



UPDATE No. 84

For members *first*

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Dear Member and Reader,

In the first issue of SPICE Update – as usual – we provide a short overview about the year that just finished. Further below on this page you find some facts and figures – as well as a short look back ten years ago.

But there is not much time for thinking about the past. The new year has started full of activities, projects, and events around the globe. Especially business incubation activities in develop-

ing countries give reason for optimism. Not only incubator networks in these regions develop, also individual incubator projects are on track.

One of the lessons (to be) learned from the "financial crisis – hopefully – will be that it is not "easy and fast money" what establishes a basis for future wealth: it is entrepreneurship and sustainable business development.

SPICE Group in 2008 – some facts

SPICE Update 2008

In **6 issues** of SPICE Update published in 2008 with **71 pages** we reported on business incubation developments in **40 countries** (in the order of number of articles published per country); Jordan, Turkey, Palestine, United Kingdom, Germany, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Russia, Ukraine, Philippines, Dominican Republic, South Africa, Tanzania, Georgia, Estonia, Thailand, USA, Egypt, New Zealand, Czech Republic, Libya, Mozambique, Finland, Spain, Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan, Windward Islands (St. Vincent & Grenadines), Lebanon, Brazil, Sweden, China, Taiwan, Belarus, Moldova, France, Mongolia, Latvia, Senegal, and Saudi Arabia.

Reports also covered developments in international network like GBIN Global Business Incubation Network, the infoDev regional networks in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECA-bit), Middle East and North Africa (MENAinc) or Africa (AIN) as well as the Global network of infoDev. Of course, reports also covered developments of national business incubation associations. And last not least we kept members informed about projects and activities of other members (see also page 13)

The SPICE Art Ball

In our newsletters during the year 2008 we presented **New Triangles for the SPICE Art Ball**: Iran, Japan, Macedonia, and Kyrgyzstan. Here one more triangle that just arrived to be added to the art collection on the globe



of innovation. We will continue to present selected triangles in coming issues of our newsletter until work is done and the art ball is ready. If you want to know more, please visit the SPICE Art Ball website

http://www.art-ball.net/spice_art_ball.php

Creating an Innovation Economy through Entrepreneurs and Incubation

By RMP Jawahar



The International Conference: "Creating an Innovation Economy through Entrepreneurs and Incubation", was held January, 2009 in Chennai, India by the Indian Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park and Business Incubators Association, ISBA

and Tiruchirapalli Regional Engineering College – Science & Technology Entrepreneurs Park (TREC-STEP).

300 participants from all over India and from many other countries across the world participated in this great global event, which was a great learning and networking platform for promoting Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The participants mainly consisted of major global innovation players such as incubator managers, scientists, academicians, policy makers, and major development agencies, from 30 countries. Some of the countries represented in the conference include Australia, France, Greece, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, *continued on page 3...*

The Asia Pacific Conference on Business Incubation and Entrepreneurship (held Oct 31- Nov 2 in Seoul, Korea) was organized by Korea Business Incubation Association (KOBIA) and Asian Association of Business Incubation (AABI), in conjunction with the 13th AABI General Assembly and the Entrepreneur Festival Korea 2008.

The AABI 13th General Assembly took important decisions, e.g. to continue operations of AABI Secretariat for another two years (2009-2010) at Shanghai Technology Innovation Centre, China or to set up a AABI Torch Entrepreneur Award (sponsored by the Government of China with a budget of 10,000 USD annually) replacing the Dr Horiba Entrepreneur Award.



The General Assembly, members also agreed with amendments to AABI Bylaws, for example to establish a communication platform with partners outside of the Asia-Pacific

Region. On this basis membership of the Technology and Business Incubator Center (CITA), Romania was accepted.

The two main topics of the conference were “Public-Private Sector Partnership for Venture Creation” and “The 2. Future of Business Incubation: Knowledge-based Service Innovation”. With participants from nine countries (China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Korea, and Thailand) the conference focused on exchange of experiences in business incubation, college startups, public-private sector partnership, and incubation with knowledge-based science.



The conference was opened by the Director General of SMB Administration (SMBA), Mr. Choi Su-Gyu. In his opening address, **Yeung-Shik Kim**, President of KOBIA and member of SPICE Group mentioned increasing economic interdependence and convergence among various

Economic sectors, and stressed on need of new paradigm of business incubation in high technology startup. On behalf of AABI, President **Annur Mohd Saffar**, member of SPICE Group, introduced the history and current status of AABI to all the participants and specially thanked KOBIA for their continuous contribution to AABI. Mr. Annur shared the knowledge that could be gained from this international event and invited participants and experts in related fields to join AABI activities in India and Australia in 2009.

In his welcoming address, Mr. Su-Gyu Choi, the Director General of SMBA (Small and Medium Business Administration) thanked all delegates from Asian countries for all their efforts to attend the conference. He also took the opportunity to explain how SMBA had reinvigorated the economy through support policies on business incubation and startups. AABI presented the prestigious AABI Incubator of the Year 2008

Award to Agri-Business Incubator, ICRISAT, India.

Receiving the award on behalf of Agri-Business Incubator, ICRISAT was Mr S. M. Karuppanchetty Deputy Chief Operating Officer of AABI.

A forum held at Hoseo University with three



Speakers (from Chinese Taipei, Japan, and Korea) allowed participants to share case studies and incubation experience. The delegates also visited the Hoseo University’s incubator.

Another event was the Entrepreneur Festival Korea 2008 where over 150 startup companies showed their exhibits. AABI members joined the exhibition tour the day after the opening of EnFesKo that first started in 2001. At EnFesKo 2008, a total 70 startups, best incubators, and individuals received merit awards from the Korean government.

This year the Best Men of Merit award went to Professor **Hong Kim** of Hoseo University and member of SPICE Group. Prof. Hong Kim is also the current AABI Adviser.

The international AABI event has certainly become an effective platform for participants to exchange their experiences and enable them to discuss challenges with other international business incubation experts.

13th AABI General Assembly

The 13th AABI General Assembly held in Seoul, Korea in October 2008 one more time provided an excellent opportunity to network with the leading business incubation professionals and organizations in Asia. The 13th Assembly was organized by Korea Business Incubation Association (KOBIA) and sponsored by the Korean Small and Medium Business Administration (SMBA). The Assembly was held in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific International Conference on Incubation and Entrepreneurship “A New Paradigm of Business Incubation”, and the Korean 2008 Entrepreneur Festival.

The sessions at the International Conference focused on Public Private Partnerships for new venture creation, knowledge based service innovation, and technology based service business start up and productivity enhancement through innovation. The Entrepreneur festival exhibited more than 150 products from start up companies and prizes will be awarded to successful prospective companies, incubators and their staff. More information on the festival can be found at www.startup.or.kr For more information on the 13th General Assembly please visit www.aabikorea.com

Continued from page 1

Mongolia, Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America etc. The International Conference generated great enthusiasm among the practicing communities in Innovation and Entrepreneurship creation, by drawing inspirational inputs from the achievements of others and also from the recognition each new effort received from peers across the world. The Indian achievements in Incubation and the dynamic eco system of India for incubating innovative companies were hailed as great



development achievements and appreciated by the Global Incubation Community. The conference also fructified many useful global partnerships and working arrangements and expected to bring in great near-term dividends to the promotion of Innovation in the country by forging global alliances. The conference has been a fertile ground of learning opportunity to professionals involved in incubation and promotion of Innovation and Entrepreneurship across the world. Major international innovation promoting organizations such as the InfoDev World Bank, Science Innovation Network of British High Commission, International Finance Corporation, Global Business Incubation Network, 15 Innovation and Incubation Network Associations, Euro-Office Services Members and Corporates like CISCO, Intel etc, interacted and engaged actively with participants on innovation themes. Besides this, main stream national innovation promotion organizations such as the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science and Technology, Technology Development Board, Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Software Technology Parks of India, Department of Bio-Technology, and Government of Tamilnadu was key sponsors for this event participated actively. Participation of many venture capital organizations, angel network, seed funding agencies, financial institutions and banks again provided a more pragmatic and result focused enduring networking event. It has achieved a great degree of convergence of all the national and international organizations in incubation, innovation and enterprise development. It has also been a truly global event to calibrate global innovation, investment and incubation community.



The Event spread over 3 days had four inspiring streams— The Incubation Stream, The Innovation Stream, Venture Funding and Development stream and an International Pavilion, with over 75 renowned Incubation Experts and Policy makers.



The **Incubation Stream** explored the sectoral implications and impact of incubation in Bio Tech, ICT, Agro Business, Manufacturing and Rural Technology areas, besides discussing the broad them on Policy Making in Innovation. Each session had Indian and global experts in Incubation sharing their experiences and views.

In the **Innovation stream** various aspects, dimensions and new innovation approaches for unearthing innovation, academic partnership challenges, efforts and frame works required for developing innovation in to commercially successful ventures through Incubation, Mentoring, International Bridge Platforms etc have been discussed in detail with intense interaction between Indian and International experiences.

The **Venture funding stream** Seed Funds for Innovation Mining, Growth Funds Sustainability issues of Incubators, Role of private sector in incubation and social entrepreneurship aspects have been explored from the undercurrents and learning from the global incubation experiences and initiatives.

The **International Pavilion** offered opportunity to the participants to learn about what is new and insights of experience sharing from countries like Greece, South Africa, Mexico,



Nepal, Iran, Malaysia, Taiwan, Italy, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Libya, Uganda besides the mainstreams players from Americas, Europe and Asia.

The Three plenary sessions, Models to Marvels, Clean and Green Tech and PPP in Incubation provided invaluable inputs to participants in the major issues facing Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Incubation community.

As a first in the history of the Indian Incubation Community, the **ISBA Awards 2009** was being launched at the Conference. To honor 11 incubatees and graduates from across India for their achievements in sectors like ICT, New Materials, Pharmaceuticals, Bio & Clean Technology, Engineering, Manufacturing, Rural Development, Agriculture and Healthcare awards were given to young innovative entrepreneurs.

ISBA, the Indian Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Parks and Business Incubators' Association (ISBA), is a dynamic value network of Incubators of India, engaged in promoting Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the country. With active

Creating an Innovative Economy. Continued from page 3:



membership of 100 incubators, ISBA constantly strives to leverage incubation performance in India and endeavors to represent and interface, the Indian with the global incubation community.

TREC-STEP is one of the first Business Incubators in India, promoted in the year 1986, pioneering business incubation in the country and abroad and is a part of the national initiative to promote technology based ventures in our society. TREC-STEP is also the founder member of ISBA and holds the Chairmanship of ISBA, now.

For more information, contact: **R. M. P. Jawahar**, Chairman, ISBA and Executive Director, TREC-STEP, Email: java_ts@yahoo.com / ed@trecstep.com or visit www.trecstep.in

Asia Pacific Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (APJIE)

The Editorial Board of The Asia Pacific Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (APJIE). had received 11 manuscripts from 7 different member economies to publish only 6 papers in this volume 2. The other papers are either rejected or still under the review process by the blind referees.

The manuscripts published in the APJIE issue of December 2008 were **Product Innovation Decision Support Based on On-line Patent Database** by *Kadarsah Suryadi, Ceicalia Tesavrita, and Henri Dou*; **Business Incubators in Japan - An Effective Model for Japanese-Style Business Incubators** by *Tomoyo Kazumi*, **Kiwis Can Fly – Incubation in New Zealand** by *Kevin Ha*, **The Integrated Marketing Communi-**

cations Mode of Chinese MICE Enterprises by *Shin Kwang-Yong, Kim Young-Kyu, and Oh Seon-Young*; **The Key Concept of Academic Technology Entrepreneurship in the Current Practice** by *Sahadah Hj. Abdullah, Mohd. Hassan Osman, and Mohd. Syahrir Hj. Rahim*; **An Introduction of the Legal Framework Relating to the International Sales Contract in Electronic Environment** by *Park, Sung-Ho*

A call for paper is included in the last pages of the Volume 2 for the promotion of the Volume 3, to be published in May 2009. and also on the website <http://www.spice-group.net/actual/> The deadline for manuscript is **March 15, 2009**. Contact: Bong Jin Cho, Email: bjcho@kmu.ac.kr

ECAbit network launched Y2i (Youth 2 Innovation) contest in January 2009

The ECabit network Y2i contest on innovative ideas in business and incubation management among young people will invite three winners to infoDev's 3rd Global Forum on Business Incubation in Brasilia, Brazil in May 2009.

The Eastern European and Central Asian business incubators network ECabit (www.ecabit.org) announced the launch of the 2009 Y2i (Youth 2 Innovation) contest on innovative ideas in business and incubation management addressing young people up to the age of 30 years. According to Y2i Project Manager **Radu Big** (CDIMM Baia Mare, Romania, a member of infoDev's Global Network of Business Incubators), the contest aims to support innovative thinking and acting among young people in both entrepreneurship and business incubation.

During the contest, participants will be given the chance to receive an evaluation of their innovative ideas from an international team of consultants from the ECabit incubators network. The three winners will be given the chance to present and discuss their plans with potential business partners and investors during infoDev's 3rd Global Forum. The contest will assess innovative ideas in three categories:

- **Business Incubatee Innovation:** projects submitted by

active or future entrepreneurs that are a tenant of a business incubator and participate in an incubation program, or are applying for participation.

- **Business Incubator Innovation:** project proposals on innovative business incubation submitted by young experts that are working in a business incubator.
- **Business Innovation:** projects submitted by active or future entrepreneurs that are not yet a tenant of a business incubator.

The jury will focus on the relevance of the innovation, its feasibility including potential and risks, and the current planning stage of the innovation. Innovation is defined as a product and service or process innovation. Applicants will be requested to provide references and additional planning information on demand during the evaluation stage.

Eligible candidates are young people from the age of 18 up to 30 from Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asian countries. According to Mr. Radu Big, the objective is to extend the scope of the contest in 2010 and allow all members and partners of infoDev's Global Network to participate.

More information: <http://www.idisc.net/en/Article.38830.html>

NBIA is looking for a new President & CEO

NBIA is looking for a new president and CEO to lead the association into its 25th year and beyond. As announced in October, Dinah Adkins will retire in April following the 23rd International Conference on Business Incubation after more than 20 years as the association's chief executive. Reporting to NBIA's Board of Directors, the new president and CEO will be responsible for the leadership, new management and operations of the association (visit www.nbia.org/classifieds/index.php for full position description.) The association has retained EFL Associates, a nationally recognized executive search firm, to coordinate the search.

Pete Lemke, chairman, and Paula Hahn, vice president, are the consultants who will be working with the association's search committee on the project. Applications should include a letter outlining the applicant's background, qualifications and vision for the position; a current resume; and contact information for five professional references. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. You may submit applications electronically at https://highereducationdecisions.com/efl/emp_apply_login.asp or contact Paula Hahn, vice president of EFL Associates, at (913) 451-8866 or phahn@eflassociates.com.

Women Incubation

infoDev's International Work Group on Women Business Incubation is getting stated

Following a Request for Proposals infoDev has provided grants for building three global thematic work groups as part of infoDev's Global Incubation Network. One of these work groups is being set up for learning more about how to effectively serve women business incubation. Under the motto „**Gateway to Economic Development through Women's Empowerment and Entrepreneurship**“ this work group has started activities covering all of infoDev's five regions of operation: **Eastern Europe & Central Asia, Asia, MENA and South America, and Latin America and Caribbean**. The general goal is to enhance the role of women entrepreneurs through business incubation and the **main objectives** of the project are:

- to generate knowledge that help build the capacity of existing business incubators for women entrepreneurs;
- to promote knowledge sharing about Women Incubation;
- to summarize the challenges for Women Incubation specific to countries or regions and outline activities needed for improving the needed support structures;
- to establish a foundation for strengthening cooperation and network building between women incubators globally

The **main activities** within this project are:

- to collect information (data base) about organizations active in supporting women business incubation;
- to generate an overview of the particular challenges associated with women entrepreneurship;

- to develop lessons learned, good practices and methodologies that – in different regions and environments;
- to identify needs for training specific to Women Incubation based on existing incubator training offers;
- to continuously feed information (success stories, good practices, tools, templates etc.) into the interactive web portal of infoDev (iDISC) for making it accessible to a wide audience;

The Working Group currently represents **27 members from more than 20 countries**. The Working Group is being led by the Congress of Women of the Kyrgyz Republic, a member of infoDev Global Network and is governed by a Steering Group in which all *infoDev* regions are represented.

For more information and for joining the Work Group, please visit the website <http://www.idisc.net/WorkGroups/index.aspx>

or contact Zamira Akbagysheva congresswomen@intranet.kg

Further Contact Partners for the BI Work Group

Africa: Mbarou Mbaye, Senegal, mmbaye@ncnw.org

Asia: Annuar Saffar, Malaysia, annuar62@gmail.com

ECA (Eastern Europe/Central Asia; Rositsa Djambazova, Bulgaria, bi-gd@gocenet.net

MENA (Middle East / North Africa): Nejiba Khalfallah, Tunisia. n.khalfallah@elgazalacom.nat.tn

LAC (Latin America & Caribbean): Noelia de Leon, Costa Rica, foroempresariascr@gmail.com

The „Darboven IDEE-Award“ 2009 for Women with Ideas

75.000 Euro for the winner. An attractive award for a woman intending to start or develop her business.

The successful Entrepreneur Albert Darboven from Hamburg already in the year 1997 initiated the „Darboven IDEA Award“ for supporting the entrepreneurial potential of women in Germany. Women intending to start their own business based on an idea with potential for success female young entrepreneurs not longer than three years in business may apply for the award.

The most important criteria for the award are

- innovation level of the idea
- achieved / to be expected success of the business personal engagement of the start-up entrepreneur
- number of jobs to be expected from the new business

More information and application forms are available from:

Heide Schwarzweller / segmenta pr, Ute Enke, E-Mail:

ifp@segmenta.de

Syria: Women Entrepreneurship in Villages



The Village Business Incubator (VBI) is a service centre for the development of female entrepreneurship in rural areas of the Lattakia Governorate – Syria. It operates within the framework of a development cooperation

project implemented by the Fund for Integrated Rural Development of Syria (FIRDOS), with the assistance of the Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS) and with funding from European Union (EU), IFAD, FIRDOS and AIDOS.

VBI was established in July 2005 as first incubator of its kind in the Middle East through the development cooperation Project “Establishing a village business incubator for women’s micro and small enterprises in the coastal midlands area of Syria”. VBI’s approach is grounded in the standpoint that women’s active participation in the socio-economic life is a key precondition for an even development. Rural women in particular represent a more

disadvantaged sector of the community in terms of poor countries. Lack of self esteem and exposure to new economic opportunities are some of the reasons. In the coastal midland areas of Syria, women are mainly involved in small scale farming; this activity generates though minimal income and is insufficient for the livelihood of the household.

The objective of the VBI is to promote women’s active role self sustainable enterprises. The VBI provides an open learning space for business skills creation, information and promotion; it focuses on business counseling, enterprise management training and monitoring business performance. VBI supports women displaying entrepreneurial spirit and motivation as well as already existing local micro-entrepreneurs.

The pilot experience of the Village Business Incubator is also will help establishing a model for supporting the development of micro and small-enterprises for the other rural areas of Syria.

Contact: Shouk Abdel Aziz, s.abdelaziz.vbi@syriatrust.org

Syria

Mountain Flower – Italian cheese made in Syria

Mountain Flower (Zahrat al Jabal) is one of the companies in the Village Business Incubator (VBI see article above) founded in 2006 by Sabah a very dynamic entrepreneurial 48-years lady. She had three years experience in the field of dairy products producing fresh milk, and traditional cheese, “Shenklesh”, before she decided to expand her business and target new markets outside the Village. To achieve this goal she joined the training program of the VBI.

Starting this business Sabah used personal savings first, But loans obtained through the VBI, played a decisive role. Sabah used the loan to build a workshop and purchase technical equipment to improve the quality of her production. By now (2009), her business has become self-sustainable. „My major products include three kinds of Italian cheese (Mozzarella, Provolla and Ricotta). The uniqueness of my products stems from that fact that Italian cheese, produced following the Italian traditional methods is not yet available in Syria. Moreover, my products are 100% free of additives and chemicals“ says Shbah about her business, „You can ask about Sabah in Damascus and they will tell you about my mozzarella”!!

Shaban started selling her cheese directly from her workshop to individual clients or through retailers in her village. VBI made her visible in Damascus and she started to receive steady orders from clients there. Moreover, through the VBI, Shabah always participates in events and bazaars either in Lattakia or Damascus organized by national and international organizations.

Shabah considers her business a real success: „My income has witnessed a great increase, my profit from the traditional cheese was 3000 SP per month, and now I'm earning about 13000 SP per month. In addition I'm having very good reputation in Syria, the



demand for my cheese is growing day by day, Now I'm planning to increase my production and buy more cows.“As it's not familiar in Syria that the rural woman owns a business, Shabah's husband was a bit resistant at the very beginning of the idea of his wife having an income-generating business. However, now he is helping in the production

Important support from the incubator was also brought through business training that also improved accounting skills. Most importantly the VBI put Shabah in contact with Mr. Gerardo Virgilio, dairy expert from Sardinia, Italy to assist her in learning how to produce new types of cheese, namely the famous “mozzarella” and “provola” cheese.

Based on her experience Sahba wishes that „more incubators should be promoted in the rural areas to support the rural women because they can be really innovative.“

More information: <http://www.vbi-lattakia.org/english/> there click on „supported entrepreneurs“

Syria

Natural Herbs - a good Basis for Business

Khatoun is a client business of the Village Incubator, Syria that focuses on medical herbs. „I live in a beautiful village of the coastal area of Syria”, says Madina Younes Rajab, the woman who started and owns Khatoun, „ close to one of the famous castles in Syria, Salah al Din. Old manuscripts by Salah al Din's father evidenced how relevant herbal treatments were at that time, and how much people knew about the use of natural remedies. This explains why the areas surrounding the famous castle are so rich in medical herbs and plants. This is why I have decided to establish "Khatoun": a medical herbs business producing natural beauty products, herbal extracts and dried herbs. The inspiration for this business idea came from the wife of Salah al Din, "Khatoun" and her legendary beauty. “

Al Hajar village is rich with plants that are considered as the treasure of Syria. The raw materials are almost available in the nature; therefore Madina used her personal saving in addition to the help of her husband who offered her the money needed to buy the equipment. With the loan she received from the Syrian Fund for Agriculture facilitated by the Village Business Incubator, she prepared the hygienic production place.

Khatoun's products are medical herbs, natural perfume, medical and cosmetic creams, oil, and tea herbs (Zohourat). The uniqueness of the products derives from the natural production process, starting from picking the plants until they are ready to use, no chemical are used whatsoever. The market in Lattakia is rediscovering the importance of natural products and their use for medical treatments. Khatoun started selling within the village to relatives and friends, and then broadened scale through

Selling on the "Village Market", organized by "The Environment Friends Association". The village market customers were people looking for organic food. Clients are women looking for natural cosmetics and people who value therapeutic **proprieties** of natural herbs. Next will be to register in the handicraft union which will allow selling through pharmacies and big shops. The incubator provided basic



managerial training and an intensive technical training conducted by one of the most reputed experts in herbal treatments in Lattakia city. Training and practical experiences led to very deep insight into herbal treatment; how to collect wild plants without damaging the environment nor endangering rare species; how to process them as well as the drying and packaging techniques. The VBI market studies and a specific feasibility study supported tremendously, and the web site and the exhibitions were a great promotion for the company. The support network and advice from the VBI remain important for business development. Madina wants to invite the donors and others to support rural women with the potential energy.

More information: <http://www.vbi-lattakia.org/english/> there click on „supported entrepreneurs“

Jordan Women Entrepreneurship in Jordan

The Jordan Forum for Business & Professional Women, JFBW has been established 1979. Since then the Forum has taken the responsibility for building capacities, empower women, enhancing the economic participation of women in the economy, amongst other activities that include training, and advocacy, etc.

This year the president of JFBW, HE Mrs. Wijdan Talhouni Al Saket & the 2nd Vice president Mrs. Taghreed Nafisi were in Forbes business lists as two of the strongest business women in the Arab states. Another board member Mrs. Kholoud Saqqaf became the 1st female vice president to Jordan Central Bank.

In 2008 JFBPW started two new initiatives:

1. The National Initiative for Training & Employment for Young Jordanian Women – target group girls 18-36 yrs old – will provide 5000 employment opportunity for girls in the private sector companies in Jordan

2. The "Women lead the future" initiative, by opening doors to youth membership in order to build capacities and characters of young entrepreneurs and help them to become business oriented in early stages.

The Forum has also launched several projects for the empowerment of women in 2008:

1. Networking to enable women access to economic decision positions
2. Access to finance
3. Export toolkit launch and training
4. Creating new business incubators for women in Innovation & Research

Contact: Rania Khatib, Executive Manager Jordan Forum for Business & Professional Women (JFBPW): ceo@bpwa.org.jo
Website: www.bpwa.org.jo

Science Based Incubators

The conference and award "Best Science Based Incubator", held in Paris in December 2008 offered a wide range of information and views. Now the conference materials have been made available, for example including the presentations by



Rolf Friedrichsdorf, "SPICE Boy" and board member of ADT (German Federal Association of Business Incubators and Technology Centers) "New Approaches and Models for Science Based Incubators". This presentation could draw from the experience of 25 years of business country. 76 % of the incubator clients are innovative and technology orientated. Their needs change continuously – as technologies and markets do.

The basic tasks of incubators (consulting, provision of infrastructure, access to finance, and stimulation of innovation) only

can be accomplished if incubator prepare for meeting changing demands such as technological specialization and clustering for providing the best possible professional services to start-up and growth companies.

For future development Rolf Friedrichsdorf described the most important challenges for incubators in securing a professional and proactive management covering all business areas from pre-incubation to after-graduation. Also to maintain the best possible quality of incubator services for the client companies and stimulating an efficient technology transfer through people remain an ongoing challenge. Not to forget taking care about the development perspectives for incubators through clustering and local as well as global networking.

Contact: Rolf Friedrichsdorf, Phoenix Gründerzentrum, Email rfriedrichsdorf@phoenix-gruenderzentrum.de :

Good Practices for Science Based Incubators: Award 2008

The **Waterloo Research and Technology Park Accelerator Centre, Waterloo, Canada**, has won the "Good Practices Award 2008".

This incubator achieves faster exits by performing a gap analysis of the status of the companies at the time that they enter the Accelerator which identifies on a monthly basis what the companies need to accomplish in a number of areas (e.g. financing, hire employees, obtain beta customers, etc.) in order for them to successfully graduate from the Accelerator Centre. Based upon this gap analysis mentors are assigned to the companies who have expertise in the areas required by the companies (e.g. human resources, sales and marketing, etc) and in addition a Board of Directors is appointed to each company composed of Directors who have backgrounds which will be helpful to the companies based upon the gap analysis. The Directors may change over time depending upon the needs of the companies.

Meetings are held on a monthly basis with each company (currently 25 in the Accelerator Centre) in order to determine if the businesses are on track in each area, and if they are not then the resources are provided by the Accelerator Centre to ensure that the companies can get back on track (e.g. new mentors, courses, introductions, advisors, etc.).

For more information, please visit the website of the accelerator center:



About the award: The "Good Practice Award" is part of the annual "Best Science Based Incubator Award" and usually also the Good Practice Award is announced at the conference.. This year the winner of this award was chosen by a broader audience. Out of all the entries of the participants, the awards jury selected a shortlist of proposals fulfilling the criteria. The incubators were nominated in three categories; Achieving faster exits, Attracting higher investment and Improving performance overall. People could only vote for one incubator. The nominees fulfilled to the following criteria: (1) Relevance to the theme, (2) Effectiveness to improving performance, (3) Adds value to existing practice/know-how, (4) Efficiency in achieving a proportionate financial/human cost, and (5) Capable of being replicated on a wider scale. Through voting process on the Technopolis website then the winner was chosen.

Information: Tanja Pijpaert,
t.pijpaert@technopolicy.net
www.technopolicy.net



Views & Facts

Latin America *Incubator & Technopark Networks*

REDLAC, the Latin-American and Caribbean Network of Enterprise Incubators was launched in 2006 with support from infoDev and as part of infoDev's Global network. This network aims at consolidating and supporting incubators and innovative entrepreneurial activities and is an open network with active participation of incubators, technoparks, professionals and private or public entities dedicated to foster entrepreneurship in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The network is composed and managed by five national entities (ANPROTEC, AIPyPT, CHILEINCUBA, PERUINCUBA and URUNOVA). **REDLAC** has five lines of action: (i) entrepreneurship & ITCs; (ii) business incubation process management; (iii) external support & networking; (iv) evaluation; and (v) public policy.

Much of the recent development in Latin America regarding business incubators and technoparks was stimulated by the creation of the Latin American Network of National Associations of Incubators and Technology Parks (**RELAPI** - for its initials in Spanish). Founded in 2005 by entities from eight countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela) together with the International Association of Technological / Scientific Parks (IASP). **RELAPI** can be considered the first regional collaborative initiative which aims at fostering incubators, parks and technological poles in the entire region.

For more information about the networking activities of Latin American incubators and technoparks, visit the infoDev / iDISC websites: <http://www.idisc.net/en/Region.4.html>

Costa Rica *Study on Entrepreneurship in Central America*

Parque Tec, a Costa Rican business accelerator based in San José and a member of infoDev's Global Network, was appointed by the German Development Bank (KfW) and The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) to conduct the first diagnosis on entrepreneurship in the seven Central American countries.

CABEI and KfW have appointed Parque Tec to conduct the first regional diagnosis on entrepreneurship. The study will cover seven countries in Central America: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama. Both organizations support the study in order to foster regional entrepreneurial capability and, thus, to create fresh and innovative corporations, which will in turn generate new job opportunities for entrepreneurs and contribute to the economic growth of those countries.

The study will portray the current entrepreneurship and innovation situation in each country. To this end, the study will identify

the actors and their roles within this sector and consider their current and potential impact in the national and regional strategy outline.

"The investigation will take place simultaneously around the region and the collected data will be used to create a comparative analysis of the enterprising process among the countries", commented Marcelo Lebendiker, President of Parque Tec.

Cultural aspects, public policies, education, and access to financial resources and regulations are some of the factors that Parque Tec will focus on for each nation. The investigation will also provide a special focus on the role of women entrepreneurs in the region.

The goal of the study is to support policymakers and multilateral organisms in improving and promoting a constructive and successful approach to entrepreneurship.

For more information visit iDISC <http://idisc.infodev.org/> and see the article <http://www.idisc.net/en/Article.38835.html>

Brazil *Findings of a Study on Incubators and Technoparks in Brazil*

The Brazilian National Association of Science Parks and Business Incubators (ANPROTEC), a member of infoDev's Global Business Incubation Network, recently carried out unprecedented research on technology parks in Brazil.

Anprotec focuses on the promotion of sustainable development, aimed at building a new nation, with a modern and dynamic society that generates employment and wealth in a socially responsible manner. Anprotec's vision is focused on increasing its recognition and importance in Brazil and overseas as a leading institution that encourages the creation, development and consolidation of innovative enterprises aimed at the economic, social and cultural transformation of regions and nations.

Some key facts & figures of the research include:

- There are currently (2008) 74 technology parks in Brazil
- These technology parks comprise 520 enterprises
- These enterprises have created 26,233 new jobs These enterprises generated a total income of ca. USD 730 billion; their exports amount to ca. USD 50 million
- They generated tax receipts for approx. USD 52 million

These findings were presented by ANPROTEC to the Science and Technology Ministry and the Foreign Trade, Industry and Development Ministry in Brasilia in December 2008. For more information (only in Portuguese), visit: http://www.Anproec.org.br/infoe/destaques_vejamais_old_frame.php?var=85&vader=35

Indonesia *Building a Business Incubator in Cooperation with a German Partner*

I-CELL ATMI means Innovation Cell from ATMI (Akademi Teknik Mesin Industri) and is a kind of business incubator in its early stage. At this time 15 "Young Talents" from many disciplines participate in the project. They come from economic as well as engineering (chemical, mechanical) background and work together for four months to prepare a business plan for their business start-up process.

I-CELL ATMI works together with a German Expert from Konstanz University. In Spring 2009 the prototypes are planned to be completed and – hopefully – the projects can enter into the business starting phase.

More information: R.Didiek Embriyakto, ATMI - Technical Academi of Manufacturing Engineering, Surakarta, Indonesia, Email didiek_embriyakto@yahoo.co.id

European Union *The Enterprise Europe Network*

The new Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) now is the European Commission's most important business and innovation support instrument and a key activity of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Program (CIP) 2007–2013. The Network builds directly on the former Euro Info Centre (EIC) and Innovation Relay Centre (IRC) networks. EEN offers a wide range of services designed in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These services include providing information on business opportunities and the business environment in the European market and advice on European legislation and other regulations; helping SMEs to find foreign partners for production, trade and technology cooperation;

helping businesses to implement innovation projects, transfer technology and commercialize their R&D results; providing advice on protection of intellectual property rights; and supporting participation in EU programs and helping SMEs to prepare projects. The Network's contact points also offer tools of transmitting feedback from SMEs to the European Commission. The Network is made up of nearly 550 partner organizations and around 4,000 experts in 44 countries, i.e. all 27 EU Member States as well as numerous other countries in which the Network's services are provided (e.g. Israel, Turkey, and Switzerland). Information http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

Austria *The Future of Austrian Innovation Centers*

Business Incubators in Austria "called "Impulse Centers" have a record of success. But, as in other countries also the Austrian incubators are continuously challenged with finding new answers to the changing needs of clients and stakeholders.

A workshop in December 2008, organized by the Austrian association of business incubators (VTÖ) was aimed at discussing the needs and options for future development of the incubators. The chairman of VTÖ, **Wolfgang Rupp** initiated this workshop and led the discussion based on a SWOT analysis and an evaluation of the stakeholder's potentials. The workshop also developed strategies for the Austrian incubators for meeting the challenges related with the development and provision of quality services to clients and securing the financial basis for the incubators

. These questions are not unfamiliar to incubators all over the world. Therefore **Rolf Friedrichsdorf**, board member of the German sister association ADT, was invited to attend this workshop for providing insight from the experience of German Business Incubators. This invitation can be understood as a practical example for the understanding that only networking – including links across borders – can secure access to needed information and provide the necessary impulses for future development of business incubation activities.

Contact: Wolfgang Rupp, wrupp@ycn.com



Greece *The Technopolis Thessaloniki ICT Business Park*

"Technopolis Thessalonikis SA" is an initiative of the Association of Information Technology Companies of Northern Greece (SEPVE). It was founded in 2001, with Computer and high-tech companies from all over Greece participating. In July 2008 the official inauguration of the ICT Technopark could be celebrated.

The Incubator Of the Technopolis Thessaloniki held a session with its member companies on the occasion of the First Global Business Incubation Day on December 8 exchanging views and

experiences on various topics of innovation and business development. This initiative illustrates the interest and intend of the incubator and its client companies to get in touch with international partners. Information and contact: <http://www.technopolis.gr/>



Germany *TGO Oldenburg builds international Cooperation*

The Technology and Business Incubation Center Oldenburg (TGO), winner of one of the "Best Science Based Incubator Award" 2008" (see Update No 83) Germany intensifies its international links with partners in different countries. Recently TGO signed a "Memorandum of Understanding", with the technology center Towson Global (Towson, USA) and the technology park bwtech@umbc (Baltimore, USA). Jürgen Bath, Managing Director of TGO sees an important focus of the intended close cooperation in supporting client companies with entering new markets. Part of Jürgen Bath's activities therefore is establishing first direct contact between companies in his incubator and potential partners in the US partner incubators. A delegation from Baltimore county visited Oldenburg already before the MoU was signed and made contacts with TGO clients interested in entering the American market. Part of this delegation was Clay Hickson, Head of Towson Global and

Ellen Hemmerly, head of the technology park bwtech@umbc. Important support for this international cooperation comes from the City of Oldenburg. Prof. Dr. Schwandner, Mayor of the city visited Towson himself and sees the MoU as "one more step on the way to realize the city's internationalization strategy".

But not only the political administration and the business incubators actively participate in building more cooperation between the cities. Also the universities of Oldenburg and Towson work together for supporting innovation – since more than 20 years already. Positive experience gained from this collaboration in science and education formed an important basis for business links being built now by the technology parks.

More information: Jürgen Bath, info@tgo-online.de



Czech Republic BIC Plzen – Annual Report

The following information was taken from the annual report of the Business and Innovation center Plzen, Czech Republic and is aimed at providing a brief introduction. For more detailed information, please contact BIC Plzen directly.

One focus of the activities of the BIC Plzen in 2008 was on the new Enterprise Europe Network (EEN). BIC Plzen can draw on experience from its membership in the former Euro Info Centre (EIC) and Innovation Relay Centre (IRC).

The services provided by BIC Plzen in the Enterprise Europe Network form an integral part of its comprehensive advisory and support service, targeted mainly at companies preparing development plans:

- Assistance in international technology transfer and commercialization of R&D results
- Consultancy on business plans and funding
- Information and consultancy on doing business in the EU
- Provision of premises for localization of innovative companies and related services

Assistance services for **technology transfer and commercialization** of R&D results are a very important part of the new network's services. BIC Plzen drew on the experience acquired in this area since 2000 within the IRC network. In 2008, BIC Plzen processed more than ten promising technological solutions and requests and made them available to foreign partners. Around 100 foreign offers and requests were identified as potentially suitable and presented to specific companies in the region. Based on these activities, more than 20 negotiations on specific terms and conditions of international cooperation were opened. As international technology transfer is closely linked with the issue of protection of intellectual property BIC Plzen organized two seminars on this issue in the second half of 2008. Consultancy on **preparing and assessing business plans** continued to be provided in 2008 to clients from hi-tech and innovative SMEs. BIC Plzen's consultants provided companies with information on available programs. Interested parties were given comprehensive information on programs offering preferential loans or grants for their business plans. Almost 80 individ-

consultations on the opportunities offered by such programs were provided including active assistance in preparing applications and other necessary documentation. Nine applications were approved in 2008, providing clients with funding of close to CZK 60 million. By the end of the year, another five applications had been prepared and submitted for selected programs.

In 2008, two new innovative companies opened for business at BIC Plzen's **Business Incubator and Technology Centre (BITC)**. Four companies left the Incubator after completing the incubation process; two of them moving into a newly opened complex at the Plzen Science and Technology Park. In line with the long-term plan, the University of West Bohemia's Research Centre also relocated from BIC Plzen to new premises at the Science and Technology Park.

As in previous years, alterations of varying extents were made to the buildings during the year in order to upgrade the environment for client companies and owing to relocations of individual clients. Nevertheless, the average occupancy rate of all the buildings of the BITC was almost 100%. At the year-end, the premises were being used by 18 companies with more than 70 employees.

For companies, being located in BIC Plzen's BITC means more than just renting premises. Such companies receive a whole package of related services and access to regular consultations with BIC Plzen's experts when needed. As a provider of such services, BIC Plzen is also an active member of the Czech Science and Technology Parks Association (STPA), from which it received renewed accreditation in 2008 for a further two-year period after meeting the relevant requirements.

For the BIC Plzen team, 2008 was a particularly tough year as regards meeting the demands associated with the launch of the new Enterprise Europe Network. The main goal of the entire BIC Plzen team for 2009 is to continue providing high-quality, professional services, drawing on its experience and taking advantage of new tools and approaches.

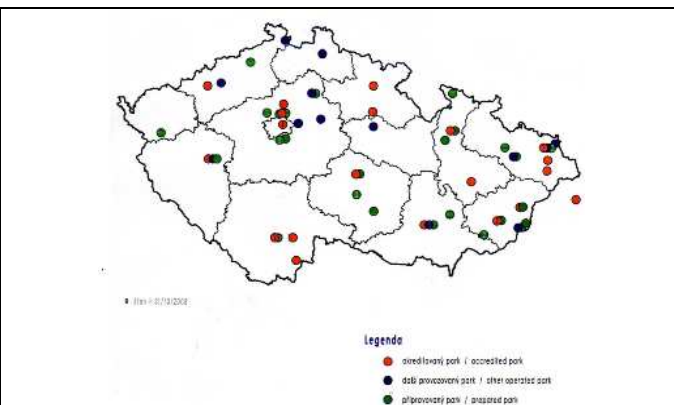
Information: BIC Plzen, Jana Klementová, Email bic@bic.cz, website: www.bic.cz

Czech Republic The Science and Technology Parks Association of the Czech Republic in 2008

The Science and Technology Parks Association of the Czech Republic (STPA CR) which initiated its activity in 1990 issued the Czech-English publication „Science and Technology Parks in the Czech Republic“ in 2008. The publication contains information on the establishment, further development and accreditation process of STPs as well as covers information on accredited and operated STPs including those being prepared. Significant step in the development of STPs in CR has been done by support provided from the structural funds (Program „Prosperita“ - since 2004). There were more than 30 projects focused on the establishing new STPs or to enlarge existing STPs. Under preparation for next period there are another more than 30 projects.

There were altogether 25 accredited STPs in Czech Republic by the end of the year 2008 and other 17 parks are operated in the country that have not been accredited.

The publication „Science and Technology Parks in the Czech



Republic“ is available in printed version (currently it is being distributed) as well as in the electronic form. It can be downloaded from the website of the association <http://www.svtp.cz/> since March 2009

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

The next MENAinc Workshop to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The 8th MENAinc workshop will be held at the International Conference on Business Incubation that is hosted by KAST, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology. This conference will bring together professionals from all continents and provide comprehensive information about the “state of the incubation art”. Speakers from the MENA region will provide insight into their practical experience with business incubation of different types and present case studies at the two-days training for incubator management following the conference. The MENAinc workshop will be organized mainly as a moderated round-table for direct exchange of experiences between members of the MENAinc network. For more information, please contact the MENAinc at m3allam@gmail.com or visit the website www.incubationforum.com

Jordan

The Jordan Innovation Centre

The Jordan Innovation Centre (JIC) network joins five business incubators that specialized in innovation activities in Jordan. The Jordan Innovation Centers (JICs) are working under the supervision of the Jordan Upgrading and Modernization Program (JUMP), within the Jordan Enterprise Development Cooperation (JE), these JICs are:

- JIC at the Royal Scientific Society

- JIC at El-Hassan Industrial Estate and.
- JIC at the Philadelphia University.
- Agro-Industry Business Incubator at the Univ. of Jordan.
- iPARK at the HCST.

In following articles we present two of these incubators for providing more information about their different activities and focuses.

Jordan

The Jordan Innovation Centre for Engineers and Industrial Enterprises

The Jordan Innovation Centre for Engineers and Industrial Enterprises at the Royal Scientific Society (JIC-RSS) is the first business incubator that supports engineering focused ideas in Jordan. It is a joint venture between the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) and the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI), and the Jordan Enterprise Development Cooperation (JE). Its vision is to help create wealth (and hence good quality jobs) for Jordan through the successful exploitation of innovative ideas.

The mission of JIC-RSS is to help turn innovative ideas into wealth by supporting entrepreneurs to start sustainable business, support spin-off ideas, develop value-added products, identify and exploit markets, hire skilled staff, and graduate as viable stand-alone businesses The Objectives of JIC-RSS are:

- To deliver professional services that support the creation

- of sustainable new engineering-focused businesses
- To provide a suitable environment for spin-off projects from industrial enterprises
- To enable the creation of skilled engineering jobs and other support jobs.
- To transfer skills, processes and technologies to upgrade the industrial capabilities of SMEs.
- To be a template that can be replicated for the establishment of future incubators.
- To be a proactive member of the start-up and SME Business support community.

The JIC-RSS provides the following services: Incubation Space Business Services, Technical Services, and Financial support. At this time JIC-RSS is serving six in-house clients.

Contact: Eng. Nizar Al-Halash, at halasah@rss.gov.jo

Jordan

The Jordan Agro-Industry Business Incubator at The University of Jordan

The agro -industries business incubator was established at the university of Jordan in the year 2004, with the aim of encouraging the scientific research in agriculture, by finding applications for innovative ideas and research results generated in the college of agriculture. The incubator(JIC at JU) was established by generous financial support from the ministry of planning, the higher council for science and technology and EJADA (later JUMP). The infrastructure as well the human resources and management were provided by the university of Jordan.

The objectives of the JIC are to encourage entrepreneurs in agriculture to transform their ideas into viable projects. Their products / services are expected to replace imports, or meet new demand whether locally or abroad. The ultimate goal of the incubator is to help entrepreneurs start new small and medium enterprises and create new jobs which would eventually alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life of Jordanians.

Since its establishment, the incubator management had received about 30 applications, out of which only 10 managed to meet the strict criteria of selection. Of these projects two dropped out before graduation, 3 have graduatedThe JIC provides such services as a fully furnished office, an access to the laboratory facilities of the college of agriculture and consultations offered by the staff of the college. Most importantly, incubatees are eligible for a grant from JUMP in the form of seed capital for starting their projects, and getting appropriate training in such areas as business planning, communications, IP and marketing. In return incubatees pay a nominal fee for using these facilities. The incubator is a member of Jordan Innovation Center which combines all incubators in Jordan with the aim of coordinating their activities and facilitating the exchange of expertise and information.

For information contact: Ayed Amr, ayedamr@ju.edu.jo

Important upcoming Events

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

As the full list of events is taking too much space in the newsletter only a brief overview can be provided. We strongly recommend visiting the "Events" section on the SPICE Group website. This 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 2-3 2009: "Promoting regional cooperation through Information Technologies (IT)" in Yerevan, Armenia

In the frame of Armenia chairmanship-in-office of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC, <http://www.bsec-organization.org>) a Forum entitled "**Promoting regional cooperation through Information Technologies (IT)**" intends to provide an opportunity for exchanging new scientific knowledge and experience, promoting innovation and

technological progress in member countries as well as establishing new contacts among the people working in Information Technologies.

EIF, Enterprise Incubator Foundation, member of SPICE Group is the organizer of this event.

Contact: Bagrat Yengibaryan, info@eif.am

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 to ensure you can get an appointment with the U.S. embassy in your country. Early

planning is essential because visa application processing can take several months. A letter of invitation can improve your chances of receiving a visa. 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 a formal invitation can request such a letter through the Web site www.nbia.org/nbia_events/visa_info/registration.php.

Contact Megan Bulow, mbulow@nbia.org, or Tom Strodbeck, tstrodbeck@nbia.org.

April 24-25 2009: ICEIRD 2009, Thessaloniki, Greece

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

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

- 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.

ICEIRD09 is organized by City College – Affiliated Institution of the University of Sheffield, and the South East European Research Center (SSSEERC), Thessaloniki, Greece.

Contact: Panagiotis Ketikidis, ketikidis@city.academic.gr

April 26-28 2009: ADT Spring Conference in Stade, Germany

Under the Headline "Industrial Innovation as Engine for Structural Change" the ADT Spring Conference 2009 will offer an excellent opportunity for getting new information, exchanging experiences and views with other incubation professionals, and developing the personal network with partners.

The conference will be held in the city of Stade (near Hamburg in Northern Germany) April 26-28, 2009.

More information about the program will be available on the website of ADT or through direct email

Contact: Marita Koop, koop@adt-online.de

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

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

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

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

Contact: ISPIM Conference Secretariat conference@ispim.org

Sept. 30 – Oct. 3 2009: Call for Papers: BALTIC DYNAMICS 2009

The annual **Baltic Dynamics Conference** is organized since 1995 in turn by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and this year will be held in the Capital of Lithuania, **Vilnius**. The BD 2009 is titled "**The Dynamics of Innovation Spaces: Bringing Innovation to Society**" and will bring together experts and policy makers in innovation and SMEs development from around the world. The **Conference Topics** are Triple Helix – Implications for Policy and Practice; Regional Innovation Environments; International Co-operation in Knowledge Transfer; Innovation

Processes; and Innovative Approaches in Management. Proposals for presentations (1 page abstract) have to be submitted not later than **25 February 2009**. The authors will be notified by **30 April 2009** of whether their abstracts have been selected and will receive further information on how to present their ideas at the Conference. All selected papers and presentations will be published in the Conference Book.

Contact: Pranas Milius, info@balticdynamics.com

Conference homepage: www.balticdynamics.com

New members – Welcome to the network



Rakan Razouk

computer scientist is the Chairman of the Syrian Computer Society (SCS), and Vice president of Damascus University. He held the position of Dean of the Faculty of Information Technology, Damascus University 2003-2005.

Dr. Razouk holds a PhD in Computer Sciences from the University Paul-Sabatier, Toulouse III, France. Since 1990, he

has been a researcher and professor of Computer Sciences at the Higher Institute for Applied Sciences and Technology (HIAS) and Damascus University since 2000; he has been a board member of the Syrian Computer Society.

Dr. Razouk is author of several publications and textbooks. He has chaired and participated in several committees and conferences. He was also responsible for development and in supervising the implementation of Major IT database project in Syria, including management system and billing systems.



Rima Shaban

Since 1992 is working at Damascus University, in direct contact with senior students supervising and mentoring technical labs and guiding graduation projects under supervision of specialized professors.

She also is teaching and supervising labs and mentoring forth year and graduation projects at the department of networking and operating system.

Since 2006 Rima has been director of Information and Communication Technology Incubator at Syrian Computer Society. The incubator was in the early launching stage when she started her job. After almost 3 years of functioning the incu-

bator hosts 10 small enterprises, and has graduated 3 more. Rima also participated in establishing the MENA incubator network and in 2008 was elected Vice Presidents of this network. She has organized the 6th MENAinc workshop, and now is leading the initiative to form the Syrian national network for incubators and entrepreneurship programs.

Rima graduated in 2005 from USJ, Université Saint Joseph - Beirut, Lebanon (D.E.A. = M.Sc.) in Networking and telecommunications; in 1996 from HIAS, Higher Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology – Damascus, Syria, in information Technology (D.E.S), and in 1991 in Biomedical Engineering from the Faculty of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Damascus University, Syria (B.S).

SPICE History & Member's Anniversaries

Ten years ago - in March 1998 - at the first Science Park Conference in Poland held in Poznan the ICECE Work Group decided to change its name. Since then the network is known as **SPICE Group**. In the year 1998 SPICE Group held meetings in Poznan, Poland; Philadelphia, USA; St. Petersburg, Russia; Sibiu, Romania; Riga, Latvia; Sofia, Bulgaria; Berlin, Germany; and Prague, Czech Republic

SPICE events 2008: Macedonia: At the International Conference for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Regional Development, (May 10, 2008 Ohrid). **Thailand:** on the river “Chao Phraya” in Bangkok (July 27, 2008). **Germany:** Berlin, September 21, 2008 on board the historical ice breaker “Anna”.

During the year 2008 5 network members could celebrate the **10th Anniversary of membership in SPICE Group:** **Dinah Adkins**, USA; **Uwe Hoppe**, Germany; **Jana Klementová**, Czech Republic; **Francisco Soares**, Portugal; **Peter Welburn**, United Kingdom

New SPICE members in 2008

Mohammed Allam AL-Qaed, (Bahrain); Florian Seiff & Gerhard Raetz, (Germany); Rein Ruubel (Estonia); Yousef Abu-Hmeidan (Jordan); Yeung-Shik Kim.& Yong-Sam Lee (Korea); Laith Kassis (Palestine); Ilyas Azzoui, Morocco; Mercedes Barcelon (Philippines); Hugo van Veghel (Serbia); Leon Lourens (South Africa); and Rakan Razouk & Rima Shaban (Syria)

SPICE Art Ball booklet

Not only for showing the pieces of triangle art that have been created for the SPICE Art Ball a booklet is being prepared. A first version was distributed at the art ball presentation in Riga, Latvia. But meanwhile many triangles were added and soon the SPICE Art Ball is expected to be complete. The brochure will be completed as the last triangles arrive. The “stories” of the triangles and information about the artists and hosts are available. But the booklet also presents the situation of business incubators in the countries that delivered a “national triangle”.

This way we offer an unusual channel for marketing the activities of business incubators; a channel that already has shown its potential. Exhibiting this ball resulted in contacts with people who are not the “usual customers” of business incubators and also offered opportunities for explaining the needs for innovation and entrepreneurship support as well as the aims and results of business incubators to an audience that needs to be informed. Countries that did not yet deliver a summary report on business incubation are now being asked to do so.

And finally...

This is the first issue of the SPICE network newsletter for the year 2009. Your country has not been (sufficiently) represented in this newsletter? We invite you to provide information for number 85 (or following issues) of SPICE Update for making sure that also your activities are reported on.

We hope to meet members and friends personally at as many events as possible during coming months

Heinz Fiedler & Larisa Brovarska