

TBIF NEWS

A KIST / CITT initiative **ICT to enhance Incubation impact**

Newsletter No 6



E-learning for the TBIF team

Key Achievements

Capacity Building

The TBIF Information Expert and other eleven KIST Staff members were trained in Projects Planning and Management by the Kenya based Professional Training Consultants from June 12th to 24th, 2006 at Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST).

Consulting

Additional fifteen clients received consultancy services on how to start a business from TBIF.

Linkages

During may additional linkages have been made with a good number of organizations including Rwanda Information Technology Authority (RITA) that is running the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) Park.

Cooperation

TBIF submitted a proposal to the African Development Bank with the main objective of getting a fund to finance additional 24 tenant rooms and provide a guarantee fund for KIST Entrepreneurship Development Fund (KEDF).

Information Communication Technology (ICT) has become a prerequisite for business start and sustained growth. Business communities are internationally connected and those in Rwanda are no exception. In order to make the TBIF clients more competitive on national and international level, ICT must be part and parcel of the TBIF Business Development Services (BDSs).

To provide ICT related services at the right level and in all nooks and corners of Rwanda it has been realized that the TBIF itself must be strengthened with appropriate means and capacities before it can serve its clients in the most adequate manner. It was in this spirit that the TBIF submitted a proposal for an ICT related development project to the World Bank InfoDev project. Now that this project has been won the TBIF is in the position to embark on enhancing its Incubation system by improving its ICT infrastructure by capacity building of its staff and clients. A website, including many business related features, will be developed for wider outreach to the Rwandan Business Community resulting in a greater impact of the incubator.

The TBIF website will not only serve as an information resource for starting and growing businesses with links to tenant/client websites, but now there is the opportunity to introduce E-learning systems, focusing on distance learning and mentoring so that trainees can get access to TBIF services, wherever that may be, at affordable costs and efforts. Staff and tenants, soon housed in the recently completed Incubator buildings will be fully networked with broad band connectivity. Tenants will be assisted by setting up their local area networks and with building their own websites.

Presently TBIF team members have their own personal computers. TBIF owns a computer lab with twenty PCs which is used by potential and starting entrepreneurs for developing their business plans. In addition, the Lab is used for training business people in computer skills and applications of various business related software. A TBIF ICT Officer is available on a full time basis to assist lab users on computer learning and/or problem solving.

It goes without saying that the existing capacity, strengthened with the support from the World Bank's InfoDev program, will contribute enormously to reach TBIF's mission:

“To stimulate new business developments and growth of enterprises into successful, well structured, well managed, fully productive enterprises for the benefit of all in Rwanda”

Note of the Editor

Dear Reader,

TBIF strives continuously to improve its services to tenants and clients. This becomes possible by working closely with development partners and experts. In this edition we show how ICT capacity will be built by the TBIF clients on the first place, but also within the TBIF itself with the assistance of the World Bank InfoDev project.

TBIF Team.

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The Ghana Conference on Innovation and ICT.

Recently, TBIF Manager and Liaison Officer attended the Africa Regional Workshop on Incubator Initiatives and programs. This was held under the auspices of the Information for Development (InfoDev) Program of the World Bank.

It should be noted that InfoDev has confirmed a grant of USD 150,000 that will enhance the integration of ICT in incubator activities.

We hope that through training on ICT skills, knowledge and application, as well as online networking and information exchange, TBIF will make a significant impact on the overall SME's growth in Rwanda.

Latest Clients

Virtual Vision for Education (VIVEDUC) is a young ICT company that specializes in developing a self-tutored computer training centre in Kigali City. It is located near the Kimihurura roundabout, adjacent to the Kigali Business Centre (KBC).

Modern Bread Centre is a start-up bakery enterprise based in the Western Province of the Country. Like the former, the business starts with three full time employees but both plan to increase the number of personnel considerably during the loan term period.

Both clients have received the first disbursements of the requested funding through KEDF from the participating Financial Institute CSS ZIGAMA.



Trainees at TBIF Computer Lab