



ISFAHAN REGIONAL CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY
INCUBATOR & SCIENCE PARK DEVELOPMENT
(UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO)

NEWSLETTER

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Development & Networking

LATEST ACTIVITIES ON SCIENCE PARK
AND INCUBATOR DEVELOPMENT AND
NETWORKING IN THE REGION

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- *IRIS-IBI International Training Workshop on “Business Incubation: The Best Practice for Managing Innovation Ecosystems and Habitats”*
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IRIS - ISTIC Workshop

Training workshop on “Technology-Based Entrepreneurship for Developing Countries”

Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubator & Science Park Development (IRIS) - under the auspices of UNESCO organized a training workshop with the support and cooperation of Isfahan Science & Technology Town (ISTT) and in collaboration with the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation also under the Auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC), and the Economic Cooperation Organization's (ECO) Science Foundation (ECOSF).

This 4 day workshop focused on “Technology-Based Entrepreneurship for Developing Countries” and had participants from the ECO countries including Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Iraq and Iran and also a number from the international community including Italy, Oman, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Korea.

This jointly organized workshop took advantage and offered the expertise of the representatives of three international organizations (IRIS, ISTIC and ECOSF) making it unique in its kind. The directors of these organizations addressed the participants during the opening ceremony and explained why such an alliance is beneficial and how they intend to complement each other.

In her welcoming speech, Dr. Sharifah Maimunah Syed Zin, Director of ISTIC, emphasized on the track record of successful cooperation between ISTIC and IRIS and hoped that the partnership continues for years to come.

Prof. Dr. Manzoor Soomro, President of ECOSF expressed his eagerness towards the organization of such a workshop and hoped that this collaboration is only the beginning for many more cooperative workshops organized for the ECO member countries.

In conclusion Dr. Mohammad Javad Omid, Director of IRIS, stressed that the joint intent behind such collaborations and workshops is to increase the realization of technological solutions to social needs and demands. He expressed hope that the exposure of individuals with key roles in developing countries to the concepts of Technology-based Entrepreneurship is the cause of a ripple effect towards innovation and entrepreneurship in the participants originating countries.

The workshop concluded on the 28th of April, 2017 at the closing ceremony of the 13th Sheikh Bahai National Technopreneurship Festival organized by IRIS and ISTT.



IRIS - IBI Workshop

International Training workshop on “Business Incubation: The Best Practice for Managing Innovation Ecosystems and Habitats”

Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubator and Science Park Development (IRIS) under the auspices of UNESCO, in Partnership with Shanghai Caohejing Hi-Tech Park Innovation Center and Shanghai Technology Innovation Center (STIC) organized a five day international workshop on Business Incubation in Shanghai from the 23rd to the 27th of October, 2017.

The course was designed for business incubation managers, entrepreneurs, governmental officials and other business incubation stakeholders wishing to increase their understanding and know-how on international co-incubation business. This workshop was sponsored by the Asian Association of Business Incubation (AABI) which over its 20 years of activity has successfully organized workshops for more than 500 international participants. This workshop was of no exception and benefited from participants coming from all around the world including countries like Malaysia, United States of America, Italy, Iran, Qatar, Palestine, France, Poland and Thailand.

The Malaysian Governing Board Member of IRIS, Dr. Mohammad Yusuf Sulaiman, participated as a speaker of one of the workshop sessions where he shared with the participants the expertise and wisdom he had gained during his prestigious career on “The Best Practice for Managing Innovation Ecosystems and Habitats”. The workshop also benefited from the knowledge and experience of many experts coming from the Chinese organizing partner including key note speeches from the Director of Shanghai Technology Innovation Center and the Chairman of Caohejing Hi-Tech Park Innovation Center.

Apart from speeches made by the organizing directors, the international workshop took advantage of the hands-on experience of mentors including Peter Davison, Founder of Fishburners and Investor in Paypal and Pinterest, Leigh Angus, the Co-founder of IdeHub and Senior advisor to Queensland University and also Steve Hoffman, the Co-founder of Founders Space in Silicon Valley.

In addition to organizing and providing experts for lecturing in workshop sessions, IRIS also assisted in providing support to international participants.

This workshop was organized in line with IRIS’s main objective of dissemination of knowledge and knowhow on subjects concerning Science and Technology Parks and Incubators throughout the World.



The 9th Governing Board Meeting of IRIS Convened in Shanghai

Shanghai Caohejing Hi-Tech Park Innovation Center hosted the 9th GB meeting of IRIS

The Governing Board members of Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubator and Science Park Development (IRIS) under the auspices of UNESCO came together in Shanghai, China in October, 2017.

The Governing Board members convened in Shanghai's International Business Incubation Center (IBI) to hold IRIS's 9th Governing Board Meeting.

As part of the approved mandate of the previous Governing Board Meeting, this year the International Governing Board incorporated new members from different regions of the world.

The members present at the meeting included Dr. Mohammad Yusuf Sulaiman, CEO & President of the Malaysian Industry Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) from Malaysia, Dr. Herbert Chen, Director of Tsinghua University Science Park (TusPark) from China, Dr. Yoslan Nur, Programme Specialist at UNESCO's Science Policy and Partnerships (SPP) Division, coming from France, Dr. Marielza Oliveira, Director and UNESCO Representative to the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, and

Mongolia from China, Dr. Byung Joo Kang, Professor and Secretary General of the World Technopolis Association (WTA) from Korea, Dr. Ali Motamedzadegan, Head of IASP WANA division & President of Mazandaran STP from Iran, Dr. Mohammad Javad Omid, ISTT Vice-President for Technology Development and Director of IRIS and Mozghan Yazdianpour, Director of International & Scientific Cooperation of IRIS and ISTT. Dr. Hoafeng Lai, Director of Shanghai Technology Innovation Center also participated as an invited guest.

At the meeting the performance report of IRIS's activities during the previous year was presented and its plans for the upcoming year proposed and finalized.

The Governing Board of IRIS annually convenes to make sure the center is following its main objectives to disseminate the knowledge of Science Park and Incubation Management through the organization of training workshops, and in facilitating the transfer of technology and technical knowhow throughout the world with the organization of matchmaking sessions for similar knowledge-based companies.



Director of IRIS Participates in Caspian Youth Forum in Kazakhstan

IRIS Participates at the Caspian Youth Forum A look into the future: modernization of public consciousness"

The Caspian Entrepreneurial Youth Forum organized by the Almaty Management University was held in Aktau, Kazakhstan from the 19th to the 23rd of September, 2017. Members from Iran, as a member country of the Caspian Sea region that has been active in the field of entrepreneurship and innovation participated in this event. Dr. Mohammad Javad Omid, Director of Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubator and Science Park Development (IRIS) was an invited speaker to this forum.

The main aim for organizing such an event was to create a platform for communication and discussion and to form an intercultural dialogue between the leaders of the Caspian states on subjects pertaining to the advancement of the regions youth, as well as to consolidate organizations and leaders working with today's youth.

This forum pursued the following objectives:

- Promoting ideas relevant to "A look into the future: modernization of public consciousness";
- Assistance in the development of effective regional cooperation of national youth organizations and associations of the Caspian states
- Exchange of best international practices, acquisition of project activity skills;
- Attraction of the best experts for the transfer of youth competencies in different areas in the field of leadership, social and political life, science, creativity, entrepreneurship, tourism.

Dr. Omid and Iran's Consul General in Aktau, Mahmoud Adib, addressed the participants of the forum in a speech highlighting the importance of knowledge based innovation and the transfer of technology and knowhow in neighboring countries with the objective of accelerating regional development.

He also elaborated on the role that IRIS plays as a UNESCO category II Center in the dissemination of knowledge and technical knowhow. He expressed his opinion that IRIS can be of great assistance to the set objectives of this Youth Forum.

The topics that were up for discussion during this 5 day forum consisted of:

- National Youth Code
- Leadership
- Serving the Society
- Youth Life Design
- Entrepreneurship DNA as a lifestyle of young people
- Project management skills and research methods

In recent years Kazakhstan has endeavored to further support small and medium sized K-based enterprises in their formation by strengthening its international relations. Iran with its more than two decade experience in this field has thus become a close strategic partner towards the realization of their mutual potentials and penetration to knowledge- based markets. IRIS has the existing platform to greatly assist in reaching the objectives of such a partnership.



IRIS Sends Companies to Participate in IRAN-GEORGIA B2B FORUM

YSTP and IRIS Send Iranian Companies to Participate in IRAN-GEORGIA FORUM

In collaboration with Yazd Science and Technology Park, (YSTP) Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubator and Science Park Development (IRIS) organized and sent a delegation of K-based SME's settled at the different Science and Technology parks around Iran to participate in an Iran-Georgia B2B Forum in Tbilisi, Georgia from the 17th to the 20th of October, 2017. The technology parks that participated and sent their companies to this forum came from the provinces of Yazd, Tehran and Isfahan.

This Forum which was specialized for companies working in the fields of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Civil Engineering and Construction, Energy and Medical Equipment and Pharmaceuticals, brought together similar companies from Iran and Georgia to negotiate on possible ways for collaborations.

The companies settled at Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT) which participated in the forum were, Sabok Beton Pertican Co., Pishro Control Sepahan Co., ASPA Co., Nilfam Engineering Co. and Sabz Bonyan Artin Co.

During this 3 day event the companies met with their Georgian counterparts and were familiarized with the process of exporting knowledge-based products to Georgia through a B2B platform. Also ways for transferring knowledge and technology from Iran to Georgia via collaboration on joint projects were explored and discussed.

This forum was organized to also create awareness about the Tax laws and regulation for foreign investment companies looking to invest in Georgia and launch a production facility.

In the exhibition part of the forum special areas were dedicated to the showcasing of catalogues and products to interested exhibitioners that were looking to expand their network and operations.



IRIS Signs MOU with ECOSF

IRIS to start collaboration with the Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF)

IRIS and the Economic Cooperation Organization's (ECO) Science Foundation (ECOSF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the opening ceremony of the "Technology-Based Entrepreneurship for Developing Countries" workshop on April 25th, 2017 at the Abbasi Hotel in Isfahan, Iran.

Under this MoU, ECOSF and IRIS will work together to further strengthen the mutual collaboration in development of S&T Parks and Incubation Centers and in the promotion of Innovative and Entrepreneurial Initiatives in the ECO region.

With the signing of the Mou, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Soomro, President of ECOSF, explained that in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development set by the United Nations, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals defined therein and the explicit recognition of the role of science, technology and innovation as a vital driver of sustainability, ECOSF plans to partner up with IRIS in the dissemination of the culture of establishing Science and Technology Parks and Technology Business Incubators

and also in the provision of scientific capacity building to ECO Countries.

Dr. Mohammad Javad Omid, Director of IRIS, also explained that with IRIS's extensive experience in teaching the essentials to the management and development of STP's and Incubators and ECOSF's vast reach and influence in the ECO countries the collaboration has the potential to create great impact and induce the development of k-based SME's throughout the region.



Visitors to IRIS :

IRIS has been the host to many international visitors from different parts of the world

Pakistan's Deputy Minister of Science and Technology visits IRIS with fellow Colleagues

Fazal Abbas Maken, Pakistan's Federal Secretary of the Ministry of Science & Technology, Retired Lieutenant General Naweed Zaman, Rector of National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) and Dr. Raheel Qamar, Rector of COMSATS Institute of Information & Technology visited ISTT on their exploratory tour of Iran's science and technology ecosystem on Thursday, 27th of July, 2017. The management team at Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubator and Science Park Development (IRIS) met with the delegation and explained the main activities of ISTT's Science and Technology Parks and Incubators and also the UNESCO category II center. Amongst the issues raised during the meeting was the organization of a workshop in Pakistan by IRIS with the intension to disseminate ISTT knowhow and experience in the management of Science and Technology Parks and by drawing similarities between Iran and Pakistan.



With the conclusion of the session the delegates were taken on a tour of ISTT grounds where they met with several of the CEO's of ISTT tenant companies.

UNESCO Leads a Delegation of Ambassadors to IRIS

Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubator and Science Park Development (IRIS) in cooperation with the Tehran Cluster Office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), organized a two day exploratory visit to Isfahan and IRIS for a number of foreign ambassadors and representatives stationed in Iran. The visit which was organized in conjunction with the World National Science Day included the ambassadors and representatives of the Netherlands, Republic of Ghana, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Serbia and a number of representatives from other organizations affiliated with the United Nations in Iran such as the United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA).

The two day tour to Isfahan started with a meeting with the Mayor of Isfahan followed by a luncheon hosted by Isfahan Municipality. Possible ways for collaboration between Isfahan Municipality and the different embassies were discussed in detail during this meeting, information of which will be disclosed in the near future.

The delegation then visited Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT) where they met with the managing teams of ISTT and IRIS and were presented with a short introduction to the two centers and their services and achievements. During this meeting it was explained that centers under the auspices of UNESCO such as IRIS, represent a powerful tool in enabling UNESCO in assisting its member states to achieve their sustainable development goals and that the help of foreign embassies could in potential broaden the scope of this influence.

A tour of IRIS, ISTT and a number of its settled companies followed this meeting which was greatly beneficial to providing a better understanding of the vital role ISTT and IRIS play in the knowledge economy of countries.



Visitors to IRIS :

IRIS has been the host to many international visitors from different parts of the world

Italy's Minister of Education Visits IRIS

Italy's Minister of Research & Education, Mrs. Valeria Fedeli visited IRIS and its host organization Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT) on the 20th of April, 2017.

Italy's Minister of Education was accompanied by a delegation of 150 persons consisting of heads of Italian Universities, Research Institutes, and companies, on her two day visit to Iran.

The delegation participated in the first Italian-Iranian scientific, technological and innovative session which incorporated several of ISTT's settled knowledge based companies alongside various others from science and technology parks around Iran.

With the conclusion of the business matching session the Minister and several persons from her ministry and the Ambassador of Italy to Iran, Mauro Conciatori, visited ISTT, the pioneering and leading Science and Technology Park in Iran to see in action what the Iranian Science and Technology community had achieved within the last two decades.

During their visit they met with the management team of IRIS and were briefed on the main purpose to its establishment and the mission it pursues. After the meeting the delegation visited several of the settled tenants of ISTT's science and Technology Park.

The Minister expressed her satisfaction towards the visit and called it extremely eye opening. She acknowledged IRIS's capacity in creating knowledge-based economic development in the region.

In her meeting with ISTT president, Dr. Mehdi Keshmiri, she conveyed her hope to strengthen relations and cooperation between the scientific and technological communities of both countries and was also enthusiastic to work with IRIS on issues in relation to capacity building. She went on to say that by this visit she has come to believe that both parties have passed the MOU signing phase and have now reached the phase of taking action.

Dr. Keshmiri mentioned that over the past two years good working relations have been established between the Ministries of Science and Education of Iran and Italy for scientific and technological collaborations. He also expressed his hope that these bilateral meetings and the visit of the minister to ISTT and IRIS result in the cooperation and collaboration of Iranian knowledge-

based start-ups with their Italian counterparts.

Mrs. Fedeli also congratulated ISTT on becoming the host to the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP) 35th World Conference in 2018, and felt optimistic towards the participation of Italian representatives at the conference.

She also articulated that these visits and sessions intend to further develop the bilateral relations already established between Iran and Italy, but is not limited to just the two countries and can easily be extended to a wider international scope.



IRIS Co-Hosts the 35th IASP world Conference with ISTT

IRIS is co-hosting this well-known conference as part of its mandate to internationally spread global knowledge and consensus on how to manage S&T Parks and AoIs

Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT) will host the 35th IASP Annual World Conference on Science Parks and Areas of Innovation in September 2018.

As IRIS is a UNESCO Category II center hosted by ISTT, and its main objective is the international dissemination of best practices and know-how of STPs (Science and Technology Parks) and AOIs (Areas of Innovation), it has offered its support to the organization of this event as a co-organizer.

The theme of the conference is “Towards sustainable cities and communities: fostering innovation ecosystems”.

This theme is compatible to one of the 17 UN adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the guidance of global action and investment for sustainable development over the next 15 years. The focus of this goal was on Sustainable Cities and Communities and thus by the suggestion of IRIS it was developed in to the conference theme for gathering together experts from STPs and other AOIs, technology-based incubators, academia, the public sector and business to discuss and debate in depth the latest industry trends. Collaboration between different actors and exchange of knowledge between countries are crucial for successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda: as typical triple helix organizations, STPs and AOIs can play a central role in the process.



IRIS will also be introducing resource persons to this conference in cooperation with UNESCO.

The UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office has also promised IRIS to promote the organization of this event amidst the countries under its coverage including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Iran.

UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office has also sponsored a part of this conference.

IRIS also aims to cultivate and develop the network of communication and interaction between the international STP and AOI community with the Iranian innovative ecosystem. For this purpose it has supported the organization of technical tours for the participants of the conference to Yazd Science and Technology Park (YSTP) in Yazd, Fars Science and Technology Park (FSTP) in Shiraz, and Pardis Technology Park in Tehran.

B2B meetings between the conference participants and settled companies at ISTT, YSTP, FSTP and Pardis have also been set up to take advantage of the opportunity created from organizing such a conference and to facilitate the process of technology transferring.

IRIS and ISTT won this honor with a confidence vote of 86% from the IASP General Assembly in collaboration and support of the Iran's national innovative ecosystem guided by the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT).

The involvement of IRIS and its cohabitation at ISTT was recognized as a positive and attractive feature to the realization of the mutual goals of IASP and UN Sustainable Development worldwide.



IRIS Co-Organizes the 13th Sheikh-Bahai Technopreneurship Festival with ISTT

IRIS Supports the International Participation of STP Experts and Investors at the National Sheikh-Bahai Technopreneurship Festival



Sheikh-bahai Technopreneurship



13th Sheikh-Bahai Technopreneurship Festival

The 13th National Sheikh Bahai Festival was held at Isfahan City Center Complex in April, 2017. This national festival is renowned in Iran and the region for its effectiveness and ingenuity making it a worthy cause for Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubator and Science Park Development (IRIS) to Support.

Training workshops, sessions dedicated to knowledge and experience sharing, business match-makings, and an exhibition were the main sideline activities supported by IRIS.

An international training workshop in collaboration with the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation also under the Auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC), and the Economic Cooperation Organization's (ECO) Science Foundation (ECOSF) was held which focused on "Technology-Based Entrepreneurship for Developing Countries". The participants of this works shop came from ECO countries.

In the sessions dedicated to knowledge and experience sharing the previous experience and knowledge of successful entrepreneurs were presented in three categories to interested participants.

These categories included:

- The sharing of knowledge and experience on social entrepreneurship

- The sharing of knowledge and experience on how to work with Investors

- The sharing of knowledge and experience on internationalization of domestic companies and cooperation with international companies

IRIS also took advantage of the many international representatives present at the festival and held several business matching sessions for these individuals with he many knowledge-base companies residing at ISTT.

The festival also used the exhibition to provide investors and interested parties an up-close viewing of the recent technological accomplishments of domestic and international entrepreneurs and innovators.

This year there were two international booths at the exhibition. One was dedicated to the World Technopolis Association (WTA), represented by their Director of International Affairs and the second to a Korean private company, Klabs, working on 3D printers.

The Sheikh-Bahai Technopreneurship Festival is annually held to formally recognize and introduce domestic technological entrepreneurs to interested parties. This festival aims to foster a culture of creativity, innovation and technopreneurship, and to identify and encourage technopreneurs throughout the world. The festival encompasses all technopreneurial fields of science including healthcare and medical sciences, fundamental sciences, technical sciences and engineering, agriculture, humanities, culture, art, etc.

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