



UPDATE No. 91

For members *first*

February 2010

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Reports from Armenia, Belarus, Finland, Germany, India, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Poland, Russia, Syria, USA, and Yemen

Dear Member & Friend,

This first issue of SPICE Update in 2010 – as usual – provides information about upcoming events – and there are quite many on the list already – as well as results of conferences and projects all around the globe.

The traditional short look back on the last year is missing either. A brief summary of information about the statistics is to be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

During the last weeks of the year 2009 we began with a project that will need more time for completion: A complete overhaul

of **SPICA Directory Online**. First results are already to be experienced – mainly for users that take the effort to update their incubator / technology park profile in the directory. During coming weeks improvements will continue and additional functions will be implemented. We encourage all readers to have a look at the directory (more see on page 7 of this newsletter) and inform us about experiences made and desirable improvements. We will seek to take such recommendations into account.

Technology Center Dortmund celebrates 25th Anniversary



Started 1985 with a “simple” business incubator the Technology Center Dortmund has developed towards a technology and business cluster with more than regional impact. As

The first BMC building opened in 2002 (left picture) offering 3,000 m² to client firms: But already three years later the second building (right picture) with 12,000 m² was needed to provide the needed space for



TCD this year will celebrate its 25th Anniversary (also with the annual conference of ADT, the German Business Incubation Association) we are presenting a few spotlights on the development of this initiative.

as well as for more start-ups. But this was not the end. In 2009 a third building complex, the Bio-IT center was added.

One part of TechnologyCenterDortmund today is the BioMedicineCenter (BioMedizinZentrumDortmund), a competence center for bio- and medicine technology. The BMC has become an optimal place for starting new businesses in these sectors as well as for developing and growing such companies. Meanwhile 16 mid-sized companies call the BMC “home”. One of them just recently won a prestigious award (see article on page 3).

The development of TCD, especially in the field of biotechnology was honored at the “Best Science Based Incubator Award & Conference” in Stockholm in November 2009



with a “Best Practice Award” for the achievements in regional cluster development.

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Website www.bmz-do.de/



Reports invited for publication in the **Asia Pacific Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship**. APJIE is a professional journal covering entrepreneurship, innovation, incubation and related topics. APJIE aims to establish channels of communication and to disseminate knowledge among policy makers, experts and professionals working in universities, government departments, research institutions, as well as industry and related business.

The Journal publishes original papers; theory-based empirical papers, review papers, case studies, conference reports, relevant reports and news, book reviews and briefs

The deadline for sending reports (to apjie@kobia.or.kr) for publication in the next issue of APJE is **March 15, 2010**.

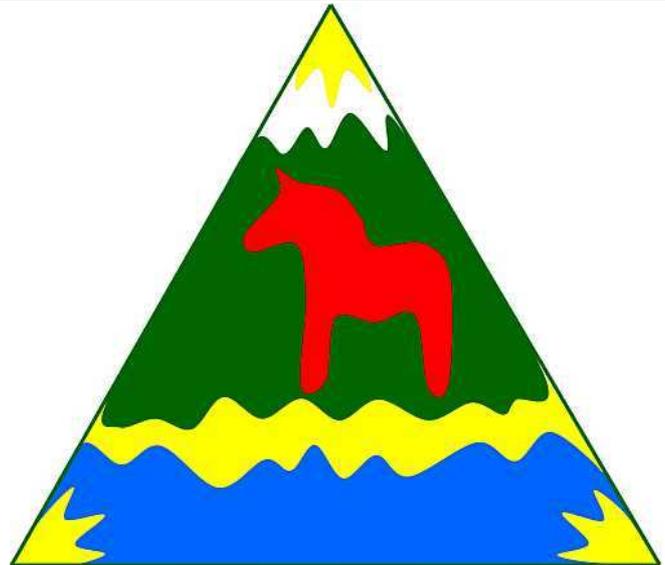
The SPICE Art Ball is rolling on Video

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

At the presentation in Stockholm end of November 2009 the SPICE Art Ball first time was complete – all available spaces filled with art triangles from 42 countries.

Now, we have put another three videos of ArtBall presentations on the website: Kyrgyzstan, Poland, and USA are now available with the ArtBall rolling. Of course, these clips do not only show

Palestine: [www.art-ball.net/spice_art_ball_country.php?cnt=palestine*](http://www.art-ball.net/spice_art_ball_country.php?cnt=palestine)



Sweden: [www.art-ball.net/spice_art_ball_country.php?cnt=sweden*](http://www.art-ball.net/spice_art_ball_country.php?cnt=sweden)
the art, but also give an impression of the respective event. For getting your own impression, please visit http://www.art-ball.net/keep_rolling.php But, please note: the clips shown on the website are low resolution samples – you may order full quality clips through the ArtBall website.

infoDev partners with Finland and NOKIA in a € 11,9 million program

Finland, Nokia, and infoDev partner in a €11.9 million program - Creating Sustainable Businesses in the Knowledge Economy. The project is set up to encourage innovation and competitiveness among SMEs in the information and communication technologies and agribusiness sectors in particular.

Innovative, technology-driven Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Africa, Asia, and Europe & Central Asia will benefit from a new partnership between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Nokia, and infoDev – the global development financing program housed within the World Bank.

The program will focus on enhancing the competitiveness of emerging market SMEs in the information and communication technologies (ICT) and agribusiness sectors in particular. The program will also employ the use of the mobile communications platform to grow content, services and applications.

The program will combine an interrelated series of global, regional, and country level activities, including

- Creating three regional mobile applications laboratories that will incubate up to 10 new mobile applications each.
- Establishing social networking hubs in selected countries in Africa, Asia, and the ECA region to create opportuni-

ties for exchanges between mobile applications entrepreneurs and the wider industry

- Incubating and providing technical assistance to more than 100 firms in the agriculture and ICT sectors by establishing and strengthening small business incubators in countries such as Mozambique, Tanzania, Vietnam, and Cambodia, as well as in the ECA region.
- A program to encourage and increase the competitiveness of women entrepreneurs in Vietnam and Cambodia.
- Removing barriers to investment in cross-border broadband infrastructure and public-private partnership opportunities in the ECA region.
- Convening the 4th infoDev Global Forum on Innovation and Entrepreneurship in 2011 in Finland.

infoDev is a global development financing program among international development agencies, coordinated and served by an expert Secretariat housed in the Global ICT Department (GICT) of the World Bank, one of its key donors and founders. It acts as a neutral convener of dialogue, and as a coordinator of joint action among bilateral and multilateral donors.

Information: www.infodev.org.

Upcoming Special Topics for SPICE Update

For coming issues of SPICE update we are planning to continue reporting on issues that have accompanied us already for a while: **Women Business Incubation and Entrepreneurship** as well as **Youth Entrepreneurship**. Readers are invited to send us information regarding these topics for publication in our newsletter. These can be articles about their own activities

these fields as well as information about events and projects. Other topic that could become interesting for special reports are business incubation activities in specific target sectors, for example, “fashion business incubation” or “agriculture and food incubation”. Please send your materials for publication to spice@spice-group.net

The Future of Business Incubation Industry

Unseasonably chilly, wet weather didn't dampen the spirits of the several dozen NBIA members who attended the **Fourth Summit for Advanced Incubation Professionals** end of January 2010 in Savannah, Ga, USA. The top thought leaders in incubation engaged in lively discussions of trends in entrepreneurial support and innovations in programming and services. Perhaps the highlight of the event, though, was a free-flowing conversation about the future of the industry and the association led by NBIA President & CEO **David Monkman** (NBIA

Review will report on those discussions in future issues). After hours, attendees enjoyed casual get-togethers over drinks and dinner at some of Savannah's great restaurants. The Summit – an exclusive event for those who have been NBIA members for five years or more – draws a veritable who's who of incubation to talk about broad issues in the industry with each other and with association leaders.

Information and contact: website www.nbia.org and Leah Nairn, email memberabilia@nbia.org

NBIA and NASVF sign Memorandum of Understanding

In an effort to bring its members more value and information, NBIA has joined forces with the National Association of Seed and Venture Funds (NASVF). The associations have signed a MOU and a created a dual membership to increase communication. NBIA and NASVF hope to create more networking opportunities and make available more resources to encourage dialogue between business owners and funders.

“I am really excited about forging a partnership with NASVF, as we hope this will bridge the gap between entrepreneurs and

investors,” said NBIA President and CEO **David Monkman**. NASVF is a nonprofit organization with 600 individual members in 43 states and four countries. The association promotes investments in seed- and early-stage companies by supporting entrepreneurship and job creation.

NASVF connects investors, economic development organizations, public and private funds, and tech transfer professionals to build local economies through commercializing technologies.

Information: www.nbia.org

NBIA challenges Graphic Talents

NBIA plans to offer a t-shirt for sale at the conference in Orlando, Florida that will mark the association's 25th Anniversary.

NBIA has announced a contest for the best design for the back of this t-shirt. Anyone associated with business incubation are eligible to submit a design entry. The NBIA staff will judge the entries and award \$250 to the winning entrant. Also, the name of the winning designer will be displayed on the t-shirts.

The design can be either serious or humorous, with or without text. The design cannot include syndicated, copyrighted or clip art images. All submissions become the property of the NBIA. Submissions will be judged on the quality of design, creativity and originality, and their presentation of the theme.

Deadline for design submissions is **April 1, 2010**.

Send submissions to Randy Morris rmorris@nbia.org

Creating Communities of Innovation in 2010 -- AURP

AURP, the Association of University Research Parks is a professional association of university related research and science parks. AURP's mission is to foster innovation, commercialization and economic growth through university, industry and government partnerships.

Research parks have garnered national attention in the U.S. this year for their significant impact on the economy, job creation and improving the quality of life in their region. On **February 24, 2010**, House Majority Leader Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and U.S. Representative Martin Heinrich (D-NM) will address the research park community in Washington, D.C. at the **2010 Washington Summit Breakfast**, hosted by the University of Maryland. They'll explore the nature of research parks in the United States as part of the national innovation system including the latest on S.583 *Building a Stronger America Act* and H.R. 4413 *SPRINT Act*.

AURP BioParks 2010: No Boundaries to Innovation will be held April 30 to May 1 2010 at the Swissôtel, Chicago and global research park leaders will meet September 15-17, 2010 in Minneapolis, Minnesota for the **AURP International Conference: Building the Innovation Engine**.

AURP announced that their “Community of Innovation” is now online! Access to the world's research park experts is available through **AURP iParks Webinars**. This professional development series offers cutting-edge discussions on such topics as funding, construction, incubation, sustainability and best practices that attendees can implement in their research, science and technology parks around the world. For a schedule of upcoming and On Demand Webinars visit www.aurp.net.

For more information, visit AURP's Web site at www.aurp.net or contact Chelsea Simpson at chelseasimpson@aurp.net.

SDO Profile: www.spica-directory.net/associations/?id=89

The Finish Experience in Innovation Policies

Finland has internationally an excellent reputation regarding innovation and entrepreneurship policies. On this background and “orientation training” will be offered to representatives of ministries and development organizations responsible for the innovation policy and innovation strategy. Also regional and city authorities, regional development and foreign direct investment agencies as well as managers of the science & technology parks, business incubators are targeted with this offer.

“**Best Practices of the Finnish Innovation System**” is the

title of this training, this year with a special focus on “Internationalization of the Innovation Systems” and “Supporting commercialization of innovation ideas with international potential“. The training will be held April 12-14, 2010, in Helsinki, Finland and organized by the Finish consulting firm Inno-Praxis. The number of the participants is limited to 25 people to ensure interactive discussions and exchange of the experiences between colleagues from all over the world.

Contact and information: www.innopraxis.fi

Client Firm of Technology Center Dortmund wins Award to fight Parkinson Disease

InterMed Discovery (IMD), founded 2006, and a world class natural product lead-discovery company, and client firm of the Technology Center Dortmund, received an award from The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research for its program to develop IMD-026259 as a pharmaceutical treatment to challenge neuro-degeneration in Parkinson's disease (PD).

PD is a disease of progressive neuro-degeneration where the cells of particular brain regions involved in the production of dopamine die progressively in a process involving "oxidative stress". The oxidative stress seen in PD is caused by dysfunctional mitochondria activating the downstream signal protein HIF-1. Therefore negative regulation of the HIF-1 signal is thought to be a valid therapeutic strategy towards reduction of neurotoxicity mediated by oxidative stress and subsequent neuro-inflammation. IMD's naturally based product candidate IMD-026259 inhibits HIF-1 and has already demonstrated potent neuro-protective capabilities.

"These funds will enable us to further substantiate preclinical proof of principle towards development of this promising product candidate," said Dr. Thomas Henkel, co-Managing Director

of InterMed Discovery.

InterMed Discovery is an emerging world class natural product lead-discovery company, driving innovation through the generation of novel product candidates for the life science, food and cosmetics industries. Using one of the most powerful validated natural product discovery engines, InterMed Discovery generates proprietary product pipelines of early stage pharmaceuticals and functional ingredients and also supports partners in research and lead generation. Biologically characterized product leads are identified using IMD BIOPROFILING® and NPSilico®, which together comprise a proprietary bioinformatics platform drawing on screening results compiled over many years, complemented by primary biological and chemical research on natural products. InterMed Discovery adds to this the industry's largest collections of pure compounds, sample fractions and mixtures as its source for potential natural product leads.

Contact Erik Metz, Business Development InterMed Discovery GmbH, Email: erik.metz@intermed.de, www.intermed-discovery.com
Internet: www.intermed-discovery.com

EU Report on the implementation of the Small Business Act (SBA) for Europe

The report, adopted by the European Commission (December 2009), summarizes the progress achieved during the first full year of implementation of the SBA. The work was focusing mainly on the measures contained in the SBA Action Plan and in the European Recovery Plan. The EC reports good progress in the implementation of the (SBA) in 2009.

The SBA is an ambitious package of policies designed to put SMEs' interests at the centre of decision-making. At the height of the economic and financial crisis, the SBA implementation in the first year focused delivery on the following priorities:

- **Reducing administrative burden** for SMEs: All new European legislation and legislation in some Member States now passes through an "SME test" to ensure that it is business friendly. The average time /cost of starting a private company in the EU has been reduced to 8 days / €417.
- **Access to finance:** Simplified EU state aid rules allowed Member States to better help SMEs. Loans and overall funding through the European Investment Bank and Fund have increased to €11,5 billion in 2009. Legislative proposals were tabled to better tackle the problem of late payments. Several governments have committed them-

selves to paying their bills within 30 days or less.

- **Access to markets:** SMEs are already benefiting from a 40% reduction in fees for EU trade mark rights and simplified registration procedures. As a result of a "European Code of Best Practices", access of SMEs to public procurement has become easier and more open in a number of countries. The implementation of the services directive in all Member States will facilitate the establishment of businesses and cross-border provision of services, while the proposed statute of a European Private Company – when adopted - will introduce common rules for starting up and operating a business in any European country..
- **Promoting entrepreneurship:** The role of entrepreneurship education in Member States' education systems continued to increase. The Commission initiative Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs has taken off.

Based on this encouraging progress, the European Commission will continue monitoring the implementation of the Small Business Act at national level in 2010.

More information: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/small-business-act/index_en.htm

Inspire - delivering best practice

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

Inspire enables to identify and develop best practice in a particular environment, city or region, maximize investment, prove the impact of the environment, identify strengths and weakness

and provides detailed action plans and strategic input. The process is straight forward and cost effective using the (inter-) nationally recognized practices.

Inspire provides a framework, for example to measure an incubator's impact on socio-economic factors; evaluate investment in supporting innovative and entrepreneurial ideas and business; and provide a monitoring and evaluation tool.

Inspire awarded status proves the commitment to grow innovative businesses and provides proof that your environment is an ideal place to start and grow businesses; and provides your environment with a competitive advantage over others

Information <http://www.ukbi.co.uk/index.asp?SID=315>

Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship

International Youth Forum in Karelia, Russia in late July 2010

We reported about the great success of the international Youth Forum 2009 "Giperboreya: fight of ideas" (see Update No 88) held in Karelia, Russia last summer

This year July will experience (at least) two of such events. Here we inform about the "International Youth Camp Seliger 2010" that will be organized by the Federal Agency for Youth Policy of the Russian Federation (Rosmolodezh) and held at Lake Seliger July 1 - 8 July, 2010. Young, talented, and entrepreneurial people from many countries will meet at this camp in the Tver region to build an international network. Participants will find a high-tech collaborative environment, opportunities to learn from leading politicians, academics, and business leaders, and a unique chance to meet and work with

people from all over the globe.

Seliger 2010 will be a place where one makes lifelong friends and builds strong network future business, political, and academic leaders of the world. The Camp will offer a creative collaborative environment where everyone has an opportunity to share ideas, find supporters and investors. And, although in the woods Seliger 2010 will have electric sockets, Wi-Fi access, and its own TV channel.



Contact: info@seliger2010.com Website:

<http://www.seliger2010.com/index.php?id=9&lang=en>.

Women Entrepreneurship and Incubation

Germany Agency to Support Women Entrepreneurship

The Women Entrepreneur Agency („gründerinnenagentur bga“ is the only agency working all over the Federal Republic of Germany for supporting women entrepreneurship by providing information and advice. The portal of the agency offers qualified information for all business sectors and referring to all phases of enterprise development.

The activities are aiming at helping to develop an „eco-system“

that is supportive for entrepreneurship and to contribute to transparency with respect to gender issues. Targeted offers are provided for helping to increase quantity and quality of women businesses. This offer includes detailed descriptions of information, consulting, and qualification offers as well as providing contacts to specific consultants.

www.gruenderinnenagentur.de/bga/startseite/index.php

Germany Women Entrepreneurship Support Initiatives with Good Results

Women Entrepreneur Centers and Women Business Incubators in Germany became important parts of local and regional development strategies. During the last two decades different approaches, business and financing models have been chosen for such centers and all together generated a diversified spectrum of instruments for supporting women entrepreneurship – from start-up to growth and maturity. On this basis impulses are given for new and varied approaches.

The history of WBI's in Germany began end of the 1980ies when the fact that for women conditions to start own businesses were worse than for men began to be discussed on a broader public basis. The fact that business incubators had started to develop just a few years earlier contributed much to the public attention to the issues of women entrepreneurship. Not surprisingly the establishment of business incubators for women was one of the concepts. In Berlin (where the first German business incubator had started in 1983), Bremen and Frankfurt the first WBI's began operation in the second half of the 1980ies. Since then more such incubators have been established. Target group of the WBI's in Germany mainly are women entrepreneurs in the service and health sector. Only few of the incubators offer also space for manufacturing companies. The WBI's focus on office space in small units – something difficult to find in the commercial real estate market (and therefore also a "traditional" offer of incubators in general). Even "time-share" models exist where women entrepreneurs share the same office space on a defined time schedule to take care about the fact that wo-

men businesses often start smaller and develop slower than other businesses. On the other hand statistics show that women owned start-up business are more stable than those of her male colleagues. Most of the centers report waiting lists – the need for this service seems to be continuous.

WBI's, of course do not only provide rooms for lease. The services offered to the client forms cover a wide range - similar to all business incubators. However, experience shows that female clients value access to networks, the exchange of practical experience between clients, and the synergy within the incubator very highly. Especially women who carry the load of family and business at the same time appreciate the mutual support and services tailor-made for female entrepreneurs - like in the incubator "Weiberwirtschaft" Berlin with the service of a Kindergarten operated as one of the client businesses. Andrea Schirmacher, "Weiberwirtschaft", summarizes the experience of more than two decades of women incubation as "driving engine for the structural economic change".

A brochure published by National Agency for Women Startups Activities and Services (bga) provides insight into some examples (in German language) http://gruenderinnen-agentur.de/bag/pdf/Dateien/Literatur/bga-Publikationen/Gruenderinnen_Unternehmerinnenzentren_80114.pdf Website:

www.gruenderinnenagentur.de/bga

Contact: Andrea Schirmacher, andrea.schirmacher@weiberwirtschaft.de Weiberwirtschaft in SDO: : www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=2084

Views & Facts

Poland

Business and Innovation Centers in Poland: Seventh Report published

The seventh edition of the **Report on Business Innovation Centres in Poland** prepared by the Polish Business and Innovation Centres Association (PBICA) in cooperation with the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development is available in English at <http://pi.gov.pl/pl/literatura/raporty/13607.html>.

The current Report maintains the form of previous editions. PBICA sought to reach over 740 institutions and initiatives operating in Poland. Identified entities received questionnaires along with information form included later in the Report. Data gathered from questionnaires was used for preparing the analytical parts of the report including:

Business Support Centres (BSC), Technology Transfer Centres (TTC), Pre-incubators – Academic Enterprise Incubators (AEI), Seed Capital Funds (SCF), Local and Regional Loan Funds (LLF), Credit Guarantee Funds (CGF), Technology Incubators (TI), Business Incubators (BI) and Technology Parks (TP).

The present edition introduces another, new category of entities – Business Angels Network (BAN).

Multifunctional entities, oriented mainly towards innovative processes, like technology parks and incubators, were described at the beginning. Over 500 non-commercial institutions carrying out different types of tasks within the scope of business support, technology transfer and local development were included in research and consultations. Participation in the research was voluntary. Centres which, despite receiving a few reminders, did not return their questionnaires were presented in the form of a supplement to data sets. In many cases, tardiness on the part of examined institutions resulted from changes in personnel or organisation. Contact and basic information were verified via telephone or e-mail. Results of the conducted research will also be used for the purpose of updating data published on PAED's Innovation Portal (www.pi.gov.pl).

Contact: Krzysztof Zasiadly zasiadly@hotmail.com

Germany

TGO Oldenburg expands

In January 2010 the TGO Oldenburg celebrated the opening of a significant extension. After 16 months construction time more than 160 invited guests from policy, administration, and business celebrated the opening of the new building together with the Mayor of the city, Gerd Schwandner, and the managing director of the incubator Jürgen Bath. The State Science Minister of Niedersachsen Lutz Stratmann explained the aims of the State regarding promotion of innovative enterprises: "Inventors and pioneers need to find a way from theoretical knowledge to practical use. This is what TG Oldenburg is working for also making use of its international links". The expansion of TGO through the new building doubles the space

available to 10,000 m² and, as the chairman of the TGO Supervisory Board Bernhard Ellberg pointed out, is now the largest business incubator in the state of Niedersachsen.

Jürgen Bath, managing director of TGO, pointed out that 75 per cent of the new building already is let and that at this time 55 client business are providing jobs for more than 300 highly qualified people. The new space offers more business to join the TGO and widens the basis for the intended synergy.

Contact: Jürgen Bath, email j.bath@tgo-online.de

In SDO: <http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=2038>



SPICE History & Member's Anniversaries

The 18th year of SPICE Group networking

saw eight SPICE Group meetings (numbers 140 to 147) at very different occasions being held in St. Petersburg- 2 times, (Russia), Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Kansas City (USA), Gdynia (Poland), Petrozavodsk (Russia, Karelia), Usmā + Riga (Latvia), Vilnius (Lithuania), Florianopolis (Brazil), Stockholm (Sweden). For more information, please visit the SPICE website www.spice-group.de/events/chronicle / for photos www.spice-group.de/events/photo_chronicle/?res=1280

SPICE Update reported

in seven issues (one more than in earlier years) on **103 pages** about developments in business incubation in **51 countries**: Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Austria, Albania, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Germany, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Rumania,

Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, UAE, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA

10th Anniversary of membership in SPICE Group:

During the year 2009 two network members could celebrate their tenth anniversary of membership in the network:

Klaus Plate (Germany), Veniamin Kaganov (Russia)

5th Anniversary of membership in SPICE Group:

Seven network members during the year 2009 could celebrate their fifth anniversary of membership in the network:

Bong Jin Cho (Korea), Inna Gagauz (Ukraine), Julian Webb (Australia), R. M. P. Jawahar (India), Rolf Friedrichsdorf (Germany), Rosendo Alvarez (Dominican Republic), and Rositsa Djambazova (Bulgaria)

The SPICE Art Ball

was presented in 7 countries: St. Petersburg (Russia), Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Kansas City (USA), Gdynia (Poland), Petrozavodsk (Russia, Karelia), Vilnius (Lithuania), and Stockholm (Sweden). At that presentation the SPICE Art Ball first time has been complete – 42 art triangles from 42 countries.

Business Incubation in ASIA

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



ISBA 2010 - Annual Conference

The annual conference of Indian STEPs and Business Incubators Association (ISBA) in February 2010 was attended by Incubation and Management “Gurus”, venture capitalists, national and international technology providers with the tech baskets, policy makers etc.

Like in earlier years the conference offered opportunities for meeting entrepreneurial innovators as well as their supporters from all political, administrative, and financial areas involved. Technologies with potential for entrepreneurial ex-

tation could be found and discussed; acquisitions or equity participation negotiated. Foreign incubatees attended to look for cross fertilization of ideas and possible cross boundary incubation tie-ups, Universities and R&D institutions participated to understand to set up incubators and what it is required to support incubation spirit on their campuses – or to exchange experiences and information.

Contact: Suresh Kumar psgstep@vsnl.com

SDO Profile: www.spica-directory.net/associations/?id=30

Capacity Building for Business Incubator Managers

The second Capacity Building Program for business incubation managers of Asia Pacific Incubation Network (APIN) was organized by PSG-Science & Technology Entrepreneurial Park (PSG-STEP) – the APIN Secretariat – in December 2009 at Ooty, India.

The program was attended by 35 participants from nine countries, 10 speakers including incubation practitioners, entrepreneurs and policymakers from US, Switzerland and India.

The training sessions included technology commercialization, fund raising for start-ups, angel and VC financing, ICT & biotech business incubation, and engaging policy maker in business incubation.

The training did not only offer presentations discussions about the named topics. A full day was been allocated for the informal networking of the delegates to provide sufficient time for the interaction with the speakers of the program and also with the peer incubation managers.

Participants evaluated the training very positive. For example Mr. Kezang, Deputy Director, Department of Information Technology, Royal Government of Bhutan, “The Ooty event was indeed



a very good learning experience for the Bhutan team; we now have clarity on what, how and why of business incubators. We have also been able to connect with experts and practitioners/incubators through the training program. We will follow up with you/APIN on the way forward for us in this very exciting field.”

A detailed report is available at ISBA, K Suresh Kumar, email step@gapps.psgtech.ac.in -

Pakistan: Technology Incubation Centre of NUST

National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) was established in March 1991 for the promotion of higher scientific education in the country by providing stable and disciplined academics environment together with need based research. Over the years the University has expanded its scope, services and structure, and emerged as a leading University.

The Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) is an initiative of NUST, established to facilitate & support innovation in the university environment. TIC is the first model technology business incubator of Pakistan established to provide an environment that attracts and nurtures technology based start-up companies transforming them into commercially viable enterprises. TIC provides a platform for NUST faculty/students, having commercially viable R&D output to establish their own start-up companies in order to commercialize their R&D work as



preneurs. Keeping in view the importance of Intellectual Property, NUST-TIC has also established an NUST Intellectual Property Facilitation Cell. NIPFC provides consultancy

and support to the NUST faculty/students and client firms in protecting their intellectual property. TIC now is hosting 11 Hi-Tech incubatee companies and had four graduated so far.

The TIC facility „Technology Tower” will also act as an inward window for entrepreneurs to NUST R&D resources and outward gateway for Researchers of NUST wishing to start their own businesses. Technology Tower will host more than 35 hi-tech start-up companies surrounded by NUST’s Technology Park; the first of its kind in the country with the mission to provide an environment that attracts and nurtures technology based start-up companies transforming them into commercially viable enterprises. On this basis the objectives are: To help potential entrepreneurs such as students, NUST faculty, and general public to incubate their technology based companies; to provide NUST colleges/institutes support to centers for patent-research and development work; and to liaison with private/public sector enterprises and funding sources, govt. agencies, industrial associations, chambers and FPCCI to provide facilitation and networking for incubatee companies.

Contact: Eram Zaidi eram.zaidi@tic.org.pk

In SDO <http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=2165>

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 network of business incubators and technology parks that has been set up with support from the infoDev program. For more information, please visit the website <http://idisc.infodev.org/en/Region.5.html> or contact Mr. Omer Oz at [The logo for MENA Inc features a stylized blue and orange figure resembling a person or a network node, with the text "mena inc" in blue lowercase letters below it.](mailto:ome-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Yemen

Honoring Aden ICT Incubator By UN-ESCWA

The U.N Economic and Social Council Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) honored the Aden ICT incubator amongst as one of five Arab IT incubators from Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestine in appreciation of their successful efforts in executing the Arabic developing digital contents project.

The honoring ceremonies took place in the last evaluation meeting in the U.N house at Beirut in December 2009, in the presence of all five incubators managers which took part in the project and are the winners in the ESCWA competition . Also the UN-ESCWA supervising team was attending .

Yusuf Nusair the chairman of the meeting of the information technology and administration, Mr. Nabil , manager of the project have also honored Yahya Mohammed Alrewi the manager of the incubator as well as engineer Waleed Saleh Alhamry and engineer Amal Mohsen Alantary who represented their winning colleges of the digital Arabic content from Yemen.

This honoring reflex the appreciation of the role of Aden IT

incubator in executing of the winning projects submitted within the framework of the competition UN-ESCWA released one year ago aiming at the develop-

ment of the Arabic digital content industrial process which Aden ICT incubator ranked first amongst the Arabic participants.

18 projects out of (55) the incubator submitted and gained three prizes out of three projects Re: Aden Gate tourist (Gulf 20) , Electronic intermediate , and Electronic Learning which have been incubated for one year by the UN-ESCWA in Aden incubator founded on the basis of three beginning companies in the field of information technology.

Contact: Yahya Alrewi, email dralrewi@hotmail.com



Jordan

National Innovation System of Jordan

By Yousef Abu-Hmeidan

In December 2009 the VDI/VDE-IT, Germany released a study report on developing a national innovation system NIS in Jordan. The report focuses on analyzing the existing strategies for industrial development as well as SME and innovation policy and means to develop options for promotion of innovation and technology in consideration of existing support programs.

The report is an indicator-based assessment, based on quantitative data generated by evaluation of Jordanian expert interviews, carried out in August 2009, and structured in a way showing recommendations for future interventions and comparative overview of main differences between the NIS of three neighboring countries Jordan, Syria and Egypt.

Authors of this report, SPICE Group members Uwe Seidel, and Gerd Meier zu Köcker as well as Wolfgang Domrose defined 29 determinants, each one reflecting an aspect of innovation. These determinants are grouped in 3 dimensions and 4 levels, the Macro Dimension for the innovation policy level (public authorities and policy makers governing and setting conditions for the framework of the NIS). The Meso dimension for the institutional and programmatic innovation level

that supports and funds initiatives and innovation programs. Finally the Micro dimension for the innovation capacity level such as firms, academia, and education institutions as beneficiaries and main producers of knowledge, innovation , technology, and products.

Prior releasing this report, the GTZ in close cooperation with VDI/VDE-IT conducted a one day workshop in November to discuss with local stakeholders on the priorities and requirements for developing the Jordan Innovation System.

As a SPICE member from Jordan, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alexandra Hilbig, GTZ Project Coordinator for her full support to such initiative, and the initiator of the project Uwe Seidel for his fruitful lecture in the workshop, Wolfgang Domröse, for his effort in conducting the survey in Jordan. Thanks also to Miss Ebba Aygustin the workshop moderator for her kindness and nice welcoming of participants and thanks to all local partners for their participation in the survey or the workshop.

Contact and further information: Yousef Abu-Hmeidan, email Yousef.abuhmeidan@ioi-jo.com

Syria

Seed Funding and Small Grants Promoting and Supporting Small Businesses

Part of BIDAYA's mandate is to assist disadvantaged entrepreneurs start their businesses by providing seed funding and technical assistance. This program is run in partnership with the GEF Small Grants Program Syria, a specific revolving fund that has been created for entrepreneurs with sound business plans to encourage and stimulate the creation of businesses related with technologies that help protecting the environment and increasing awareness. Normally BIDAYA provides up to 200,000 SYP/entrepreneur with a 3-year repayment period. But for this project, the amount and repayment period may be increased

slightly depending on the needs of the start-up business.

Examples for businesses created and supported by the Joint project include: recycling waste products at a profit, agricultural projects, sale of new environmental technologies such as solar panels, etc.

Contact: Hisham Almahayni; operations@bidaya.org.sy



Syria

START helps young Entrepreneurs

Out of the numerous proposals submitted for the 'Start' competition – all showing high potential for fruition into successful investment projects - ten candidates were chosen from Damascus and six from Homs. “Start” seeks to prioritize the development of technological innovation in the Arab World. The 16 shortlisted applicants have completed a five-day training program at the Syrian Computer Society's ICT Incubator Centers in Damascus and Homs and as next step attend a two-month training process that will provide them with the proficiency to develop basic implementation plans for their projects.

The five-day training offered a comprehensive agenda aimed to develop the entrepreneurial skills of young entrepreneurs. The program focused on five key topics including identifying success pillars, market and marketing, human resources, finance for non-financial managers, and drawing up a business

plan. Sultan Lootah, Vice-President for Entrepreneurship and Employment at Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation (MBRF), that supports the Start program said: "The Foundation is committed to offering the Arab youth an opportunity to transform their creative concepts into fruitful business projects, especially in the ICT sector. By encouraging entrepreneurship, we assist communities to address the formidable social challenge of rising unemployment."

Launched by MBRF and ICT Incubator, the 'Start' competition comes as part of the 'Start' program in Syria. The program is one of the initial outcomes of an action plan mandated by a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in June 2009 between the Foundation and the Syrian Scientific Society for Informatics to support entrepreneurship in Syria.

Contact: Fadwa Murad, email director@ti-scs.org

Morocco

Nine Billion Dollars for Solar Energy

Source: Reuter

HM King Mohammed VI, accompanied by Prince Moulay Rachid, chaired, in the city of Ouarzazate, Soutourn Moroco, a ceremony of presenting Morocco's nine billion dollars solar energy project. The ceremony also was attended by US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. Moroccan Energy Minister, Amina Benkhadra, stressed that this national, ambitious and realistic project seeks to achieve a 2,000-megawatt capacity by 2020. This production capacity accounts for 38% of the electric power at the end of 2008 and 14% by 2020, said the Minister. Five sites were identified for the project, which is in line with Morocco's energy strategy, namely Ouarzazate, Ain Bni Mathar, Foum Al Oued, Boujdour and Sebkhah Tah.

The managing director of the National Electricity Utility (ONE), Ali Fassi Fihri, underlined that this large-scale project will ensure an annual production capacity of 4500 GW that is 18% of the current national production. The first power station will be operational by 2015, while the project's completion is due in late 2019, he said.

The project will contribute to reducing energy dependency, preserving the environment, curbing greenhouse gas emissions and fighting climate changes.

The solar energy project devised by Morocco aims at raising the share of renewable energy in energy production to 42 % by 2020 as against 26 % now.

Palestine

Technology Entrepreneurship Forum at PICTI with positive Outcome

In November 2009 PICTI, the Palestine Information and Communications Technology Incubator organized the Technology Entrepreneurship Forum (TEF). The idea of the event was to conduct a match-making event with entrepreneurs to present their product demos and start-up business to a panel of angel investors or on individual basis. More than 20 projects have been presented at the TEF, for example,

The **WikiExamia** is a prototype product supports students and teachers, by providing questions and the relevant answer for each question. The web-based system can be integrated in an e-learning platform for developing online quizzes and exams.

The **iarsheef** software is to provide a quality stock footage for movie and file projects. This dynamic software reduces the time searching for stock footage in loads of short quality videos that are shelved but not archived.

BeBee is the first available Arabic RSS Reader; it reads the feeds from the websites that support RSS-Service by preparing RSS formats that are specified using XML

Touch Wall provides users with an improved presentation tool that allows interacting, click & drag on the wall instead of going back to the screen.

Intelligent Control Systems is a security solution that targets those seeking visible control of their homes as well as monitoring the operations at their institution, shops or factory while they are not present.

The TEF was successful in offering entrepreneurs a platform for matchmaking between investors and companies. It was an opportunity for the entrepreneurs to interact with the business community. To name a few of the leading businessmen and investors who have visited the TEF

- Palestine Investment Fund, offered to conduct further due diligence in TouchIS as several others did.
- Mr. Bashar AlMasri – Massar, offered to invest in SCDC, Electronic Blood Bank, iarsheef and Financial Analysis Tool.
- The ministry of education showed great interest in the Edu-Tech project. EduTech and Lutheran School in Jerusalem: Francis Gharfeh was interested in the way EduTech inspires students to think out of the box hence wanting to integrate it in the curriculum as well as Edu-Tech selling at least 7 units at the exhibition.
- Several showed interest in ICS as clients.
- ShoBiddak project signed a US\$60,000 annual contract with the Palestinian cellular phone company Jawwal. This is due to the ShoBiddak and unique qualifications for Obaida Zahdeh as “Google AdWords Certification”

Contact: Laith Kassis, email Laith.kassis@picti.ps

SDO Profile: www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=1970



Business Incubation in ECA

This page provides information about incubation activities and programs from the ECA region (Eastern Europe / Central Asia) **eca^{bit}** 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://www.ecabit.org/> or contact Todor Yalamov todor.yalamov@online.bg



EurAsEC

The Center of High Technologies- Innovation System in Eurasia

The Center of High Technologies (CHT) was established in February 2009 by the Intergovernmental Council of the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC). In addition to the member states of EurAsEC: Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Armenia was invited to assume full membership in the activities of the Center. The mission of CHT is to consolidate the potential of EurAsEC member states and Armenia in the area of innovation and coordinate the activities towards the development of innovation in the participating countries.

CHT will focus on organizing development and implementation of joint R&D and innovation projects, support to development and implementation of jointly coordinated innovation policy, coordination of activities towards formation of the Eurasian innovation system, and development of infrastructure for R&D

and innovation activities. A Supervisory Board was founded as the supreme governing body of the Center where each participating country is represented with their national coordinators. Each country assigns national coordinators representing relevant institutions and organizations Armenia is represented in the Supervisory Board CHT by Vahe Danielyan, Deputy Minister of Economy of RA, and **Bagrat Yengibaryan**, Director of Enterprise Incubator Foundation and member of SPICE Group.

The Board of Directors of the CHT was established for the purpose of carrying out overall management of the Center's activities. The Board of Directors also sets out the scope and criteria of R&D and innovation projects presented by the member states to the Center for seeking financing under EurAsEC.

Contact: Bagrat Yengibaryan, email info@eif.am

SDO Profile: www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=1955

Belarus

Entrepreneurship Support Through Business Start-up Centers

The International scientific-practical conference TRIIN, 2010 (Inventions. Innovations. Investments.) is to be held in Minsk (Belarus) on May 26-28, 2010.

This conference will bring together academics, business leaders, consultants and other professionals involved in innovation management. The conference format will include facilitated themed sessions for academic and practitioner presentations together with interactive workshops and discussion panels.

Submissions from academics, consultants, managers and funded-project participants on innovation-related topics are strongly welcome, for example, on following topics:

- Collaboration for innovation; Creation of «the trained» organization; Crediting and insurance of risks; Financial mechanisms of support of innovative activity.
- Generation of knowledge: legal protection and manage-

ment; Information technology and management of knowledge; Innovating business models and value creation; Innovation training & education ; Intellectual capital

- Organizational creativity & idea generation; Public-private partnership; International exchange of scientific and technical achievements and knowledge

The deadline for submissions is March, 30th, 2010 (Summary in Russian or English).

Organizer: The magazine «Science and Innovation» of the National Academy of Sciences, UE «New idea». During the conference on exhibition will be held, located in close proximity. Conference and exhibition applications through website http://innosfera.org/files/anketa_engl.doc and by email at: info@innosfera.org.

Contact: Zhanna Komarova j_komarova@mail.ru,

Serbia

Four University Faculties established Business Incubator

The Business & Technology Incubator has been established as a partnership between the four technical faculties of the University of Belgrade (Civil Engineering, Mechanical, Electrical and Technological/Metallurgical), the Municipality of Palilula and the Democratic Transition Initiative. The project has received support from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and was set up to encourage and support students in starting up their own businesses and keep them stay in Serbia; to develop a pool of young and well trained entrepreneurs who will in the future create a new business core of the city; and to create conditions supportive for application of results obtained through university science and research.

The Incubator is located on the Campus of Technical Faculties Belgrade and during the first year of operations was working in three main directions

Preparation of graduate students to start business through education, training, consulting, and mentoring.

Development of innovations from the final stages of research through development and commercialization of new products, services, technologies and prototypes – from theory to practice

Support to innovative start-up businesses/BITF tenants in overcoming the difficulties faced at the beginning of operation, and developing a successful business through economic, legal, accounting and other services provided by BITF, including education, consulting and mentoring services.

BTI has renovated its facilities on the campus of technical faculties in Belgrade. The companies were selected via a public call and moved into the incubator.

Contact: Gordana Danilovic Grkovic, office@bitf.co.yu

In SDO: <http://www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=2206>

Business Incubation in Latin America & Caribbean

This page provides information about incubation activities and programs from the Latin America and Caribbean region. **Relapi** is the regional network of business incubators.

Network of incubators and technology parks that has been set up with support from the infoDev program. For more information, please visit the website http://www.relapi.org/site_novo/index.php



Colombia

National Roundtable Investment Meeting

A Roundtable Investment Meeting is a space that is generated for those entrepreneurs seeking funding. It is designed to create or strengthen their business, and to find investors looking for new investment alternatives. The participants of this event are investors, businesspeople, entrepreneurs, and professionals who share their experiences, and do match making activities between their financing needs and investment possibilities.

The **National Roundtable Investment Meeting 2009** was an event organized by the Colombian Nation Learning Service SENA the Chamber of Commerce of Bogota, and Capitalia

Colombia (financial boutique from CeaMe – Integral Center for Enterprise Services). It was held in Bogota in the Chamber of Commerce of Bogota – Chapinero in November 2009. Its attendants had the opportunity to learn about companies and projects with high growth potential. Before attending the meeting, participants needed to identify the best investment options for their business for increasing the possibilities for a positive outcome of the event.

Information: email ruedas2009@capitaliacolombia.com
SDO Profile: www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=2115

Important upcoming Events

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

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

March 17-19, 2010 in Durban, South Africa: Growing Africa trough Incubation



In cooperation between the Africa Incubation Network (AIN), the South African Business and Technology Incubation Association, SABTIA, and SEDA

and supported by infoDev’s global network of business incu-

bators in developing countries the 2010 Annual African Business Incubation Conference “**Growing Africa trough Incubation**” will be held in Durban, South Africa.

Contact: ain@solvebrand.com

SDO Profile: www.spica-directory.net/associations/?id=62

March 24- 27, 2010 in Reykjavik, Iceland: Conquering the Economic Crisis

The MIT Global Start-Up Workshop “Conquering the Economic Crisis with Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Green Energy” this year first time comes to Iceland. This country is a world leader in the emerging field of green energy and is the only country generating 100% of its electricity from renewable sources. Organizing partner is Reykjavik.

The event will offer free consulting, In-depth panel discussions,

interactive case studies, and elevator pitch competition.

The MIT GSW has grown to become an important learning and networking opportunity for entrepreneurs. It connects the next generation of entrepreneurs with some of the world’s most renowned business leaders and supporters across local, regional and global contexts.

Information: www.mitgsw.org • gswcontact@mit.edu

March 27- 29, 2010 in Tallinn, Estonia: IASP European Workshop

This workshop of IASP European Division “Better Cooperation among Science Parks – Higher Value for Companies Mission, Methods and Management” is hosted by SPICE member **Raivo Tamkivi**, Tallinn Technology Park, and is meant to analyze and summarize the European cooperation experience and cases, to exchange and develop practical methods, to meet and discuss with colleagues.

The workshop will offer a presentation of Linnar Viik (Member of the Board, European Institute of Innovation and Technology) on the Importance of Cross- Border Collaboration. Also other highly experienced professionals will present and lay the foundation for discussions in smaller groups.

Information and registration: www.tehnopol.ee/en/Event-calendar/Tehnopol-events&nID=320.

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

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

Karelia University of Applied Sciences.

Conference themes will be “Innovation and Innovativeness”; “Creativity in entrepreneurship Education”; “Entrepreneurship models”, “Measuring impacts and effects”, and “Entrepreneurship Research”

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



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



Creating Communities of Innovation

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

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

Contact: Chelsea Simpson chelseasimpson@aurp.net

May 13 - 15, 2010 in Wroclaw, Poland: 21st Annual PBICA conference



The 21st Annual Conference of the Polish Business and Innovation Centres Association will be held in Wroclaw - Szczawno Zdroj – Ksiaz (South West Poland) under the conference topic “Knowledge based entrepreneurship”. This event is not only the national meeting place for incubators and related organizations, it also attracts many foreign visitors;

especially after the success of last years anniversary event. At the 2010 conference the 15th Anniversary of the Technology Transfer Centre of Wroclaw Technical University will be celebrated. An exhibition of the Science and Technology Parks resident companies will accompany the conference.

Contact: www.sooipp.org.pl, zasiadly@hotmail.com

SDO Profile: www.spica-directory.net/associations/?id=51

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



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

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

Conference session descriptions now are online at website

<http://www.nbia.org/events/conf2010/sessions.php>

Contact: mail education@nbia.org

May 16 - 17, 2010 in Dortmund, Germany: 25th Anniversary of Technology Park Dortmund & ADT conference



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

ADT, the Federal Association of Business

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

Contact: Simone Herrmann, email herrmann@tzdo.de

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



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

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

Contact: Katja Keinänen., email katja.keinanan@lprinno.fi

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

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

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

will bring new ideas on competitiveness in the region.

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

Contact: Organising Committee, email info@iceird.org

July 8- 9, 2010 in Arnhem, Netherlands: 20th intent conference on Education Entrepreneurship

Internationalizing Entrepreneurship Education is the main motto of this conference. The special theme this year is “**Entrepreneurship and the (fine) Arts**” for this **20th IntEnt world conference** in Arnhem, Netherlands. Papers or best practice to be presented during the conference are invited by **April 15, 2010**. Main conference topics are: (1) The impact and effect of entrepreneurship programs ; (2) Stimulation of entrepreneurial behavior , (3) The role of education in the start-

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

For more information, see www.intent2010.com



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



Creating Communities of Innovation

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

Featuring pre-conference intensive workshops and seminars as well as a wide range of networking opportunities, the conference will focus on research park best practices and new oppor-

tunities to grow this emerging sector.

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

Contact: Victoria Palmer: vickiepalmer@aurp.net

SDO profile: www.spica-directory.net/associations/?id=89

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



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

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

The following pre-conference events are planned:

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

A SPICE Group Workshop will complement the program.

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

Contact: info@balticdynamics.com

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

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

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

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

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

Contact: Mr. Kirill Pakhryaev, skandmarket@restec.ru

About members



Annuar Saffar

has been extremely busy during the recent weeks. The 10th Malaysian Plan Budget Examination Session at the Economic Planning Unit recently went through very well. Most of the proposals related to the business incubation centers and activities (i.e New Equipment for

the Techno Centre, Vendor and Entrepreneur development program, Program for Re-skilling of Industrial Workers and Engi-

neers, and a new incubator centre for ICT & multimedia) were accepted. The proposal for a Micro-electronic Centre though may be a casualty. But even that it was due to another organization proposing the same centre, to be constructed in the technopark.

Also Annuar has recently accompanies a group of technology companies to an exhibition and match making event to Istanbul, Turkey and is preparing for another similar trip soon.

Contact: Annuar Saffar, email annuar62@gmail.com



Rositsa Djambazova

In January 2010 was elected Chairperson of the National Business Development Network (Bulgarian association of 42 business centers and business incubators). Now she is challenged by a very tough situation - no governmental subsidies/direct funding is in sight for the

networking / association building activities for the year 2010 - for the first time. So Rositsa has organize the new managing

to develop new strategy and priorities as soon as possible not only for surviving but for development as well. To make things worse the economic crisis in BG is severe right now.

Rositsa also has been much involved with bringing the info-Dev supported International Women Business Incubation Work Group project to a positive result and, of course, is running her incubator in Gotse Delchev.

Contact: Rositsa Djambazova, email bi-gd@gocenet.net

SDO Profile: www.spica-directory.net/centers/?id=312

New members – Welcome to the SPICE Group Network



Fadwa Murad

since January 2010 as taken leadership of the National Strategy for Health Information in Syria. Fadwa has a wide and long experience in almost all Eastern Mediterranean Countries through activities of the WHO. This experience, for example, includes a consultancy assignment on behalf of the WHO in 1996 to the Ministry of Health in Amman, Jordan to improve the drug management system and train staff of the Ministry.

Earlier, 1995-2009, she was Informatics and Decision Support Director in the Ministry of Health and member of the Project Management Unit for the Health Sector Modernization Program, funded by the EU with special responsibility of the procurement of services and the preparation of tenders. 2003-2008 Fadwa was team leader for national and international stakeholders group working on the development of

and member of the Project Management Unit for the Health Sector Modernization Program, funded by the EU with special responsibility of the procurement of services and the preparation of tenders. 2003-2008 Fadwa was team leader for national and international stakeholders group working on the development of

Fadwa holds a Master in ICT Sector Management and Regulation (Higher Institute for Business Administration, Syria) and a Diploma in Public Health (Public Health Study Center, Ministry of Health, Syria) and also is a Medical Engineer (Electrical and Mechanical Faculty, University of Damascus)

Contact: Fadwa Murad, email: sham@scs-net.org



Mervi Käki

since January 2008 is partner, CEO, Chief Advisor of InnoPraxis International Ltd, a consulting firm providing advisory and management support services in the spheres of innovation policy, science and technology parks, business incubation and clustering.

As Chief Advisor in InnoPraxis Mervi consulted organizations in many countries like. She is continually developing clients' and partners' networks of the company in other countries and presents as lecturer in seminar and conferences.

2001 –2008 Mervi held various managerial positions in Technopolis Plc. She started in the field as vice-president and regional director in Technopolis Plc. Helsinki Region and took the challenge to establish the first Technopolis technology park outside the Capital region in Oulu. In this position she started regional business development and regional marketing programs jointly with private and public organizations and municipality.

In 2002 Mervi negotiated buying another technology park, called Innopoli; the first acquisition to Technopolis that was turned profitable in 1,5 years. She also has reorganized te Innopoli hi-tech business incubator. In 2005-2006 Mervi was chair of organizing committee for the IASP Helsinki 2006 World Conference with 700 delegates from 74 countries.

From 2006 Ms. Käki moved to Technopolis consulting unit, where she was responsible for consulting projects and productizing of consulting services. She has developed a tool kit of materials needed for both customized consulting projects and trainings and worked as senior advisor in consulting projects and separately as trainer in the international Technopolis Open Trainings and individual trainings for foreign organizations.

From 1988 to 2001 Mervi worked in different managerial positions, including general director position in Helsinki Fair Ltd. Wanha Satama. She also worked in Scandinavian Tele-marketing Ltd., Ferry company Viking Line Ltd and Oy Canon
Contact: Mervi Käki, mail@innopraxis.fi



Brian Darmody

is President of AURP, Association of University Research Parks, USA as well as Associate Vice President for Research and Economic Development, and Special Assistant Vice Chancellor for Technology Development with the University System of Maryland.

Projects led by Darmody include organizing the University's first technology transfer office, authoring reforms to the State's ethics legislation for entrepreneurial start ups, developing legislation creating the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), initiating Research Parks Maryland (RPM), the nation's first statewide research park organization, and serving as Director of the University of Maryland Center for Applied Policy Studies (UMCAPS). He is the principal author of the Power of Place, a national policy document focused on technology-led economic development and serves as co-principal investigator on the \$3.5 million Proof of Concept Alliances, a Department of Defense funded commercialization

reviewer to the National Science Foundation and the National Academy of Science.

Darmody previously served as a staff member for the U.S. House of Representatives, the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis, Maryland, and in the Office of the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Health Care Financing Administration. In his role with the University System of Maryland, he focuses on nology commercialization across the University System of Maryland and representing higher education regarding BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure Commission) recommendations affecting federal facilities in the region.

He serves on local and national boards, including the Maryland Space Business Roundtable, Greater Baltimore Technology Council, the Maryland Technology Council Legislative Committee, and previous Chair of the University of Maryland's Network of Entrepreneurs. He holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Baltimore and an undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Contact: bdarmody@umb.edu



Eileen Walker

is Chief Executive Officer of AURP, Association of University Research Parks, which promotes the development and operation of research parks that foster innovation, commercialization and economic competitiveness through collaboration among universities, industry government. The organization is comprised of university's operating and planned research, science and tech parks around the world. Eileen regularly consults with universities and parks regarding best practices. Eileen directed the Arizona State University Research Park in

Tempe, Arizona, a university research park comprised of over two million square feet of developed space. For many years, Eileen served as a member of the Board of Directors of AURP and as an executive officer of the Arizona Bioindustry Association. Currently, she serves on the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity Tucson. Eileen is a graduate of the University, of Colorado at Boulder, and holds a Master of Business in International Management degree from the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird). Additionally, she was designated a Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) of the National Real Estate Institute in 2002. Contact: eileenwalker@aurp.net

Services for Members

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

Send a message to all members. Use the simple tool the SPICE Group website offers in the PUMBAA section. This function is available through the PUMBAA section (user ID and password needed) of the SPICE website. Members of SPICE group may use their own SPICE Group email address (like name.familyname@spice-group.net). that is available world-wide. Contact spice@spice-group.de for more details.



SPICE Members can publish their **personal profile** on the SPICE Group website: It is optional if the personal profile is accessible to all users of the website or can be seen by members only. The option is accessible in the PUMBAA section.

Members also can insert their own articles for publication in the "News" section of the SPICE Group website. The same is possible for the "Events" section. There is more to come. Meanwhile, please let us know if you find the additional features useful and easy to use.

Contact: Larisa Brovarska, larisa@spice-group.net

SPICA Directory Online (SDO) - New Look and Content of Profiles



In recent weeks a number of "Behind the scenes" SPICA Directory now began with providing comparative statistical data. This function is exclusively available to individual incubator or park that is logged in with user name and password. The function cannot be accessed by other users. Only incubators and parks providing information to SPICE Directory and keep this information up-to-date will receive access free of charge.

Diogenes Business Incubator

- University of Cyprus, the **Technology Center Dortmund, Germany**, the **Integrated Management & Technology Research Center, Katmandu, Nepal**, or the **InQubator in Poznan, Poland**. These incubators did not only complete and update information in their profiles; they also took advantage of the new layout that allows providing visual information (logo pictures, and general introductory text). This possibility is available for all profiles in SPICA Directory and aims a making the presentations more inviting and informative.

An example for the statistical information incubators can access is the number of client business that graduated annually in this incubator and compare wit the average from the respective incubator compared with incubators of the dame type in the same country or globally.

All readers are invited to insert a new incubator / park profile. Simply visit www.spica-directory.net select "Insert new profile" in the main menu. Of course, also existing profiles can be updated online. In case you do not have your user ID or password, please contact update@spice-group.net

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And finally...

We have received reports and articles as well as information about upcoming conferences and outcome from events that took place earlier from a number of members and readers. And we received questions why not more information is available about xx country or zz city. The only answer we can give: If readers and member to not send information and suggestions for reports and events we cannot publish reports. Therefore we one more time invite all readers to send us materials for publication – or at least hints what to check or whom to contact for such information.

Looking forward to hearing from you – or meeting with you personally at one of the upcoming conferences this year

Heinz Fiedler & Larisa Brovarska

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