



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

NEWSLETTER

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## *Development & networking*

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

- *Important visitors to Iris*
- *Training workshop in China*
- *Training workshop in Oman*
- *Organizing our start-up event, or “IDEA SHOW”*

## Important Visitors to IRIS :

### **Madam Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director General:**

H. E. Madam Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO, visited Isfahan Science & Technology Town (ISTT) and Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubators & Science Parks Development under the auspices of UNESCO (IRIS), on her visit to Isfahan on April 28th, 2014.

During her stay she visited with:

- Director of IRIS and ISTT president
- Sheikh-Bahai Science & Technology Park
- Successful woman entrepreneurs
- Children Science Park in ISTT
- President Rouhani



Her Excellency's interview with Isfahan local TV during this visit, Madam Bokova elaborated on the objective of her visit to ISTT. She mentioned that H.E. intended to visit the activities and achievements of IRIS and ISTT and mentioned that she is satisfied with the progresses these organizations have made. Director General of UNESCO expressed her satisfaction over visiting Sheikh-Bahai STP, Children Science Park, and also involvement of women in ISTT and IRIS. She also met with a number of students that were visiting Children Science Park at the same time and added that she had been surprised from seeing students in the park and what they had learned of science especially from such good atmosphere and conditions.

H. E. Madam Irina Bokova promised to help expand the cooperation of UNESCO with ISTT & IRIS and support the centers' activities.

#### ***Meeting with President Rouhani:***

following the mentioned visits, she met with Iran's President, Dr. Rouhani. In response to President Rouhani's reference to the high enrolment rate of youth in science and technology, the Director-General noted the important contribution of the Regional Centre for the Development of Science Parks and Technology Incubators under UNESCO auspices, located in the Isfahan Science and Technology Town, to foster youth engagement and development, providing them with the opportunities to fully take part in the sustainable development of their country.



## Important Visitors to IRIS :

### **DR Hasan Rouhani, President of Iran:**

Dr. Hassan Rouhani, honorable president of Iran, visited Isfahan Science & Technology Town (ISTT) and Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubators & Science Parks Development, under the auspices of UNESCO (IRIS) on his visit to Isfahan province on February 5th, 2015. President Rouhani that was accompanied by several cabinet members was briefed on the activities of ISTT, IRIS and the latest technologies of some knowledge-based companies settled in ISTT.



### **Prof. Gretchen Kalonji, UNESCO Assistant Director General:**

UNESCO Assistant Director General, Prof. Kalonji visited IRIS in May 2013. During her travel to Iran, she met with many officials including :

- Governor General of Isfahan province
- Minister of Science, Research, and Technology

#### ***Meeting with Governor General of Isfahan province :***

Prof. Kalonji met with Dr. Zaker Isfahani, the governor general of Isfahan province. In this meeting, the Governor General of Isfahan Province introduced some of the major potentials and capacities of the city of Isfahan .Dr. Zaker briefly explained about different scientific, technological, cultural and historical backgrounds of the Province and he further elaborated on the role of the city in promoting Islamic culture and civilization as a key player in Iranian development and civilization and the Islamic world. The Governor General also pointed to the scientific and industrial zones in Isfahan and pointed out to the significant role of Isfahan Science & Technology Town (ISTT) in the economic development of the region. Additionally, he explained about the challenges that currently the province is dealing with including the pollution and the draught and asked for UNESCO involvement in helping to solve these problems .

## Important Visitors to IRIS :

Director General of UNESCO, Prof. Kalonji expressed her satisfaction over travelling to Isfahan and having meetings with different authorities in the Province including the Governor General. She said that she is interested in the history of Isfahan. Being a world heritage site, and having so many different attractions and potentials, she said, had greatly impressed her . She also added that UNESCO is concerned about the present challenges that the world is dealing with and further explained about the international efforts and special programs made by UNESCO and some international organizations to help solve the province issues.

### ***UNESCO ADG's meeting with the Minister of Science, Research, and Technology:***

During Prof. Kalonji's visits and meetings in Iran, she also met with Dr. Kamran Daneshjoo, the Minister of Science, Research, and Technology (SRT) of IRAN. In this meeting, Prof. Kalonji said the development of Iran in science has been impressive in recent years. she also expressed about the good level of cooperation between Iran and UNESCO and pointed to the 3 active centers among 26 centers of UNESCO around the world which are in Iran including IRIS (hosted by ISTT), Regional Center on Urban Water Management in Tehran, and International Center on Qanats & Historic Hydraulic Structures (ICQHS). Prof. Kalonji pointed to the close cooperation of Iran and UNESCO in science and culture development, and she announced that UNESCO is ready to spread out its cooperation with MSRT to develop scientific networks of the Islamic world in Asia and Pacific.

During her visit Prof. Kalonji also gave two speeches:

- Speech for the Governing Board Meeting
- Speech in 9th Sheikh-Bahai Technopreneurship Festival

### ***UNESCO ADG's Speech in Governing Board Meeting :***

Prof. Kalonji attended the 5<sup>th</sup> IRIS Governing Board meeting and was briefed on IRIS activities so far. A report of IRIS activities was provided by IRIS Director and the plans for 2014 were discussed and approved by the board.

Organizing training workshops in other countries was emphasized by the board and UNESCO representatives. Conveying IRIS activities to other countries was also among the subjects that were suggested by the board. A report also was made on the building that was allocated to IRIS by Isfahan Municipality and following that the operational construction activities of the building were inaugurated.



## Important Visitors to IRIS :

### ***UNESCO ADG's Speech in 9th Sheikh-Bahai Technopreneurship Festival :***

Prof. Kalonji spoke at the 9<sup>th</sup> Sheikh-Bahai Technopreneurship Festival Closing Ceremony. "ISTT has great capability to spread out its activities into the international level", Prof. Kalonji said.

UNESCO Assistant Director General continued to say that "Iran has very good cooperation with UNESCO in the fields of Technology, Water Management, Oceanography, and Biological Diversity". "Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubators and Science Parks Development (IRIS), Regional Center on Urban Water Management in Tehran, and International Center on Qanats & Historic Hydraulic Structures (ICQHS) in Yazd, are the centers that have been built up in line with them".

Prof. Kalonji pointed out that UNESCO uses network-cooperation method in driving forward its objectives and programs, and also added that category II centers of UNESCO (such as IRIS) are an example of such a method. Prof. Kalonji expressed that UNESCO programs are based on two fundamental objectives which are entrepreneurship activities & sustainable development, alongside global peace. She also added that most of the UNESCO activities are in scientific policy-making and capacity-building.

Prof. Kalonji said that Iran has much to say in international forums and has the ability to help developing science and the culture of innovation in other countries, especially developing countries.



### ***Inauguration of IRIS new building:***

Following negotiations with Isfahan Municipality, a building was allocated by the municipality to IRIS activities in downtown Isfahan. The operational construction activities were inaugurated with the attendance of UNESCO ADG .



## The Development of Science & Technology Parks and Incubators, Training workshop in China.

This training workshop was arranged following a cooperation agreement between IRIS, ISTT and Z-Park and was scheduled for the period of June 15-22, 2014 .

The aim of this workshop was to make the participants familiar with the executive procedures, policies, and strategies of Chinese science parks in supporting technology companies in the parks.

During this workshop some technical visits of a number of science parks and incubators as well as some companies in Beijing were arranged; hence giving a unique advantage to this workshop.



There were about 30 participants from different countries including Iran, Pakistan, Egypt, Malaysia and Romania. The 6 speakers of the workshop shared their knowledge and experience with the participants. There were 5 speakers from China and one from Iran. 18 participants were from Iran who were managers of Iranian science parks and incubators that were at the beginning of their way for developing their parks and incubators, and the rest were from other countries that had been mainly invited by IRIS or Z-Park.

The main subjects discussed during this one week workshop were:

- Zhongguancun Innovation Service Ecosystem
- Where the dream begins
- Overview of China's Torch Program
- Support for knowledge-based SMEs in Iran
- Starting Cluster Supporting Policies for the Development of SME
- Further Innovation in Technology
- Finance of Zhongguancun
- Zhongguancun Fengtai Science Park



## The Development of Science & Technology Parks and Incubators, Training workshop in Oman.

Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubators and Science Parks Development (IRIS) under the auspices of UNESCO, with the cooperation of Isfahan Science & Technology Town (ISTT), and in liaison with IASP WANA Division organized a training workshop on the Development of Science & Technology Parks and Incubators on the 3rd- 5th of March 2015 in Muscat, Oman.



This workshop was organized in line with UNESCO's emphasis and IRIS objectives on capacity building, providing technical assistance and organizing training activities; together with the successful experience of ISTT in establishing and managing science parks and incubators. The workshop was requested and hosted by "Muscat Innovation Park" and "The Research Council". Around 35 participants from different organizations in Oman including the followings attended the training workshop for three days:

- Knowledge Oasis Oman, Technology Park
- Public Establishment for Industrial Estates
- Zubair SEC
- The Research Council
- Innovation Park Muscat
- Sultan Qabus University
- National Bank Muscat
- Innovation & Entrepreneurship Dept.

The workshop was conducted and facilitated by Dr. Mohammad Javad Omid, ISTT Vice-President for Technology Development & Director of IRIS; Ms. Mozghan Yazdianpour, Director of ISTT and IRIS International & Scientific Cooperation Departments; and Mr. Mohammad Sepehr Assadian, Director of ISTT Technology Incubator. The three speakers from IRAN shared their knowledge and experiences in the field with the Omani participants. The experiences of ISTT in admission, pre-incubation, incubation, Science Park, support services, evaluation, mentorship, Investment 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. An introduction to IRIS and ISTT was also made to the participants during the workshop. The participants familiarized themselves with ISTT's technopreneurship and entrepreneurship activities including Sheikh Bahai Technopreneurship Festival.



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 positive feedback was received from the attendees. Knowledge and experience sharing based on practical and scientific issues was one of the main characteristics of this workshop. The speakers were praised and appreciated by IPM Managing Director at the end of the workshop.

IRIS acts as a regional platform for promoting the development of science parks and technology incubators. The basic activities of this regional center include conducting capacity-building, providing technical assistance, facilitating knowledge transfer, supporting research, networking; and information exchange and dissemination.



## Organizing our start-up event, or “IDEA SHOW”

### ***What is an “Idea Show” ?***

An IDEA SHOW is a platform where university students and graduates can share their experiences, interests and thoughts and ideas with one another and interested outsiders. It is held to create an opportunity for owners of ideas to promote their ideas in a friendly environment.

Each participant will present his/her idea in 3 minutes which is then judged and evaluated by the jury. The judgment criteria includes: understandability of the idea for the audience, relevancy with the specialization of the individual, innovation, the possibility of learning and using the idea, and attractiveness.

The objective for organizing such an event by ISTT and IRIS, is to promote the culture of cultivating new ideas and concepts, and also familiarizing the new generation with entrepreneurship and innovation. During this event, other programs are also arranged including a competition section, and training workshops on innovation and creativity. IRIS and ISTT have already organized 3 Idea Show events for different groups of society.



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