

News Release 3

"INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP- -stimulating smarter successful small businesses world-wide"

This 30th ISBE Conference in Glasgow 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 Government's policies to build a '**Smart Successful Scotland**'. The recently elected new First Minister for Scotland, Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP, has written a personal welcome message to delegates in the ISBE Conference Programme just published. He says *"the commercial environment in Scotland, which is predominantly SME based, is thriving and highly supportive of new business ideas, reflecting the objectives of ISBE itself."* He commends this Conference as ***"an excellent platform for debate and inspiration"***.

The theme of this Conference is applicable to many countries around the world and it has attracted a record level of interest. The numbers of speakers and papers expected are more than 40% up on last year whilst delegate enquiries and registrations are currently 25% up on last year. Over 40% of the papers submitted are from overseas authors, keen to exchange experiences with other countries. More than 600 delegates are expected – of which about 33% will be from overseas, compared with 25% from overseas last year.

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;
- Maive Rute, Director, Promotion of SME's Competitiveness, EU Enterprise & Industry Directorate;
- Brian McVey, Director of Policy, Growing Business, Scottish Enterprise, Glasgow;
- Jackie Wright, Director, Business Growth & Research, Highlands & Islands Enterprise; Inverness.

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;
- Ian Hughes, Chief Executive, Co-operative Development Scotland, Clydebank;

The opening session will focus on the new mission of ISBE "***Promoting excellence in education, research and practice in small business and entrepreneurship***" in three parallel interactive debates:

- Excellence in Entrepreneurship Education - led by Prof David Brooksbank & Prof Allan Gibb;
- Excellence in Entrepreneurship Research - led by Prof Robert Blackburn and colleagues
- Excellence in Entrepreneurship Practice - led by Tony Robinson OBE and John Anderson. **PTO**

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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.

Around 250 technical 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, Glasgow City Council and ten 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 & Buffet will be at the Glasgow Science Centre on the Wednesday evening and the Gala Awards Dinner will be in the Radisson Hotel on the Thursday evening.

REGISTRATION

If you have not already booked, then immediate registration for this Conference is advisable as the fees go up to the late rates on 1st October. Last year the 29th 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/registration.htm or e-mail to enquiries@isbe2007.org

NEXT YEAR

The 31st ISBE Conference will be in Belfast, Northern Ireland on 5-7th November 2008. www.isbe2008.org

PRESS ENQUIRIES ON ISBE 2007 TO:

Prof William Keogh, Conference Chair, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh

Tel: +44 (0)131 451 8284 Fax: +44 (0)131 451 8288 E-mail: chair@isbe2007.org

Brian L Dunsby, Conference Organiser, Perlex Associates, Harrogate

Tel: +44 (0)1423 879208 Fax: +44 (0)1423 870025. E-mail: organiser@isbe2007.org