IOP Entrepreneurial Workshops

Empowering innovators everywhere
Bridging the gap between science and business

Science does not exist in a bubble. It is vitally important to translate scientific knowledge into commercially viable enterprises, which can bring prosperity to local communities and, in the longer term, entire countries. The Institute of Physics (IOP) knows this well – in the UK and Ireland, we champion the invaluable contribution of researchers and physics-based innovators to help them drive our economy forward. For aspiring entrepreneurs in developing countries, however, this vital support is often not available.

To address this knowledge gap and support scientists and engineers from around the world, the IOP and its partners have developed a programme of entrepreneurial workshops. These workshops, held at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste and in a number of host countries, aim to give participants the information, insight and training they need to make the shift from scientific research to business application.

Case Study: The Philippines

“I attended the IOP’s workshop on entrepreneurial skills in 2010, and it has proved enormously useful. I would really encourage others embarking on new physics-based business ventures to experience everything that I did at the workshop. Having access to the expertise of international lecturers is invaluable. The material covered is all essential knowledge for anyone setting up a company, and the hands on development of a real business plan, under the supervision of highly experienced professionals, is a real eye-opener.”

Rosula Reyes, Blue Chip Designs

How it works

Each workshop includes a selection of speakers from areas as diverse as government, academia, research, international organisations and both the private and not-for-profit sectors as well as visits from former workshop participants who have gone on to start businesses. The speakers cover essential topics in business development, such as intellectual copyright, business contracts and market analysis and they also discuss their own personal experiences on starting a business.

In between the lecture-based sessions are a series of group exercises that require participants to put the information learned into practice by preparing to launch their own enterprise. At the end of the week, these groups pitch their business concepts to a panel of judges, with the winners taking home a prize to assist with the launch of their business ventures.
Where we reach

Through entrepreneurial workshops, the IOP and its partners have already trained more than 1,000 participants from more than 40 countries. This broad reach helps to create an international network of entrepreneurs that can share experiences with one another and provide support for other entrepreneurs back home.

Map key:
- Countries hosting an IOP entrepreneurial workshop
- Home countries of participants attending IOP entrepreneurial workshops in Trieste
- Countries hosting an entrepreneurial workshop and sending participants to a workshop in Trieste

Why it helps

Most scientists are trained in their discipline, not in establishing a business. Through entrepreneurial workshops, the IOP and its partners help to introduce participants to essential aspects of business development that they may not have encountered before. By providing expert insight into these topics the workshops equip participants with the knowledge they need to embark on business endeavours of their own. This gives aspiring entrepreneurs a head start towards commercialising innovations of their own.
The IOP's entrepreneurial workshops are supported by:

To find out more about how you can support entrepreneurial physicists everywhere, please contact Jean Smith at:

Email: fundraising@iop.org
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Or find us online at: iop.org/about/fundraising

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