

News Release 1

“INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP –stimulating smarter successful small businesses world-wide”

The 30th Annual ISBE Conference comes back to Glasgow for the first time in 25 years! This Scottish Conference will be **hosted by Heriot-Watt University** operating in partnership with the University of Paisley, the University of Stirling, the University of Strathclyde and Queen Margaret University College. The 2007 ISBE Conference focuses on the renewed emphasis nationally and internationally on entrepreneurship in small, medium and large organisations. The theme of the Conference builds on the Scottish Executive's policies to build a **'Smart Successful Scotland'**. However, this theme is also applicable to many countries around the world and it has stimulated world-wide interest.

The diversity within the field of small business and entrepreneurship lies at the heart of growth in many economies and the continuing emergence of new areas (e.g. social enterprise) present exciting challenges to policy makers, practitioners, educators and researchers.

The main Plenary Sessions will include leading international speakers on the following themes:

Plenary 1 - ***"Small Business and Enterprise Policy – in research, education and practice"***

Plenary 2 - ***"Socially Responsible Entrepreneurship in action"***

A key aim of ISBE 2007 is to continue the ISBE aim to bridge the gap between theory and practice in entrepreneurship and SME development and to highlight the **practical and policy implications** of recent research and experience. Another ISBE aim is to engage and share experiences with a wider **International Community**, recognising that entrepreneurs now operate on a global stage. Improving understanding of the contexts, policies and practices will not only inform support for SMEs domestically but also prepare them for the challenges on the wider global stage. Best practices should also be disseminated world-wide and this Conference aims to do so.

The **key themes** to be addressed in nine parallel tracks at the 2007 ISBE Conference in Glasgow are:

- A** - Advancing entrepreneurship education and enterprise
- B** - Business birth-rate strategy – stimulating start-ups
- C** - Community, ethnic, minority, rural and social enterprise
- E** - E-entrepreneurship, e-business and e-learning
- I** - Innovation, technology transfer and knowledge networks
- M** - Management, skills development and growth issues
- S** - Supporting small business development world-wide
- V** - Small business finance and financial management
- W** - Women's enterprise & family enterprise development

Each Track will be lead by experts and sponsored by a relevant Organisation.

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News Release 1 *(continued)*

DATE & VENUE

The 2007 ISBE Conference will be held in the Radisson SAS Hotel, Glasgow, from Wednesday 7th to Friday 9th November 2007. The Welcome Reception will be at the Glasgow Science Centre on the Wednesday evening and the Gala Awards Dinner will be in the Radisson Hotel on Thursday evening.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE POLICY

The Conference aims to match the three main objectives of the smart, successful Scotland strategy:

- **Growing Businesses** - taking forward entrepreneurial dynamism and research and development to deliver innovative companies growing in scale;
- **Learning & Skills** - developing skills to make the best use of our human capital and to prepare for tomorrow's labour market;
- **Global Connections** - taking forward aspects of physical and electronic infrastructure, together with building the global connections of Scottish businesses to create world class locations, part of Europe and connected to the global economy.

PARTICIPATION

The Conference recognises the importance of learning and sharing experiences from varying perspectives and welcomes contributions and participation from the following key groups:

- **Advisers, Consultants & Mentors** offering advice and guidance in a variety of contexts
- **Educators & Trainers** determining the nature, content and delivery of knowledge, skills & CPD
- **Networks & Representative Bodies** offering networking opportunities & information services
- **Policy makers** influencing the context, funding and support - nationally, regionally and locally
- **Practitioners** assisting in the start-up, development, growth, support and decline of enterprises
- **Researchers** investigating the context, processes, behaviours and metrics of entrepreneurship

ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Prof Bill Keogh, Head of Department of Management, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh (**Chair**)

Prof Colin Mason, Academic Director, Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship, University of Strathclyde

Prof Sara Carter, Director, Entrepreneurship Centre, Dept of Management, University of Stirling

Mr Geoff Whittam, Senior Lecturer, Paisley Business School, University of Paisley

Dr Laura Galloway, Lecturer, Department of Management, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh

Prof Mike Donnelly, Head, School of Business & Ent. Queen Margaret University College, Edinburgh

Prof Bob Ritchie, Professor of Risk Management, Lancashire Business School, UCLAN, Preston.

Prof David Brooksbank, Head of Department for Enterprise, University of Glamorgan Business School

EARLY REGISTRATION for the event is advisable as substantial discounts are offered for those booking by 31st July 2007. Last year the 29th ISBE Conference in Cardiff attracted 592 registrations, and the best Hotels and all the Conference places were fully booked some weeks before the event.

For full details click on www.isbe2007.org or e-mail to enquiries@isbe2007.org

PRESS ENQUIRIES TO:

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