

Botswana Innovation Hub Companies Established

Botswana Innovation Hub companies have been established!

Botswana Innovation Hub (Pty) Ltd. is 100 % Government-owned company driving the development of knowledge industry in Botswana. The subsidiary of this company, Botswana Innovation Hub Property (Pty) Ltd has also been established. It will be a special purpose vehicle concentrating only on the property development for BIH activities. Private sector will be offered an opportunity to invest in BIH property business later this year.

BIH Hosts Climate Technology Workshop

In November participants from across Europe, United States of America, and neighbouring Namibia and South Africa converged in Gaborone, Botswana for a 2-day workshop on Promoting Climate Technology and Carbon Market Partnerships.

As a result of this successful workshop, the Botswana Innovation Hub is currently working on a framework to facilitate the establishment of a Clean-Tech Centre of Expertise and focus the R&D and business development activities as well as public and private funding for them. The development of the framework is a continuation of the collaboration started for the workshop between Botswana Innovation Hub, Lund University, Swedish Trade Council and Sten Stenbeck Consultancy.

For more information >>> www.bih.co.bw

Architectural Design Competition won by SHoP Architects PC

The international competition for the architectural design of the Botswana Innovation Hub buildings was won by the SHoP Architects PC from New York, USA.



In its statement, the Evaluation Committee said that SHoP's proposal had the best combination of innovativeness, environmental sustainability, functionality and cost-effectiveness. In total 18 companies from Europe, USA and Africa had submitted their proposals.

SHoP Architects are expected to be in Botswana during the first week of April to meet with BIH/BDC, the main tenants as well as dialogue with potential local partners.

Right:

UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Climate Change, former President of Botswana, Mr. Festus Mogae, officially opening the workshop.



Parliament Endorses Botswana Innovation Hub Incentives

Parliament has approved a 15% Corporate tax rate. The other incentives are:

- Flexibility in importing labour
- A competitive telecommunications package
- Training Grant
- The Innovation Fund

Companies wishing to take advantage of these incentives can find qualifying criteria and other related information on our website (www.bih.co.bw).

EEP-programme offers funding for CleanTech-projects



The Energy and Environment Partnership (EEP) with Southern and East Africa, funded by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, will offer co-funding for feasibility studies aimed at concrete investments as well as pilot and demonstration projects.

The first call for proposals is now open until the 14th April 2010, at 1200h. The next one will most likely be in October 2010.

For more details about the programme and to apply, please visit our website (www.bih.co.bw) or contact Mr. Boiki Mabowe on bmabowe@gov.bw.

BIH Hosts OpenNMS Workshop

On February 22nd, the BIH in collaboration with Dottess (Pty) Ltd., hosted a workshop on Open source network management systems, with particular focus on OpenNMS.

The Keynote speaker was Dr. Craig Gallen (in picture) of OpenNMS Group Inc.(USA). The workshop was a platform to interact and discuss opportunities for open source for the telecommunications sector in Botswana. It was well attended by the sector, and participants gave very good feedback.



Dr. Gallen's presentation can be accessed at <http://www.dottess.com/open-source-network-management-systems-and-opennms-workshop.html>

Upcoming Events

Meet us at:

BOCCIM Northern Trade Fair in Francistown, 27—30 May 2010.

For more information, please also check our website, www.bih.co.bw. We also encourage our readers to check our website for updates from time to time. Any comments/questions regarding this newsletter should be sent to bih@gov.bw