

TBIF NEWS

A KIST / CITT initiative *Technology and Business Incubation Facility* Newsletter No 15



Ministerial Visit to TBIF Incubator along with high level World Bank Group Delegation in Rwanda on 31st October'2007

TBIF Manager attended Regional Incubation Manager Training at Mauritius from 8th to 12th October'2007.

African Incubator Network (AIN) is an association of incubators in Africa established with the support from InfoDev's Incubator initiative organized a Regional Incubation Manager Training at La Plantation Hotel in Mauritius from 8th to 12th October'2007. This training was aimed to build the capacity of Incubator Manager across Africa. During this training the Incubator Managers from Angola, Benin, Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Zambia and Uganda.



Opening Address: Hon. Etienne Sinatambou, Minister of IT & Telecommunications, Mauritius

Mr. Issac Kofie Danner from the University of Sierra Leone visited TBIF: Mr. Issac Kofie Danner visited Rwanda to attend the Connect Africa Summit. Also visited TBIF because of Network made during the Regional Incubation Manager Training in Mauritius. Thanks to AIN Network for connecting Incubation Managers in Africa. The visit was well appreciated.



Photo showing visit of Mr. Issac Kofie Danner at TBIF/KIST.

Ministerial Visit to TBIF Incubator along with high level World Bank Group Delegation in Rwanda on 31st October'2007

TBIF was showcased to high-level officials including Eng. Albert Butare, Honorable Minister of State for Energy and Communication, Government of Rwanda along with the high level delegation from the World Bank Group, Valerie D' Costa, InfoDev Manager and ITU delegation to demonstrate the impact of Technology business incubation on private sector development. The visit was organized in conjunction with the Connect Africa Summit held in Kigali during 28th October'2007 to 31st October'2007.

During the meeting TBIF Manager presented about TBIF activities and informed the visiting delegation that TBIF provides a microenvironment for accelerating start-up business by conserving the entrepreneur's most scarce resources through cost sharing, access to capital, work space, supporting services and equipment in a flexible and timely manner. TBIF have so far trained 165 entrepreneurs in business planning skills on sectors such as ICT, services, construction, energy and manufacturing. In order to support those entrepreneurs who are looking for start-up capital for their small enterprises but often have no access to finance from commercial financial institutions due to insufficient securities, Rwanda has set up KIST Enterprise Development Fund (KEDF) to help them to start their own enterprises. InfoDev has supported Technology and Business Incubation Facility in Rwanda with 150,000 USD. Apart from Rwanda, InfoDev supported business incubation activities in more than 10 African countries and works in close partnership with the growing African Incubator Network (AIN) to which it also provides financial support.

For More information, please visit following link in IDisc Website <http://www.idisc.net/en/Article.38544.html>

Also visit article in the above mentioned link: "Creating Jobs: KIST aids graduates through incubator project", was published in the *The New Times newspaper of Rwanda* on Nov. 10th, 2007 [TBIF Ministerial visit, news article.pdf](#)

Comments about the Visit:

The TBIF is an idea is to unleash the power of entrepreneurship, community and capital by bringing people and business together. It gives entrepreneurs in Rwanda and Africa hope to start their own business. With a growing population of innovators and entrepreneurs, business incubation is seen as an important facilitator of small enterprise development. - **State Minister of Energy and Communication of Rwanda.**

The visit to TBIF was a big success in my view and really helped demonstrate to the visitors how infoDev's funding support is bearing fruit in Rwanda to encourage ICT entrepreneurs there. You are doing such good work there Rajeev and have a lot to be proud of in terms of your achievements. Congratulations! - **Valerie D' Costa, InfoDev Manager, World Bank**

Thanks for supporting such initiative like TBIF in Rwanda and this type of infoDev support can be continued for the development of Technology Entrepreneurship in Rwanda! - **Rector/KIST**

I feel privileged and honored to have the Honorable Minister and World Bank Group delegation to TBIF, Rwanda. - **TBIF Manager**

Note of the editor

Dear Reader,

In this issue we are informing our stakeholders about the Ministerial visit to TBIF along with the high level delegation from World Bank Group delegation and also discussed the support given to TBIF by InfoDev and other development partners. Thanks to them for supporting TBIF Initiative in Rwanda.

Any question or query is welcome. Your comments are welcome:

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Mini Training of Trainers organized by IFC, World Bank at Nigeria for Rwandan Delegation

TBIF Manager and Director (Planning) from KIST attended Training of Trainers organized by IFC, World Bank at Enterprise Development Services of Lagos Business School, Nigeria from 31st October'07 to 4th November'07. This mini Training of Trainers was organized by IFC especially for the Rwandan Delegation from SFB and KIST in order to join their Global Business School network and to promote Technology Entrepreneurship in Rwanda.



Group Photo of the MINI TOT Organized by IFC through EDS, Lagos