



## INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

3<sup>rd</sup> *infoDev* Global Forum on  
Innovation & Entrepreneurship

XIX Brazilian National Seminar on  
Science Parks and Business Incubation

INVESTMENT, INTERNATIONALIZATION AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

October 26-30, 2009 – Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil

### DESCRIPTION FOR BREAKOUT SESSIONS

#### Concurrent Break-out Sessions - Thursday October 29<sup>th</sup>

On Thursday morning, four breakout sessions will cover specific types of business incubation, including incubating women and youth entrepreneurs, incubating high-growth ICT enterprises and incubating clients virtually. In addition to these sessions, there will be two focus groups, which will discuss two new programs that *infoDev* will be launching on co-incubation of SMEs and on developing an online platform that will improve access to intellectual property in the following sectors: Clean Technology, Water, and Agribusiness. Each of the sessions will be delivered twice (i.e. before the coffee break and after), which will enable participants to attend two of the sessions.

#### 1. Business Incubation & Women Entrepreneurs

Women entrepreneurs in traditionally male dominated societies often face gender-based barriers to business resources, and they also often battle their own self-confidence as entrepreneurs. Many women entrepreneurs also have to balance their role as primary care-taker with that of business owner. Business incubation of women entrepreneurs must be designed with these challenges in mind. This session will discuss the findings of *infoDev*'s global working group on business incubation of women entrepreneurs and incubator managers from across the globe will share their experiences.

#### 2. Business Incubation & Youth Entrepreneurs

Many developing countries face the challenge of rising youth unemployment. One way to help alleviate this problem is to help youth start and expand their own businesses. However, business incubation targeting youth entrepreneurs is not without challenges since these entrepreneurs are often inexperienced and have few networks and resources. This session will discuss the findings of *infoDev*'s global working group on business incubation of youth entrepreneurs and incubator managers from across the globe will share their experiences.

#### 3. High Growth ICT Enterprise Incubation

The ICT-and ICT-related sectors present large economic opportunities for many developing countries. In order to use business incubation effectively to generate high-growth ICT enterprises, a number of issues need to be resolved, including barriers to finance for knowledge-based enterprises. This session will discuss the findings of *infoDev*'s global working group on business incubation of high-growth ICT enterprises incubator managers from across the globe will share their experiences.

#### **4. Virtual Incubation & Innovation Networks**

Virtual incubation is one means by which business incubators can reach a larger target group than through classical (physical) incubation (i.e. Where the client is physically located within the incubator). This session will discuss some of the opportunities and challenges of virtual incubation, as well as present concrete examples of practical experiences with virtual incubation and developing broader innovation networks. Business incubator managers and entrepreneurs from across the globe will share their experiences.

#### **5. Co-Incubation – Focus Group**

In 2010 *infoDev* will be launching a new co-incubation program designed to assist incubated businesses in their internationalization process. The program, sponsored by the Government of Finland, will aim to leverage *infoDev*'s international network of business incubators , spanning more than 80 developing countries, to help entrepreneurs more effectively enter foreign markets. This Focus Group will engage the audience in a discussion that will provide direct input to the design of the co-incubation program.

#### **6. Global Innovation Commons – Focus Group**

*infoDev* is collaborating with M•CAM to develop an open source platform for intellectual property in the following sectors: Clean Technology, Water, and Agribusiness. The “Global Innovation Commons” builds on M•CAM's original open source IP system and will enable users to rapidly access any individual or aggregated innovation solution in these sectors. During this session, *infoDev* and M•CAM will present a pilot of this platform and will seek feedback from participants on the design and content provided.