Minister of Industry, Energy and SME and the Minister of Higher education, the Scientific research and Technology.

The objective of event was to assist the young Tunisian entrepreneurs and especially to fix the culture of creation of companies near the Tunisian graduates.

This even gathered all agencies; institutions and programs of promotion of entrepreneurship and all the parts concerned with this sector, in particular the professional organizations, namely the UTICA, the APTBEF, the ATIC, the OECT, as well as the structures of support, such as PMI, the BTS, the BFPME. Some 167 exhibitors took part in this even which attracted nearly 8000 visitors, in particular graduates and students of higher education- the potential entrepreneurs.

Contact: Soukaina Rahmani, s.rahmani@elgazalacom.nat.tn

Tunisia *2nd Exhibition on Bank Services and Monetics, Tunis- Tunisia*

SRSI (Support Relationnel & Systèmes Informatiques) is a small company incubated in **Elgazala Business Incubator** specialised in e-commerce and solutions of banking payment. SRSI presented a new Internet and online payment solution in the 2nd Exhibition on Bank Services and Monetics, held in Tunis- Tunisia in early November 2008.

This event is part of the efforts in the program of improving bank services quality that become legal obligation since May 2006 and bringing standards up to an international level.

The exhibition informed the general public as well as professionals about the qualitative change undergone by the banking sector through legislation improvement and restructuring measures so that Tunisia becomes the first regional financial center. The exhibition also emphasized improvements in modern means of payment as a sign of adherence to digital economy, and gave an opportunity to build up business relations between banks, financial institutions, and service providers. Contact: Soukaina Rahmani, s.rahmani@elgazalacom.nat.tn

Saudi Arabia *BADIR - a National Incubation Program for Saudi Arabia.*

BADIR, the technology development and commercialization initiative of the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) is a National Incubation Program for Saudi Arabia. KACST prepares to establish 5 technology incubators and fund 5 business incubators with Universities: BADIR-ICT, an incubator early stage operations; BADIR-BIOTECH is now in the phase of a feasibility study; BADIR-MANUFACTURING is working on a pre-feasibility study; BADIR-ENERGY and BADIR-NANOTECH as well as other incubator studies and

projects in Eastern and Western Provinces are on their way.

The BADIR-ICT Supervisory Board, chaired by Prince Dr Turki Al Saud has been appointed with members from government and industry and a consulting team with extensive business incubation management experience is working on building up the incubator: Julian Webb as team leader and John Mercer as resident consultant / Executive Director supported by Roslyn Hughes, Venture Capital and Business Structuring Specialist and Michael Johns, ICT Business Coach Spe-

cialist. Dr Abdulaziz Alhargan, Deputy Executive Director and KACST representative is completing this team.

BADIR-ICT has ambitious targets: Creation of 40 Stage 1 incubation clients per annum and 20 Stage 2 incubation clients per annum (10 resident and 10 affiliate). At Stage 2 capacities, 30 resident and 30 nonresident clients (60 in total)..

The main incubator facility offers 100 rooms on 4,000m² as well as advanced technical services including video conferencing / training /meeting rooms, a lounge/resource area, and a coffee shop. The Women's Incubator as an independent facility will provide 200m².

BADIR-ICT is offers a full range of services and programs:

Jordan

About a rare Species

There are not too many investors in new technology businesses in developing countries. The more important it is to update on progress one of the few made: Riyada Ventures in Amman, Jordan

Riyada Ventures is ending the year 2008 on a positive note as the firm wraps up another record growth year and sees the support and encouragement from business incubators and their stakeholders as an important success factor for working towards furthering knowledge-based industries in general, and the venture capital industry in specific in the Arab world.

In November Riyada Ventures was voted the best venture capital firm in the Middle East and North Africa at the Terrapin Private Equity World 2008 MENA conference in Dubai (<http://www.ameinfo.com/176430.html>). **Khaldoon Tabaza**, CEO of Riyada Ventures: "This success would not have been possible without the support that we had from all of our business partners and clients, and without the hard work of our team members in Amman and Cairo and our partners across the GCC."

During the latter half of 2007 and in 2008, Riyada Ventures was able to conclude more than 20 growth and late stage in-

The Technology Opportunity Entrepreneurship Awareness Program for assisting people developing ideas. The Technology Business Incubation Program for business development services to facilitate business development in two stages:

Stage 1 - Business Opportunity Preparation and Initiation (six months) including knowledge and skill development, positioning for business launch and growth resulting in a comprehensive business plan and full understanding of business model

Stage 2 - Business Opportunity Implementation and Development (up to four years) for knowledge and skill development to assist effective development of a growth technology business.

Contact: Dr Abdulaziz Alhargan, ahargan@kacst.edu.sa

vestments in the Arab world and internationally in technology, telecom, media, healthcare, and cleantech, totaling more than US\$ 125M. In addition, they have successfully completed numerous advisory services engagements, and continued to support grass roots initiatives in angel investing and incubation. Khaldoon Tabaza sees that this business is not "immune to the current challenges that face the global investment sector" and realizes "that much more hard work awaits us, and that new strategies and approaches are needed to transform such challenges to opportunities." One of those is cross-border investments that were never available before.

Regionally, K. Tabaza expects venture capital investments to be the least affected amongst almost all investment classes, and believes that prudently chosen investments in the region in the near term will result in some of the best returns ever. "In 2009, as in 2007 and 2008", he says, "we will work hard at Riyada Ventures to bring together talent, relationships, capital, and markets to create big success, and add value across the line to maximize potential and minimize risk for our partners and clients."

Contact: K. Tabaza, Khaldoon@riyada.com, www.riyada.com

Jordan

German-Jordanian Seminar on Entrepreneurship

Yousef Abu-Hmeidan, I's of Innovation, Jordan, in collaboration with **Uwe Seidel**, VDI /VDE /IT from Germany, in early December 2008 conducted two seminars in Jordan titled "Innovation Based Entrepreneurship in Universities and Research Institutes". The first seminar was held at the Royal Scientific Society; the second at the Yarmouk University with Uwe Seidel



Yousef Abu-Hmeidan, Mr. Uwe Seidel with students from El-Esra University

as the lecturer. He is a senior project manager in the international technology corporation and cluster Department at VDI/VDE/ IT. This German company works in Innovation and Technology Incubation as well as entrepreneurship and business support

Topics discussed during the seminars were:

- Entrepreneurship as an important part of an innovation system
- Fostering entrepreneurial mindsets through education and training
- Building effective entrepreneurship education – developing effective educators
- Innovation Management partners and their tasks Need-analysis of future entrepreneurs
- Good practices models and European/German case studies

Contact: Y. Abu-Hmeidan, yousef.abuhmeidan@ioi-jo.com



Yousef Abu-Hmeidan, Uwe Seidel, and Mr. Ahmad Takatkah, Arab Science and Technology Foundation.

Jordan

Jordanian Inventors won Medals at MENA Invention Fair

In early November 2008 the Second International Invention Fair in the Middle East (iifme) was held in Kuwait.

I's of innovation, Yousef Abu-Hmeidan, led a Jordanian National Inventors Team consisting of three inventors ,Dr. Tariq Younes from Balqa Applied University, Eng. Wajdi Masad

from Natural Resources Authority and Mr. Saleh Obidat from the Ministry of Education.

At the exhibition the Jordanian Team won two silver medals and one bronze medal.

Contact: Y. Abu-Hmeidan, yousef.abuhmeidan@ioi-jo.com

Jordan***International Seminar on the Strategic Use of Intellectual Property***

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in collaboration with the government of Jordan in early December 2008 conducted the WIPO International Seminar on the Strategic Use of Intellectual Property for Economic and Social Development. The themes seminar covers important topics related to industry, academia and research institutes. The topics covered in the seminar reached from “IP and the Arab Economic Agenda” through “Valuation of IP Assets: A Tool for Arab Enterprises” and “Developing a National IP Strategy (including

Government Policies and Initiatives to Modernize the IP Administration), “The Private Sector in Promoting Respect for IP Rights” to “IP and Innovation and Transfer of Technology”, “Scientific Research and Technology Development in the Arab Region”, “Technology Management and Transfer in Arab Universities and Research Centers”, “IP and Public Health“, „IP Strategies to Build Competitiveness, Focus on Select Industry: Pharmaceutical Industry and Software Industry” and “The Economic Value of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)”.

Jordan***“Empowering the Mediterranean to innovate”***

MedIbtikar, the EuroMed Innovation & Technology Program organized the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Symposium on Innovation in corporation with the Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO), in October 2008 in Amman, Jordan. The conference key theme was “Empowering the Mediterranean to innovate”.

During this conference, the MedIbtikar team, presented the results of two years of activities of the program and pave the way to the future of innovation in region.

The Symposium was an occasion to present the existing experiences of support to innovation in the fields where MedIbtikar is acting (incubators, technology transfer, access to early stage funding, innovation monitoring and sectoral support) to give an illustration and perspective to the achievements the program.

During this symposium Mrs Soukaina Rahmani one of the staff managers of Elgazala Business Incubator presented a testimony about “Cooperation MedIbtikar-Elgazala Technopark”

Information: r.woodham@intrasoft.lu

Egypt***The Egyptian Incubator Program***

The Egyptian incubator program was launched in 1995 aimed at developing a sustainable network of incubation-related facilities to help developing the competitiveness and productivity of SMEs in the country. The Social Fund for Development together with several R&D institutes and some private businesses took the lead for this initiative. For the start eight locations were selected for incubators in areas with an appropriate tech-

nical infrastructure, a good business environment and an academic or industrial base. At this time nine incubators are working or under construction in Tala, Tabbin and Doweka (Cairo), Thebes, Mansoura, Assuit, Port Said, Sharkia, and El-Daouea. Additionally there are more university / academy related business incubator projects under study. For coming issues of the newsletter we will seek to provide more information.

New Zealand***New Zealand Firms get better access to China***

New Zealand companies will have access to more high level advice on growing their business in China with the appointment of four advisors to join chair David Mahon on the China Beachheads advisory board. This board will help NZ companies slot into critical local business networks as they establish and expand in the market. The additional advisors have expe-

rience, extensive networks and capital to share with intellectual companies seeking their advice. The China Beachheads advisory board is the seventh to be established by NZ Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) as part of its global Beachheads program designed to speed up the entry and growth of NZ companies in key markets.

About members***Dinah Adkins***

has announced her impending retirement as president & CEO of NBIA. This decision caused many reactions from members of GBIN, the Global Business Incubation Network as well as SPICE Group – all thanking Dinah for her intensive work for and contributions to the development not only of

NBIA, but also of business incubation in many other countries. Dinah informed that she expects to leave her position next spring following the 23rd NBIA International Conference.

“Working at NBIA has never been ‘just a job’ for me”, says Dinah – and this is what all feel who know her and her personal engagement and involvement with all matters of entrepreneurship and innovation. Hopefully Dinah will continue to support incubation activities around the globe when eased from the burden of association management. Contact: dadkins@nbia.org

***Jeff Milanette***

Innovative Partners, Inc. is providing consulting services to the infoDev organization advising on the development of ICT incubators in Sub-Saharan Africa. Thus far we have visited five infoDev incubators with an ICT mission in hopes of understanding their attributes and considering how to rep-

licate them in a manner that will make them both sustainable and attractive to investors. Two years ago IPI was involved in a similar project for the EBRD investigating ICT incubation potential in Moldova, Mongolia and Georgia, and the firm is currently providing services in the development of an ICT incubator in California. SPICE Members Jeff Milanette and Ingrid Rosten are actively engaged in the project which is scheduled to be completed in February. Contact: Jeff Milanette, jmilanette@aol.com ; Ingrid Rosten: ingrid@cleanstart.org



Yousef Abu-Hmeidan

is active as ever promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in his country (Jordan) as well as the MENA region. Most recently he in cooperation with his German (SPICE) partner Uwe Seidel from VDT / VDE – IT in Berlin, organized seminars for business incu-

tion management in Jordan including sessions on the basic theories as well as case studies and practical examples. Yousef is actively collection and disseminating information on all matters related with innovation and entrepreneurship and regularly provides reports and articles for SPICE Update. For more details about the activities of his company “I’s of Innovation” Yousef gave his website a new face and content. To check, please have a look at Website www.ioi-jo.com

New members – Welcome to the network



Gerhard Raetz

is working in Business Incubation since 1991. He developed the concept for the Innovation and Business Incubation Centre in Berlin Adlershof, Germany (opened 1991). He is Officer with procuration in the managing company of this centre, the IZBM - Innovations-Zentrum Berlin Management GmbH that has supported more than 700 companies. This company is also operating the first and now oldest German Business Incubator, the BIG, Berliner Innovations- und Gründer

zentrum Berlin Wedding (opened Nov. 30, 1983) and since 1997 the first International Business Incubator in Europe, the OWZ in Berlin Adlershof. Gerhard was Vice President of ADT German Federal Association of Innovation and Business Incubation Centres (1992-2000) and provided knowledge and good practices for creating and operating business incubators. In the mid-nineties he was involved with a program to advice governments in East European countries to create business incubators. Gerhard is holding Engineer Degree in Factory Planning and Doctorate Degree in Economy of Science. Contact: Gerhard Raetz, raetz@izbm.de



Ilyas Azzoui

is member of the coordinating cell of Morocco Incubation and Spin-off Network (RMIE) hosted in the National Center for Scientific Research and Technology (CNRST). He has developed much experience regarding start-up businesses / incubator clients; especially identifying their needs, organization of training, business planning or

Ilyas also worked on research projects and studies, e.g. feasibility studies of RMIE and for Sidi Moumen Incubator in Casablanca and studies on the entrepreneurial profile of Moroccan PhD students or how to improve university spin-offs. Ilyas also is chairman of a Research-Industry workgroup for Euro-Mediterranean Innovation Space (EMIS) funded by the EU and gathering 29 Euro-Mediterranean institutions Since 2007 Ilyas also is working for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for providing expertise to the African Organization for IP to establish a program for the creation of innovative start-ups in Francophone Africa. In 2008 Ilyas was elected to the Board of Directors of MENAinc, the network of business incubators and technoparks in MENA. Contact: Ilyas Azzoui, Ilyas.azzoui@gmail.com

information research. Ilyas provided technical assistance incubators and incubators managers. He developed a manual on project support and tools including Post-Incubation Monitoring, (iDISC good practice www.idisc.net/en/Topic.12.html).



Yeung-Shik Kim

since 2004 is Director and Professor at the Business Incubation Center of Kumoh National Institute of Technology, Korea. After having been Vice President of KOBIA, Korean Business Incubation Association, (2006-2007) he since this year is Secretary General of

the Korean Business Incubation Association. Graduated from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Yeungnam University, Korea (BA) in 1982 Yeung-Shik Kim studied at the University of Iowa, Department of Mechanical Engineering , U.S.A (graduated MA 1988) and at the Pennsylvania State University, Department of Mechanical Engineering (graduated PhD in December 1998) Contact: Yeung-Shik Kim, yskim@kumoh.ac.kr



Yong-Sam Lee

from 1994 to 2002 worked as a scientist and lecturer at Daegu University, Korea. After that he joined the business incubation center of the Industry Academic Cooperation Foundation, Daegu University, Korea. Since March 2005 Yong-Sam Lee is

Secretary General at the Korea Business Incubation Association (KOBIA).After graduating from the Department of Economics, Daegu University, Korea (BA) in 1981 and 1984 (MA) Yong-Sam Lee studied at the University of Bridgeport in U.S.A (graduated 1988, MBA). In 1997 Yong-Sam Lee graduated from the Daegu University with a Ph.D. in Economics. Contact: Yong-Sam Lee, lysbusan@hanmail.net

Important Upcoming Events

The list of events to be held in 2009 is growing. This newsletter only can give a brief overview and we strongly recommend to visit the "Events" section on the SPICE Group website www.spice-group.net for more details. This site also provides a simple feature to place your own events on this page.

January 11 -13, 2009: NBIA: Third Summit for Advanced Incubation Professionals

NBIA's **Third Summit for Advanced Incubation Professionals** is scheduled for January 11-13, 2009. This year's event will be held in Palm Springs, CA.. The activities will kick off with a reception on Sunday evening, Jan. 11.

The summit is a unique experience for NBIA members who have been in the industry for at least five years. Official invita-

tions with more information about registration and the agenda have been sent already. For more information and to register contact the NBIA Events and Training Department:

www.nbia.org/nbia_events/summit09/index.php. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Tom Strodtbeck at tstrodtbeck@nbia.org

January 29 -31, 2009: ISBA: Third International Business Incubation Conference, Chennai, India

"Creating an Innovation Economy through Entrepreneurs and Incubation" is the title of the third annual conference of ISBA, The Indian Science Park and Business Incubation Association.

Jointly organized by TREC-STEP, Tiruchirappalli Regional Engineering College, S&T Entrepreneurs Park and I S B A Indian STEPs and Business Incubators Association January 29 – 21, 2009 in Chennai this conference will be organized in three streams (each consisting of plenary and work group sessions):

The Incubation spectrum: From Models to Marvels

The Innovation Stream: Clean and Green Tech Incubators: Is it a moral obligation and the future hold?

The Venture Funding and Development Stream: The Public - Private - Partnerships: How effective linkages can be forged, avoiding the proverbial pitfalls in human nature?

Contact: Conference Secretariat / Conference Coordinator secretariat.ISBA2009@trecstep

March 16-17 2009: International Incubator Conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The Four Seasons Hotel, Riyadh will be the venue for the first international conference on business incubation that is planned to be held March 16-17, 2009 followed by a two-day advanced incubator management training. The theme of the Conference "**Business Incubation- Bridging the Link between Innovation and Technology Entrepreneurship**" will be discussed under several perspectives:

- Technology Incubation for the 21st Century
- Technology incubation as a Tool for Commercialization
- Technology Incubation Models for the Arabic World

• Technology Incubation - Lessons from Policy Makers and Stakeholders

• Technology Commercialization and the Role of Intellectual Property

• Financing Technology Commercialization

• Levering University Research & Development

The MENAinc network is planning to hold its 8th Workshop at this conference.

Contact: Dr Abdulaziz Alhargan, ahargan@kacst.edu.sa and MENAinc Focal Point: M. Allam m3allam@gmail.com

April 19-22 2009: 23rd Annual International Conference of NBIA in Kansas City, Missouri, USA

The 23rd Annual NBIA conference 2009 will be held in Kansas City, Missouri combined with a Global Summit of Business Incubation Associations. The conference will feature more than 50 sessions selected to meet the needs of a diverse audience. Session and discussion topics will relate to incubator management, client funding, incubator funding, client services, industry best practices and more. **If you will need a visa** for entering the United States to participate in the conference, begin the application process as soon as possible. Early planning is essen-

tial because visa application processing can take several months. A letter of invitation can improve your chances. NBIA will send a letter of invitation to any individual who has a demonstrated connection to the incubation industry and serious intentions to attend the conference. Individuals requiring such a letter of invitation can request it through the Web site www.nbia.org/nbia_events/visa_info/registration.php.

Contact Megan Bulow, mbulow@nbia.org, or Tom Strodtbeck, tstrodtbeck@nbia.org.

April 22-24 2009: TII 2009: "Regional Excellence in Innovation" in Thessaloniki, Greece

CITY College and SEERC (South East European Research Centre) will be hosting two important conferences in Thessaloniki, Greece. The • ICEIRD 2009: The 2nd International Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development (24-25 April 2009 – see above) and the **TII 2009: Technology Innovation International Annual Conference** "Regional Excellence in Innovation: case studies from around the world" (22-24 April 2009)

Following a very successful event in 2008 in Skopje and Ohrid, the topic of the ICEIRD 2009 Conference is "Entrepreneurship and Innovation Crossroads: Triggers, Catalysts and Accelera-

tors for Sustainable Regional Development". A meeting point for academia, industry and regional authorities the conference brings onboard the perspective of the South East European Countries and addresses topics such as Innovation and Entrepreneurship across the University, Government and Industry domains. More than 200 participants are expected to attend the conference, a mix of academics and researchers, technology and innovation consultants, regional development authorities, chambers of commerce, and Technology Park and incubator managers.

Call for Papers / Contact: K. Panagiotis pktikidis@seerc.org

April 24-25 2009: ICEIRD 2009: Entrepreneurship and Innovation Crossroads in Thessaloniki, Greece

The ICEIRD 2009 aims to provide an effective channel of communication between decision-makers, researchers, promoters of entrepreneurship, and SME practitioners to discuss topics that are of relevance and significance for national competitiveness and sustainable regional development. ICEIRD09 will:

- address key factors in regional economic development, entrepreneurial vitality and innovation processes
- raise the level of awareness about innovation, entrepreneurship and competitive advantage
- strengthen the regional and international network among representatives from SEE and EU countries

- consolidate intra-SEE networks of SMEs and Incubators
- promote best practices in innovation
- facilitate regional partnerships and innovation networks

The conference is addressed at regional and international level and is targeted to academics, entrepreneurs, policy-makers, researchers and students who are involved in the latest research, scientific development and practice on innovation and entrepreneurship. ICEIRD09 is organized by City College – Affiliated Institution of the University of Sheffield, and the South East European Research Center (SSSEERC), Thessaloniki, Greece. Contact: K. Panagiotis pktikidis@seerc.org

May 11-15 2009: infoDev 3rd Global Business Incubation Forum in Brasilia, Brazil

Hundreds of experts and practitioners in entrepreneurship and innovation promotion from more than 40 countries are expected to gather at the 3rd Global Forum of infoDev. Program highlights include:

- Leveraging Business Incubation for Development: Knowledge-sharing on how to leverage business incubation to enable women and youth entrepreneurs, and to foster growth in agriculture, clean technology, and ICT.
- Policymakers Roundtable: Lessons and best practices on government support for business incubation and innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Investment Forum: Showcase of innovative approaches to financing start-up enterprises, and dialogue on strengthening business incubation – financier relationships.
- Capacity Building for Business Incubator Managers Sessions led by experts in the field of co-incubation, technology commercialization, incubator manager training, field visit to Brazilian business incubators, and more!

The 3rd Global Forum on Business Incubation is open to anyone with an interest in leveraging business incubation to further innovation and entrepreneurship in developing countries.

About the Hosts:

The Information for Development Program (infoDev) works to promote better understanding and effective use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) as tools of poverty reduction and broad-based, sustainable development.

The National Association of Entities that Promote Innovative Ventures (ANPROTEC) is a leading institution that encourages the creation, development and consolidation of innovative enterprises.

The Brazilian Service of Support for Micro and Small Enterprises (SEBRAE) offers to micro and small enterprises the conditions necessary for their survival, prosperity and active contribution to the country's growth through the generation of jobs and income.

Contact: infoDev website www.idisc.net

November 27-29 2009: 8th Best Science Based Incubator Conference and Award, Stockholm, Sweden

At the 7th Best Science Based Incubator and Award held in Paris in mid December 2008 the next event already has been announced. Technopolicy Network / Science Alliance, Netherlands will cooperate with Innovationsbron, Sweden for organizing the next conference,

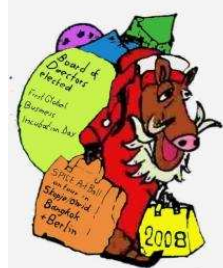
On page 1 and 6 of this Update we report on the Paris event. This article may provide first information about the type and character of the conference scheduled for being held in Sweden in November next year

Contact: Tanja Pijpaert, t.pijpaert@technopolicy.net

New in SPICA Directory Online

The Global Online Directory "SPICA Directory Online" provides information about business incubators, technology parks and their associations. Such information needs to be updated permanently. There have been additions, corrections, and updates recently. But we invite all incubators that are listed to

check and actualize their profiles. This can be done "online". Please contact the SPICA Directory team for your personal user ID and password. All incubators and technology parks are invited to present their profile in SPICA Directory Online free of charge. Contact update@spica-directory.net

**And finally...**

This was the last issue of the SPICE newsletter for the year 2008. While PUMBAA is carrying the heavy load of experiences from 2008, we wish you an enjoyable holiday season – especially a Happy New Year 2009 (whenever that year begins according your calendar). Health, success, luck, and pleasure shall accompany you during the twelve months of 2009, and thereafter.

Maybe during coming weeks you will find the time for sending us information about your activities and achievements for publication in first SPICE Update in 2009?!

In any case we hope to hear from you and meet with you personally soon

Heinz Fiedler & Larisa Brovarska
