

REPORT ON

THE ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON BUSINESS INCUBATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

9-12 JUNE 2008, KUALA LUMPUR



Asia Pacific Conference on Business Incubation and Entrepreneurship was successfully held on 11-12 June 2008 at Nikko Hotel and Technology Park Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur. This event was organized by National Incubator Network Association, Malaysia (NINA) and Asian Association of Business Incubation (AABI) in conjunction with 12th AABI General Assembly. The conference was officiated by The Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Honorable Mr. Fadillah Haji Yusof.

The conference, themed on “Leadership in the Globalizing Innovation Economy”, was aimed at enabling the exchange of experiences, knowledge and ideas among



professionals, experts and managers from the regional incubation community as well as creating opportunities for participants to learn and make contribution to the development of incubation in their respective countries. The conference drew 178 participants from the Asia Pacific countries, including delegates from China, India, Japan, Chinese Taipei,

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Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Australia.

In his keynote address, the Deputy Minister urged the delegates to adopt proactive measures by capitalizing on business incubation strategies and innovation of technologies to cushion the global economic impact caused by surging oil prices and unprecedented worldwide food crisis. Business Incubation movement in the knowledge economy has to be innovative enough to undertake these real challenges and reform the socio-economic status of each economic nation. He added that in an era of intense global competition, in order to survive, businesses can no longer resort to traditional tools to compete, but must adopt innovative ideas to prolong their survival. Hon Mr Fadillah Mohd Yusof urged NINA to submit conference resolutions to MOSTI on action plans to be adopted by the Malaysian government in order to move forward in the globalizing innovation economy.

Mr. Annuar Mohd Saffar, the current AABI president, in his address stressed the importance of strong leadership at every level of incubation hierarchy in making forceful impact for incubation to be successful in creating new opportunities, social well-being, improved quality of life and sustainable wealth creation.



He added that for incubation movement in the developing countries to succeed, not only must the government acknowledge the role incubator associations as the catalyst, but it need also provide a clear vision on the direction of the incubation as a tool for socio-economic transformation. This can be achieved by engaging the government to assume

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a central position in leading the promotion and coordination of various policies and implementation that encourage and strengthen the industry.

27 papers were presented by international incubation industry experts and practitioners during the one and half day conference including topics on challenges, opportunities and incubation key success factors for socio-economic reforms. Key feature presentations on success stories by incubators' client award winners and incubator manager were the highlights of each session.



At this conference, AABI presented the prestigious Dr. Horiba's Award to Mr. Kenji Miyoshino of DDS (Japan), the winner of Dr. Horiba's Award for the Best Entrepreneur for the year 2007. Dr Horiba Award is the award named and sponsored by the first president of AABI given to the best entrepreneur from AABI incubators.

National Incubator Network Association of Malaysia also presented Malaysian Best Clients Incubator Award to six Malaysian companies to C-RaD Technologies of Kulim Hi-Tech Park Incubator, Bill Adam Associates Sdn Bhd of MDeC Incubator, Creative Advances Technology Sdn Bhd and Solution Engineering Sdn Bhd of Technology Park Malaysia Incubator, Teneo Technologies Sdn Bhd of MiRC Incubator and Le Wangi De Wangi Traditional Collection of SIRIM Incubator.



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The conference delegates also witnessed the exchanging of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AABI and Incubation Asia, the network of business incubators in the Asia Pacific Region established with the support of infoDev Group. For the exchange of MOU, AABI was represented by Mr Annuar Mohd

Saffar as President, while Incubation Asia represent by Ms Naowarat Ayawongs from the Incubation Asia Steering Committee. Under this MOU, Incubation Asia will cooperate with AABI, the latter being an association of national incubator associations, in strengthening each other roles and activities. Incubation Asia and AABI will jointly organize seminars, conferences, and training workshops in developing human resource and projects in incubation for mutual benefits.

The 12th AABI General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur also marked the official handing over of its presidency from Mr. Wang Rong of China to Mr Annuar Mohd Saffar of Malaysia who will assume responsibility of leading AABI for the term until Dec 2009. The General Assembly extended their appreciation to Mr. Wang Rong for his tireless and notable contributions and hope that the new president will carry the AABI's torch to a greater success.