

News Release 2a

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

The 30th ISBE Conference in Glasgow is attracting a record level of interest from all around the world. The numbers of enquiries from prospective delegates and speakers is around 40% up on last year.

This 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. These issues are covered in a combination of plenary sessions, debates and technical paper presentations as follows:

PLENARY SPEAKERS

The main Plenary Session on *"The Global Entrepreneurial Economy"* will include:

- Judith Cone, Vice-President, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Kansas City, Missouri, USA;
- a senior member of the Entrepreneurship Unit of the European's Enterprise & Industry DG;
- Brian McVey, Director of Policy, Growing Business, Scottish Enterprise, Glasgow;
- Jackie Wright, Director of Business Growth & Research, Highlands & Islands Enterprise;
- John Anderson, Chief Executive of The Entrepreneurial Exchange, Hamilton, Scotland

The second Plenary Session featuring *"The Social Enterprise Debate"* will include:

- Sir Tom Hunter, Founder of the Hunter Foundation, venture philanthropist;
- Graham Bell, Chief Executive, Kibble Education & Care Centre, Paisley;
- Nick Baxter, Chief Executive, Cornerstone Community Care, Aberdeen; (TBC)
- Ian Hughes, Chief Executive, Co-operative Development Scotland, Glasgow;
- Kevin Robbie, Chief Executive, Forth Sector, Edinburgh; (TBC)

The opening session focussing on the new mission of ISBE *"Promoting excellence in entrepreneurship education, research and practice"* comprises three parallel mini-plenary sessions with interactive debates:

- Excellence in Entrepreneurship Education - led by Prof David Brooksbank & Prof Allan Gibb;
- Excellence in Entrepreneurship Research - led by Prof Robert Blackburn
- Excellence in Entrepreneurship Practice - led by Tony Robinson OBE.

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INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP - stimulating smarter successful small businesses world-wide

News Release 2a *(continued)*

TECHNICAL PAPERS

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 30th ISBE Conference in Glasgow is attracting a record number of papers from all around the world. To date a total of 348 paper abstracts have been submitted compared with 202 at this time last year. Of these 55% are from the UK and 45% from overseas, compared with 66% from UK and 34% from overseas last year, illustrating the increasing international profile of this Conference, with abstracts from 45 countries.

These papers will be presented in nine parallel tracks covering the following key themes:

- 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 led by experts in the field and sponsored by a relevant Organisation.

HOST, ORGANISER & SPONSORS

The Conference will be **hosted by Heriot-Watt University** operating in partnership with the University of Paisley, University of Stirling and the University of Strathclyde. The main sponsor is the **Scottish Enterprise Business Gateway Programme**, with additional support from Highlands & Islands Enterprise, the Scottish Institute for Enterprise and nine other Track and Seminar Sponsors

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.

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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