

# TBIF NEWS

A KIST / CITT initiative

## Business Incubation in Rwanda

Newsletter No 1



The TBIF team accomplishes Incubation training sessions in the Netherlands

With this first edition of TBIF NEWS we are pleased to inform you about a new approach of supporting the private sector in Rwanda by means of the Technology and Business Incubation Facility (TBIF)

The project started in 2005 as a Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) initiative with support of the Rwandan and Dutch Government. The preparation period has been successfully accomplished and the TBIF will develop into full implementation in 2006. Therefore is this the right moment to inform you about the TBIF status, its present and planned activities.

Because Business Incubation is a new concept in Rwanda the TBIF Team gained specific Incubation know-how in the Netherlands and South Africa, organized by FACET BV, Science Alliance and Godisa respectively. Numerous incubators and incubated companies were visited and the team takes this opportunity to thank all those enthusiastic Incubator Managers, inspiring entrepreneurs and organizers who were key for the development of the initial idea till the realization of this first Business Incubator in Rwanda. The TBIF Manager Mrs. Ruzibuka says "All this heartwarming support certainly formed the foundation of what has been realized to day, and all further developments to come"

Meanwhile the Incubator facilities are under construction, the support system to TBIF clients "outside the walls" is in full swing. Meaning that entrepreneurs are assisted to start-up in their own market environment. During the entire trajet, from the first business idea till financing, prospective entrepreneurs are in close contact with the TBIF who offers them training and consultancy. As soon the construction of the Incubator Facilities will be completed we look forward to inform you about our tenants.

The TBIF works closely with another KIST initiative, the KIST Enterprise Development Fund (KEDF) who takes care for the financial services. Both units form an integrated system to improve the private sector situation in Rwanda. The next TBIF NEWS editions will provide more detailed information about this system and its development.

### Welcome

Dear Reader,

We hope you find our first TBIF Newsletter useful and informative. If you wish to find out more and to make sure that you will receive every issue of our Newsletters then please send us your email or fax details,

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TBIF Manager

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### TBIF key achievements

#### Institutionalization

TBIF Steering Committee approved the TBIF Business Plan 2005-2010.

#### Capacity Building

In addition to training program in the Netherlands, the TBIF key staff accomplished internships in South African Business Incubators

#### Incubator Facilities

Two new buildings are presently under construction to accommodate 15 new enterprises "within the TBIF walls"

#### Incubation activities

33 prospective entrepreneurs accomplished the Basic Corporate Business Management training, other 53 have been counseled on business matters and 7 have been financed.



Incubator facilities under construction at KIST/CITT Remera Campus, Kigali

### Mr. Paul Barrera from Nyamata Tele-service Centre says:

I started my business in 2004, while I was still a student at KIST, undertaking a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. However, before being in touch with the TBIF it was very difficult to make any progress due to lack of finance and appropriate skills. Assisted by the TBIF I was able to concretize my ideas, resulting in the approval of my Business Plan for KEDF funding in August 2005. Now I am in business and look back how I developed my first idea into a real enterprise, I realize how much I learnt in such a relatively short period. I am grateful that the TBIF consultants not only assisted me with technical business matters but supported and inspired me at difficult moments.

I am pleased to inform you that with TBIF assistance it was not too difficult to realize my dream, and as you notice: "I am in Business now!!!" →



Mr. Paul Barrera and TBIF Manager, Mrs. Rebecca Ruzibuka during one of the consulting meetings

**TBIF** [Technology and Business Incubation Facility](#)