



# **INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISE PROMOTION CONVENTION**

**15-17 November 2009 - Harrogate, North Yorkshire, UK**

## **NEWS RELEASE 2**

### **INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISE PROMOTION CONVENTION**

There has been an excellent response to a major new international convention on enterprise promotion being staged in the Harrogate International Centre in Yorkshire on 15-17 November 2009. There will be about 150 presentations of best practice and innovation in the creation and support of small businesses.

The Convention is run by the International Association for Enterprise Promotion which has appointed David Irwin as its first Chairman. David has a long history of enterprise support. He co-founded one of the first enterprise agencies; he was founder CEO of the Government's Small Business Service; he is a trustee of the Sunderland Youth Enterprise Trust. He now consults all round the world advising on the creation of small business support initiatives and on the regulatory environment.

*Irwin says, "It is a privilege to take on the role of Chairman of this new association. I am conscious that there are thousands of people round the world encouraging, advising and supporting entrepreneurs - but I am also conscious that there is not nearly enough sharing of lessons from the successes that so many of these practitioners achieve. So the purpose of the association, and of the first International Enterprise Promotion Convention, which will be held in Harrogate in November, is to provide a forum to enable practitioners to share their lessons and to seek new ideas from others. This is a unique opportunity for all business advisers, coaches, consultants, counsellors, educators, financiers, mentors and trainers to promote their own successes and to network with like-minded specialists in enterprise creation and development from around the world."*

This new Convention will also be an opportunity for many overseas delegates to exchange views and learn about best practice in enterprise promotion. Leading international figures are expected from enterprise education and training, from business support agencies and from government SME policy-makers. The Convention is sponsored by UK Trade & Investment, Yorkshire Forward, Leeds Metropolitan University and RBS NatWest. It is supported by The Queen's Awards Office and many recipients of The Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion. The Convention brings together many organisations in the UK and internationally that specialise in helping individuals to start their own business and then guiding them through the initial development phase to a secure trading position in their own Country and onward into the global market. Several of the UK's leading organisations in the small business support sector are expected to take key roles in the presentation of case studies and examples of best practice, including for example:

*ACT – the network for enterprise support professionals*

*Business Link – real help for business – free business advice and support service*

*EEUK – Enterprise Educators UK - formerly UKSEC, the national network for enterprise educators*

*Enterprise Insight – Make your Mark Campaign + Global Entrepreneurship Week launch*

*IBC – Institute for Business Consulting -- professional body for consultants & business advisers*

*NFEA – National Federation of Enterprise Agencies – the national enterprise network*

*SFEDI – setting standards for Business Support and Business Enterprise.*

*Shell LiveWIRE – encouraging young people to start and develop their own business.*

*UKSPA – United Kingdom Science Park Association – building technology business*

*YEUK – Young Enterprise – learning by doing + YPEF – inspiring young minds*

PTO

***- best practice and innovation in the creation and support of small businesses world-wide***

## News Release 2 *(continued)*

### **NOTES FOR EDITORS:**

David Irwin is a social entrepreneur. In 1980, he co-founded Project North East (PNE), one of the UK's leading enterprise and economic development agencies, and was its chief executive for 20 years. From early 2000 till 2002, he was Chief Executive of the Small Business Service, an executive agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, with responsibility for managing all of the Government's small business support programmes and a role as the "strong voice for small business at the heart of Government".

Now, he consults in enterprise and economic development working with clients such as DANIDA, Department for International Development, OECD, Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, World Bank, Gates Foundation and Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. He is non executive Chairman of Cobweb Information Ltd, a business which researches, publishes and markets business information. He is a trustee of Sunderland Youth Enterprise Trust. He is a member of the Investment Committee and a non-executive member of the Board of Oxfam's Enterprise Development Programme.

He was awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion in 2009. *(Photograph available on request)*

### **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

This Convention is being organised on a low-cost not-for-profit basis so that as many SME specialists and support organisations as possible can attend from both the UK and overseas – for example:–

Business Advisers, Brokers, Coaches, Consultants, Counsellors Facilitators and Mentors; Entrepreneurship Educators, Teachers & Trainers; Financiers & Venture Capitalists; Government SME Policy Makers & Development Agencies; Incubation & Innovation Centres; Science Parks; Qualifying Bodies; Professional Institutes; SME Support Organisations; Trade Associations; Chambers of Trade & Commerce, etc.

Facilities will be made available for each special interest group to have their own Plenary and Workshop Sessions plus appropriate evening social events within the overall programme for the Convention.

There will also be a large "Enterprise Expo" of publishers of business magazines and books, software and training programmes, professional service providers, trainers, consultancies, franchises, etc.

**MAIN THEMES:** in Workshops, Case Studies & Debates – dependent on the interests of participants.

- A - Advancing entrepreneurship education and training world-wide
- B - Business creation and development - stimulating start-ups
- C - Community, ethnic, minority, rural and social enterprises
- D - Developing enterprise in emerging and transition economies
- E - E-business, e-learning, e-mailing and website marketing
- I - Innovation, incubation, networks and knowledge transfer
- M - Management, skills, environmental and global growth issues
- S - Supporting small business development world-wide
- V - Venture capital, business angels, finance, regulation & taxation
- W - Women's enterprise and family business development
- Y - Youth enterprise support programmes world-wide

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