



ISFAHAN REGIONAL CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY  
INCUBATORS & SCIENCE PARKS DEVELOPMENT  
(UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO)

NEWSLETTER

VOL.1  
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## *Development & networking*

LATEST ACTIVITIES ON SCIENCE PARKS  
AND INCUBATORS DEVELOPMENT AND  
NETWORKING IN THE REGION

- *Introduction of Category 2 centers of UNESCO*
- *Introduction of the center*
- *Training workshop in Malaysia*
- *Training workshop in Nigeria*
- *Signing MOU with the Municipality of Isfahan*
- *Supporting Sheikh-Bahai Technopreneurship Festival*



## Category 2 centers under the auspices of UNESCO



“UNESCO has designated 98 International and Regional Institutes and Centers as Category 2 under the auspices of UNESCO.

Though not legally part of the Organization, these Institutes and Centers are associated with UNESCO through formal arrangements approved by the General Conference.

They are initially proposed by Member State(s), based on the strength of their specialization in one of UNESCO’s fields of competence. Through capacity-building knowledge sharing and research, they provide a valuable and unique contribution to the implementation of UNESCO’s strategic programme objectives for the benefits of Member States.” -

UNESCO official website

## Category 2 Sectors & Central Services

- Education
- Natural Sciences
- Social and Human Sciences
- Culture
- Communication and Information
- Bureau of Strategic Planning

**HOSTED BY:  
ISTT**

Isfahan Science & Technology Town

As a pioneering organization, ISTT is a combination of many Science Parks and Incubators in 520 ha of land, located next to the Isfahan University of Technology (IUT) in the North of Isfahan, IRAN. The town started its official operations in 2000, and includes Science Parks, Pre-incubator and Incubators.

As provisioned in ISTT's master plan, it is an environment where different elements such as research centers, manufacturing and service companies, and R&D units of government organizations and/or industrial units have been conglomerated into a vast town.

## IRIS as UNESCO category 2 center

Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubators and Science Park Development was established in Isfahan in May 2010 according to an agreement between Islamic Republic of Iran and UNESCO. Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT) is the host for this regional center.

IRIS has been mandated to address and resolve the problems currently limiting the success of Science Parks and Technology Incubators in developing countries. The initial focus of the center as Category II center of UNESCO is on facilitating the integration of developmental approach into science, technology and innovation, developing technology transfer, organizing capacity building, providing policy advice, facilitating the exchange of experience and best practices, and conducting research and problem solving in Science Parks and Technology Incubators development.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



### Mission

This regional center intends to prepare the ground for the development of Technology Incubators and Science Parks in the region through providing consultations, training courses and capacity building. The center is also going to facilitate the international relations among Science Parks and Incubators with their counterparts in the region.

### Objectives

- Conducting capacity-building.
- Providing technical assistance.
- Facilitating knowledge transfer
- Supporting research
- Networking
- Information exchange and dissemination

### GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

- At the first stage, IRIS covers ECO countries including: *Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Iran.*
- In the second stage it will be expanded to a wider international scope

## IRIS Workshop in Malaysia

THE COOPERATION OF ISFAHAN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY TOWN (ISTT) AND MALAYSIAN INDUSTRY-GOVERNMENT GROUP FOR HIGH TECHNOLOGY (MIGHT) IN A TWO DAY WORKSHOP.

Isfahan Regional Centre for Technology Incubators and Science Parks Development (IRIS), under the auspices of UNESCO, Isfahan Science & Technology Town (ISTT) and Malaysian Industrial-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) organized a training workshop on "Science & Technology Parks Management (Global Thinking)" on the 8th and 9th of November 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The workshop had about 40 participants from Thailand, Turkey, Syria, Malaysia and Iran. The speakers were practitioners of China and Australia's science and technology parks. They were Dr. Hongbo Chen, Senior-Vice President of Tuspark and Director of IASP China Office and Dr. David Fuller, Director of Innovation Campus in University of Wollongong, Australia.



The two-day joint training workshop aimed at promoting and strengthening the international network of high-tech clusters, thus preparing the groundwork for development of technology incubators and science parks in the region and to facilitate the international relations among science parks and incubators with their counterparts in the region. Throughout the workshop participants learned about the key success factors in the management of Science and Technology Parks (STPs), and global thinking within STPs. Internationalization of STPs and their tenant companies, was also Among the other subjects discussed.

During the course of the workshop the participants had the privilege to witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Dr.Mahmoud Sheikh-Zeinoddin, President of ISTT alongside the Director of IRIS with Mohd Yusoff Sulaiman, President and CEO of MIGHT.

MoU intends to foster international partnership in technology transferring, facilitate investments on cooperative technologies and know-how development, and encourage partnership between parties by means of technology transfer and exchange.

The event was officiated by Dr. Mahdinejad Nouri, Iran's Deputy Minister of Science, Research and Technology.



# Knowledge Sharing in Nigeria

A TRAINING WORKSHOP ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PARKS AND INCUBATORS DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Taking into account UNESCO's emphasis and IRIS objectives on capacity building, technical assistance and training activities; and with respect to the successful experience of Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT) in establishing and managing Science Parks and Business Incubators, IRIS with the cooperation of ISTT embarked on organizing a training workshop on the Management of a Technology Business Incubator and a Science Park in Abuja, Nigeria. The workshop was requested and hosted by "Abuja Technology Village FZ Co (ATV)". Some 30 participants from different Nigerian organizations including "Abuja Technology Village FZ Co", "Nigeria Ministry of Science & Technology, Incubation program", "Abuja Incubator", "Nigeria Federal Capital Territory", "Nigeria Fundamental Planning Organization" and "Abuja Technology Village Foundation" attended the training workshop for two days. The workshop was conducted and facilitated by Dr. Mohammad Javad Omid, ISTT Vice-President for Technology Development; Ms. Mozghan Yazdianpour, Director of ISTT and IRIS International Affairs Departments; and Mr. Mohammad Sepehr Assadian, Director of ISTT Technology Incubator and also Mr. Nejib Abida, Director of S-Fax Technopark in TUNISIA.

The four speakers from IRAN and TUNISIA shared their



knowledge and experiences in the field with the Nigerian participants. The experiences of ISTT and S-fax Technopark in Admission, Pre-incubation, Incubation, Science Park, Support Services, Evaluation and Financial Affairs were among the subjects that were discussed during the workshop. The participants raised different questions during the workshop that were replied by the Instructors. Meanwhile, an introduction to IRIS in ISTT was made to the participants. The participants also got familiar with ISTT's technopreneurship and entrepreneurship activities including Sheikh Bahai Technopreneurship Festival.

Knowledge and experience sharing based on practical and scientific issues was one of the main characteristics of this workshop.

An evaluation was made after the workshop to see how fruitful it had been to the participants. It showed that almost all participants were satisfied with the contents of the course and a positive feedback was received from the attendees and ATV. The speakers were praised and appreciated by ATV Managing Director at the end of the workshop.



## Spreading the cooperation in the region

### Business Match Making

According to the MOU signed with China Science & Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC), IRIS is working on a program to make a bridge between Iranian and Chinese technology based centers and companies. The first Business Matching Program with Chinese companies is scheduled to be held from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 in Tehran and Isfahan. After sending an announcement for the program, CSTEC has sent a number of applicants to join the program.



در یازدهمین جشنواره ملی فن آفرینی شیخ بهایی برگزار می گردد

### جلسات رو در رو با شرکت های چینی



با همکاری:  
مرکز منطقه ای آپریس (زیر نظر یونسکو)  
مرکز مبادلات علوم و فناوری چین  
شهرک علمی و تحقیقاتی اصفهان

Business Matching Program - May 2015

## Signing a MOU between Isfahan Municipality and IRIS

A MOU was signed between IRIS and Isfahan municipality in which both parties agreed to cooperate more to create an environment of innovation and further development.

Signing a MOU with Municipality of Isfahan was also aimed to develop city diplomacy and Technology Exchange with Isfahan sister cities in other countries. These relations path the road to further Business Match Making such as the MOU's reached with china, and similarly with a number of Malaysian companies during the 9<sup>th</sup> Sheikh-Bahai Technopreneurship Festival (SHTF).

## ISFAHAN SISTER CITIES

Baalbek, Lebanon  
Barcelona, Spain  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Cairo, Egypt  
Dakar, Senegal  
Florence, Italy  
Freiburg, Germany  
Havana, Cuba  
Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

Iasi, Romania  
Istanbul, Turkey  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Kuwait City, Kuwait  
Lahore, Pakistan  
Saint Petersburg, Russia  
Venice, Italy  
Xi'an, Shaanxi, China  
Yerevan, Armenia



## Supporting the Sheikh-Bahai Festival

IRIS SUPPORTED AN IRANIAN NATIONAL FESTIVAL CALLED SHEIKH-BAHAI  
TECHNOPRENEURSHIP FESTIVAL



Sheikh-bahai Technopreneurship Festival



10th  
Sheikh-bahai Technopreneurship  
Festival

To spread the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the region, IRIS always has supported Sheikh-Bahai Technopreneurship Festival as one of the most important technology and entrepreneurship event in Iran.

In the year of 2014, the Sheikh-Bahai Festival was held in the city of Isfahan for the 10th round with supports of IRIS and ISTT.

Training workshops, business match-makings, and exhibition were the main sideline activities supported by IRIS. Two international workshops, “*STP Development & Management*” and “*STPs & Technology Transfer*” were held during the festival. The participants were from Iran (majority), Nigeria, and Oman; and the speakers were from UNESCO, China, Canada, and Iran.

Exhibition and business-match meetings were the most interactive parts of the festival. The exhibition is held to represent the Technopreneurs’ achievements at the sideline of the Festival. In this round, the major industries in the country, knowledge-based companies in STPs, private companies and R&D units were represented at this exhibition, where they could meet their partners and could be visited by a significant number of technical visitors who are their potential customers as well. The business-match meetings is made for technopreneurs and business planners to meet each other and investigate possible ways of cooperation. During the 10th SHTF, investors, business planners, technopreneurs, and owners of the new technology-based ideas came together and negotiated on the ways of commercializing the existing technology-based businesses (semi-industrial/pilot plans) and creation of new knowledge-based businesses.

Sheikh-Bahai Technopreneurship Festival is to foster the culture of creativity, innovation and technopreneurship, and to identify and encourage technopreneurs through out the world. The Festival encompasses all technopreneurial fields including Technical and Engineering, Hygienic and Medicine, Basic Sciences, Agriculture, Humanities, Culture and Art, Services, and so on.

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