The 23rd Issuance of
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CONTENT

International Event

Member's Event

5th Global Forum on Innovation & Technology Entrepreneurship

infoDev's Global Forum on Innovation and Entrepreneurship is a biennial flagship event convening the global innovation and entrepreneurship community to exchange know-how, establish partnerships and develop innovative approaches. infoDev is a global partnership program in the World Bank Group. Its mission is to enable innovative entrepreneurship for sustainable, inclusive growth and employment in developing countries. The 5th Global Forum on Innovation and Technology Entrepreneurship which is hosted by the South African government (Department of Science and Technology) will be held in East London, South Africa, from 28 – 30 May, 2013.

The Global Forum attracts around 500 - 600 business incubator managers, policy-makers, SME entrepreneurs, financiers and development agencies from all continents for a unique south-south and north-south networking and knowledge-sharing experience. The Global Forum contributes to the "know-how" and the "know-who" in the global innovation and entrepreneurship community. Participants come to the event to be exposed to new business models, ideas and methodologies, as well as to meet people with similar interests in other countries and other industries and to explore partnerships and capacity-building opportunities.

Objective of the forum

The theme of the Global Forum in South Africa is "Harnessing innovation for social and economic growth".

It will focus on enabling innovation and enterprise development for economic growth, job creation and human capital. Within the latter context, there will also be ample attention for innovative economic opportunities for women and youth.

More concretely, the Global Forum aims to:

1. Provide a platform for knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, networking and technology-based economic and social development
2. Bring together North-South and South-South communities of practice on innovation and entrepreneurship across core sectors including Mobile applications,
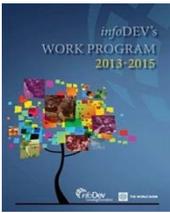
Agribusiness, Energy and Clean Climate technologies, and technology-influenced social and human development

3. Convene international / regional partners and networks and create opportunities for learning and business

4. Strengthen infoDev's role as an entrepreneur and knowledge brokerage platform and underscore the value of being a member of infoDev's global network. Provide a platform for World Bank and IFC to engage client countries on issues relating to innovation and technology entrepreneurship

5. Strengthen South Africa's transformation to a knowledge-based innovative economy

6. Showcase South African knowledge and innovation initiatives such as provincial innovation systems, technology localization and rural innovation

7. Showcase high-potential and inspiring entrepreneurs through a competition, and provide them opportunities for partnerships and business linkages

The Global Forum comprises of plenary and break-out sessions, along with deep-dive discussion and networking sessions by region and/or theme. In 2009 and 2011, infoDev added business incubation training to the Global Forum, which was extremely popular and continues to be in demand. In 2011, the Global Forum featured an SME Fair, where the participants were selected from among 750 applications via infoDev's Top50 SME competition. The highly successful SME Fair was a 'marketplace' for entrepreneurs to meet potential and investors and partners, and the audience voted 20 finalists to win US$ 10,000 to fund expansion into international markets.

The overall set-up of the Global Forum should be innovative, incorporating good practices from other global events (e.g. "Davos style" panel sessions, TED talks, use of external moderators, small group work and facilitating remote participation), and should provide ample opportunity for networking, dialogue, training and sharing of "hands-on" experiences. The overall objective of the Global Forum is to be a flexible networking platform for a relevant community rather than achieving consensus on set principles.

Call for comments – *info*Dev's Work Program 2013-2015

 *info*Dev has released a draft three-year Work Program, which sets out its vision to support innovation and technology entrepreneurship in the developing world as tools for job growth, competitiveness and inclusive and sustainable development.

The Work Program catalogues our initiatives to help technology-enabled and innovative new ventures in high-potential sectors—mobile, clean technologies, agribusiness, —take their ideas from mind to market. The Work Program also focuses on the needs of women entrepreneurs as well as early stage financing for startups.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome on the *info*Dev Work Program. It can be found for review here: http://www.infodev.org/en/Publication.1200.html

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3rd Annual International Conference on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IE 2013) will be held in Singapore, during 22nd to 23rd July 2013.

Innovation is the introduction and creation of something new, in the form of an idea, skill, product, service or process, that helps improve an organization or society. The Annual International Conference on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IE) hopes to introduce a wider view of innovation as new methods of creating value, and to focus on research that study innovative processes, organizational practices, systems, supply chain design and other mechanisms that are related to operations in practice.

This conference aims to explore policies, measures and mechanisms for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in various areas. http://www.innov-entrepreneur.org/

Technology Innovation Week 2013 is about getting past the idea and understanding the roadmap from inception through to exit of a New Zealand technology business.

Educating business owners, entrepreneurs, government agency employees, university lecturers – anyone who has an interest in promoting the success of a New Zealand technology company will learn how to navigate the pathway to success. It doesn't matter where the "entry point" is on the journey of a successful company, Technology Innovation Week 2013 will be a must attend event that provides answers to "what next."

Industry leaders will take the stage with their own stories - the good and the bad. Collectively, they will talk through the various stages in the life cycle of a technology company, give advice, answer questions and enable decisions that will create future success stories.

Networking events include sessions on pitch training, dealmaking discussions, a gala dinner featuring Auckland Mayor Len Brown and a cocktail evening celebrating New Zealand's Unsung Hero's of Innovation. Exciting and fast-paced events that will bring attendees closer to each other in a variety of forums, celebrate success and stimulate provocative discussion.

Event Type: Conference
Location: Stamford Plaza Hotel
Address: Auckland, New Zealand
Start Date: 14 May 2013
End Date: 17 May 2013
Description: Technology Innovation Week 2013 is about getting past the idea and understanding the roadmap from inception through to exit of a New Zealand technology business.
Website: http://techinnovationweek.co.nz/

Korea-based science park association seeks to expand in India

Dr Sun Kook Kwon, Secretary General and Ms So Young Park, Researcher of the Asian Science Park Association (ASPA), Korea visited Hyderabad on 29 January seeking to expand their membership base by networking with India's Science and Technology Entrepreneurs' Parks (STEPs) and Business Incubators Association (ISBA).

In a meeting with Director General William Dar, the visitors expressed interest in partnering with STEPs and ISBA and with the Network of Indian Agri-Business Incubators (NIABI). Dr Dar expressed support to ASPA, noting that such collaboration would open up avenues for technology exchange and provide soft landing support to entrepreneurs. He added that agriculture-based partnerships are crucial in tackling the future challenge of feeding a growing population.

ASPA is an international nongovernment organization that works in the areas of joint development of scientific technology, industry and economy in Asia. ICRISAT through its Agribusiness and Innovation Platform (AIP) headed by Dr Kiran K Sharma, facilitated ASPA's meetings with Hyderabad-based business incubators.

SME Centres to Offer Businesses One-Stop Access to Government Assistance

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) looking to increase their productivity and upgrade their capabilities can enjoy free business advice and greater access to government schemes with the launch of the one-stop SME Centres. The government has set aside about $30 million to run the SME Centres over three years, from April 2013 to March 2016.

The SME Centres, which are enhancements of the existing Enterprise Development Centres (EDCs), are among a slew of measures announced in Budget 2013 to beef up assistance for SMEs and to build a conducive environment for SMEs.

From 1 April 2013, the EDCs will be expanded into SMEs Centres and will provide the following services:

1. One-to-one advice on government schemes, guidance on grant application, business diagnosis and more in-depth advice in areas like productivity, finance, human resources and overseas expansion.
2. Capability workshops to help SMEs learn how to improve their productivity and financial knowledge.
3. Networking and business matching to connect SMEs with local and overseas partners.

To provide these services, the SME Centres will work with government agencies like SPRING Singapore, Info-comm Development Authority, Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS), International Enterprise Singapore, and Singapore Workforce Development Agency and partners from the private sector. These partnerships will ensure that SMEs will be linked to the relevant expertise and networks to help in their business growth.

The launch of the SME Centres comes amidst the backdrop of the challenging global economic landscape, tighter local labour market and rising costs. The SME Centres aim to help SMEs cope with these challenges and transform their businesses. In particular, the SME Centres will reach out to micro and small enterprises, which make up 94% of all enterprises and employ about 39% of the workforce but face

challenges in improving their productivity.

Currently, SMEs can seek help at any of the five EDCs located at the Chinese, Indian and Malay Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (ASME) and the Singapore Manufacturing Federation. They can also approach the satellite centre, EDC@NorthEast, which is managed by EDC@ASME.

More satellite SME Centres like the EDC@NorthEast will be set up to help SMEs in the heartlands and industrial estates. Together, the SME Centres and their satellites aim to provide business advice to about 60,000 SMEs over three years. They will also reach out to SME participants through public education, road shows, and capability workshops.

The SME Centres will continue to be a part of the multi-agency EnterpriseOne initiative managed by SPRING with the support of 35 partners from the public and private sectors. The EnterpriseOne initiative includes a portal which provides businesses with government information and e-services, and a call helpdesk.

Since 2005, the EDCs have reached out to some 70,000 SMEs through face-to-face business advisory services. Since 2011, the EDCs have collaborated with IRAS to conduct weekly half-day Productivity and Innovation Credit (PIC) Clinics. More than 850 SMEs have benefited from these clinics, which help SMEs understand the PIC tax incentive, how it works and how to claim. To ensure that the EDCs provide quality services in a consistent manner, all five EDCs were certified to ISO 9001:2008 in February and March this year.

The annual EDC Conference, organised jointly by the five EDCs, is a platform for SMEs to gain insights into business management and to network. This year's theme *Go, Grow and Globalise: Step Up and Transform* focuses on the need for SMEs to transform their business to compete in today's economic environment. Mr Lim Hock Chee, CEO of Sheng Siong and Mr Steven Yeah, Executive Director of Valuemax Group Pte Ltd, shared their success stories in business transformation with some 500 participants at the conference.

Hong Kong Science Park Career Fair 2013 Attracted 2,000 candidates Interactive talent pool platform for Technology Innovators

Hong Kong, 2 February, 2013 － The Annual Career Fair hosted by Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) successfully concluded, attracting more than 2,000 candidates. The Career Fair provides a platform for HKSTPC partner companies, job seekers and fresh graduates, bringing together the brightest individuals and those companies that are seeking to enrich their talent, at the same time fuelling the development of innovative technology to achieve a triple-win situation.

This year, the Career Fair attracted participation from over 35 partner companies that operate in Hong Kong Science Park and its three industrial estates, offering over 300 positions. Renowned companies including BGI, Bright Future Pharmaceutical Laboratories, ClusterTech, Cree, HAESL, Hai Kang Life Corporation, Smart China and We Software, offered diverse positions ranging from engineers, software engineers, game designers, mobile application developers to marketing professionals.

In addition to walk-in interviews, the partner companies also organised a total of eight career talks on the day to discuss the latest technology trends. For example, ClusterTech and vCumulus Limited, apart from introducing their company structures, had also respectively discussed the trend and application of Cloud Computing. Other partner companies such as HKCOLO, Social Analytics (Hong Kong) Limited and Starlims Asia Pacific Limited shared their insights on various technological issues including data centre operation, social media intelligence and Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS).