

"Pilgrim, roads are made by walking" Anonymous

"All it takes is one idea to solve an impossible problem" Robert Schuller

Dear Colleague in Innovation,

Request for Nominations: Innovation Systems Leadership Programme

Innovation and competitiveness are of the utmost importance for the global relevance of our companies, research institutions and public services. National government has embarked on a serious drive to improve the R&D output of our private firms by introducing various policies and support mechanisms aimed at increasing private sector buy-in and commitment to innovation (e.g. 150% tax incentive for R&D). However, individual efforts are not enough and we need to increase collaboration among the private, public and academic sectors.

The Cooperation Framework on Innovation Systems between Finland and South Africa (COFISA) is a partnership between the Department of Science and Technology and the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. COFISA leverages the Finnish experience and expertise in developing one of the world's leading innovation communities in order to improve the South African innovation system.

You are herewith cordially invited to nominate candidates to attend the pilot "Innovation Systems Leadership Programme" developed under the auspices of COFISA by Finnish and South African innovation experts.

The main purpose of the programme is to create capacity in the South African National System of Innovation (SANSI) and to support effective co-operation between leaders from government, academia and the private sector in order to stimulate innovation in our country. Furthermore, the programme aims to create both local and international networking opportunities for its participants.

The cost of the programme (approximately R40 000 per candidate) will be carried by COFISA and only 20 candidates will be selected for this initial course. It is therefore important to carefully nominate potential participants that are preferably in a leadership, management or specialist position and who can have significant and lasting impact on innovation in their separate sectors of society.

The programme will consist of three overall modules and impact on 10-12 working days in total. Seven days of training are scheduled for November/December 2008 and participants will be required to attend a further 3-5 days in February 2009. The November/December modules will take place in Pretoria. Final details of the venues will be provided in due course.



science and technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Suite L10
Enterprise Building
The Innovation Hub
Lynnwood, Pretoria
0087**

**Tel: 012 844 1143
Fax: 086 681 0205
Web: www.cofisa.org.za**

Full details of the programme content and specific dates are attached hereto as Annexure A. Travel, accommodation and subsistence costs within South Africa for all three modules must be carried by the participant. The third module may include a study visit to Finland. Costs for travel and accommodation for the international aspect will be covered by COFISA.

Please feel free to nominate yourself for this intervention or forward it to the relevant parties in your enterprise. Nominations close on 30 September 2008. Nominated candidates will be contacted to confirm personal details and to ensure programme commitment after which final selection will take place.

By participating in this initiative, you will gain first-hand insight into leading practices pertaining to innovation and international business competitiveness. It is an opportunity not to be missed and will be an investment in sustainable innovation that will result in continuous payback for you/your organisation and the country.

Candidates who attend all modules will receive an attendance certificate, opportunities to network with national and international innovation role players and insight into the relevant knowledge and skills pertaining to the management of innovation systems. The programme will be conducted by both Finnish and South African experts on the topic.

Please contact the course coordinator Audrey Verhaeghe at Audrey@riis.co.za for general enquiries or if you need more information about the course content. Programme nominations can be sent to Henra Mayer at Henra@riis.co.za by submitting a short CV (maximum 3 pages) and full contact details of the person nominated by no later than 30 September 2008, 12h00.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Nirvashnee Seetal

South African National Coordinator: COFISA
Department of Science and Technology
05.09.2008

Annexure A
Innovation Systems Leadership Programme

MODULE 1: Finnish Innovation Systems Module
10-12 November 2008, Pretoria

1. Scientific and Technology Based Innovation in National Development and Competitiveness
2. Innovation Theory and the Definition of a National System of Innovation
3. The Innovation Policy Framework and Support for Collaboration
4. Innovation Change Agents
5. Human Resource Development for the Knowledge Economy
6. Monitoring and Evaluation of R&D and Innovation

Presented by Finnish Experts

MODULE 2: South African Innovation Systems Module
1-4 December 2008, Pretoria

1. The South African National System of Innovation as a Vehicle for Transforming SA's Economic and Social Development Agendas.
2. Innovation Tools and Best Practice for Regional Collaboration and Innovation Output (Regional Innovation Systems)
3. South African Case Study in Regional Innovation Systems
4. Organisational Innovation and the Role of all Stakeholders in the Innovation Value Chain
5. Measuring Innovation
6. Bottom-up Innovation: Starting with the Innovative Individual

Presented by South African Experts

MODULE 3: Practical application and site visits
2-6 February 2009

This module will consist of various site visits and group challenges.