

This is the inaugural issue of InnoGram. InnoGram is a quarterly newsletter published by Botswana Innovation Hub to inform and update all stakeholders about latest developments within the Botswana Innovation Hub. The newsletter is a complement to 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 the content of this newsletter should be forwarded to bih@gov.bw

Botswana Innovation Hub ready for registrations!

The formal registration is now starting. Companies, organisations and institutes wishing to register should contact the Coordinator at mnganunu@gov.bw for a preliminary meeting or request for documentation.

The Cabinet of the Government of Botswana have approved a set of special incentives for the BIH-registered companies. The incentives are:

- Flexibility in importing labour
- A competitive telecommunications package
- Training Grant
- Access to the Innovation Fund

The qualifying criteria and other related material can be downloaded from our website (www.bih.co.bw).

International Touch in Infrastructure Design!

Botswana Development Corporation (BDC), which is responsible for the infrastructure works, has contracted a global player, ARUP, to do the master planning and urban design for the Botswana Innovation Hub. "Although working through the local Arup Botswana Ltd, we have all the best resources from Arup internationally in our hands", says Mr Ramokate Letsweletse from BDC.

For the architectural design we are waiting for proposals from USA, Europe and Africa. It will be interesting to see how different or similar the architectural vision is on the three different continents. The deadline for the ongoing architectural competition is 15th of June 2009.

Business Incubation Training continues on the 17th – 19th of June 2009

Botswana Innovation Hub conducted the 1st session of the Business Incubation Training for incubation advisors in March and now the 2nd session is going to take place in June.

The title of the second session is "Essential Skills and Tools for Business Development Advisors" and it will concentrate on providing the participants with proven practices and tools they will need in working with clients.



The training was facilitated by Technopolis Plc, the consulting company for the Botswana Innovation Hub. The trainer, Mr Marko Sorri, was very happy with feedback from the 1st session and also positively surprised about the interest towards business incubation in general in Botswana.

Detailed information about the 2nd session can be found from our website www.bih.co.bw. Enquiries: Ari Kalmari, 7233 2995, ari.kalmari@technopolis.fi

Botswana Innovation Hub: An opportunity for local ICT-businesses!

Botswana Innovation Hub held a Breakfast Seminar for local ICT companies on April 27th, with a view to formally introduce the Botswana Innovation Hub, and outline the opportunities for cooperation.

As the Coordinator of the Botswana Innovation Hub stated at the seminar, local ICT companies have three levels of involvement. They can be a BIH-registered company, an outsourcing partner for the foreign investors registered in BIH or participate in the networking events as a member of the local ICT network. For the local ICT businesses the target should be to step up the ladders to become a BIH-registered company over time.



The new ICT Sector Strategic Plan 2009 developed by Botswana Confederation of Commerce, Industry and Manpower (BOCCIM) was also presented to the audience of more than 100 persons. Botswana Innovation Hub has a clear role in supporting the targets of the strategy and will continue discussions with ICT companies.

All comments should be forwarded to bih@gov.bw