



INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISE PROMOTION CONVENTION

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

Testimonials 2009

The following typical comments have been selected by Maggie Hall, Convention Coordinator and copied verbatim from Delegate Evaluation Forms and personal e-mails received to date.

International Speakers & Delegates

"... a big thank you to you and your team for organising such an exceptional event. It was extremely enjoyable and I was delighted to be a part of it. We could do with something like it in Cairo. Everybody must have gone away enthused. I know I did."

Prof David Kirby, Founding Dean & Chair of Business Admin., The British University in Cairo, **Egypt**

"The Convention was really a great experience for Nepalese delegation. I am planning to reinvent enterprise promotion in Nepal with the inspiring lessons learnt from the sessions of the Convention. Your cooperation and support in this regard is highly commendable and appreciated."

Pratap Kumar Pathak, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, **Nepal**

"Congratulations for organising a very successful conference." "An excellent convention that should be emulated by professionals in other sectors!"

Mohammed Jibrin, Director/Centre Manager, National Board for Technology Incubation (Federal Ministry of Science & Technology), **Nigeria**

"In this convention I learnt about Plan B. That is the first business plan often contains a lot of unrealistic assumptions which will mean that the plan will not succeed. Hence need for Plan B."

Byaruhanga Joseph Kadoma, Uganda Gatsby Trust, **Uganda**

"Learned a lot and will apply to improve what I am doing to upgrade academic programme in entrepreneurship."

Prof Edwin Bbenkele, Head & Chair, Department of Entrepreneurship, University of Johannesburg, **South Africa**

"The convention was well organised and very educating."

Abdul-Fatah Shittu, Deputy Director, National Board for Technology Incubation, **Nigeria**

"Tremendously organised. Great communication prior to and throughout the Convention. Great focus on practitioners' experience. Great international flavour - made great networks - formed potential partnerships."

Kyleen Myrah, School of Business, Okanagan University College, **Canada**

"Thank you for organising the enlightening convention."

Dr Ben Nachman, Center for Academic Studies in Management, Social Sciences & Humanities, **Israel**

"You are to be congratulated on setting a new standard of excellence in conferences for UK business leaders, innovators and practitioners. Best conference I have attended for a very long time."

"... our most sincere thanks and gratitude for your efforts in organizing a successful convention and truly hope that we have managed to give the convention an international sense of perspective."

Ramadan S Elmorhag, Head of Planning & Business Environment, National Programme for Small & Medium Enterprises, **Libya**

"Offers a new kind of perspective to Entrepreneurship education from the practitioners."

Prof Sunday Owualah, Head of Department of Finance, University of Lagos, **Nigeria**

"Great opportunity for new entrepreneurs, some academics might be bored."

"Bartolomej Gabrys, University of Economics in Katowice, **Poland**

"Thanks for a wonderful organisation."

Oliver Hirsch, iq consult gmbh, **Germany**

"The best SME conference."

Akinwunmi Taiwo Somefun, Centre Manager, National Board for Technology Incubation, **Nigeria**

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

Testimonials 2009 *(continued)*

"My testimony is that your convention was excellent, especially the venue, Harrogate International Conference Centre."

Patricia Uchenna Chukwu, Centre Manager, National Board for Technology Incubation, **Nigeria**

"I am personally satisfied that this convention will change the lives of all those who come across the proceedings."

Ifenyinwa Evelyn Nwokolo, Business Development/ Commercial Officer,
Technology Incubation Centre, **Nigeria**

"This Convention has taught me how to improve on entrepreneurial skills and involve women in entrepreneurship."

Margaret Mopelola Adeyeye, Centre for Energy Research & Development, **Nigeria**

"As an entrepreneurship educator, this convention has taught me to teach the right things in the right ways, not to kill the entrepreneurial spirit in my students. Thanks so much for all the effort put in to bring seasoned speakers to enlighten entrepreneurship educators."

Catherine Akinbami, Obafemi Awolowo University, **Nigeria**

UK Speakers & Delegates

"... Brian and the team did a fantastic job. ... everything worked like clockwork. The venue was excellent and everyone to whom I spoke was very complimentary about the venue and would be happy to return."

David Irwin, (Convention Chair) Partner, Irwin Grayson Associates, **Northumberland**

"... congratulate you on your immense initiative in mounting the convention and achieving such a major success. It was really great to have so many practitioners there from around the world. I learnt a lot. What a difference from the normal narrow academic scenario."

Prof Allan Gibb, Professor Emeritus, University of **Durham**

"I would like to offer my congratulations on an excellent conference and a very impressive list of speakers and delegates." "Many congratulations on a hugely successful conference in Harrogate. I am sure that you must have received many well earned bouquets for the excellent organisation, scale and quality of the event, which I hope will be the first of many."

Paul Davidson, Chief Executive, **Bolton** Business Ventures Ltd

"The entire Conference was a real knock out – well done by Brian and all !"

Prof Alan Barrell, Entrepreneur in Residence, University of **Cambridge**

"Congratulations on a job well done."

Prof John Thompson, Roger M Bale Professor of Entrepreneurship, University of **Huddersfield**

"First opportunity for QAEP holders to get together. Very beneficial with excellent speakers and meaningful networking opportunities. A very well organised conference. Thank you to you and your team for all of your fantastic hard work to ensure the International Enterprise Promotion conference was such a resounding success. I have come away with so many ideas swirling around in my head and the possibility of meeting with some colleagues soon to progress some collaborative project ideas."

Diane Gowland, Executive Director, Centre for Innovation and Partnerships,
Newham College of Further Education. **London**

You are to be congratulated on setting a new standard of excellence in conferences for UK business leaders, innovators and practitioners, Best conference I have attended for a very long time. Harrogate was a warm and welcoming venue for this dazzling conference. Speakers revived faith in the agile and problem solving entrepreneurs of UK. The delegates really appreciated the presence of the Mayor and political representatives in our midst, and we noted the pride in municipal, civic projects in the town of Harrogate itself, and reflected in the presentations of many regional delegates."

Dr Jo Stanley, European Commission (OPAALS support network project for SMEs)
and Lucy Cavendish College, University of **Cambridge**

"Some 'eye-opening' sessions and definitely worth every minute attending this event. Re-thinking particularly what small businesses need and getting some answers as well as how to solve problems on the entrepreneurial journey. I learnt a lot and was able to make a statement at the Leeds City Region's summit about the lack of entrepreneurial support when they do not 'tick the boxes' for the support Agencies etc. I will definitely come next year as I think it was the best Conference I attended so far."

Barbara Noack, Yorkshire & Humber Policy Chairman, Federation of Small Businesses, **Sheffield**

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Testimonials 2009 *(continued)*

"I thought the event was superb and very well run."

Rory McGwire, Managing Director, BHP Information Solutions Ltd, **Bristol**

"What a great conference - well done to your whole team and thanks again for our evening reception."

Janette Pallas, Director, Business Innovation Development Ltd, **Nuneaton**

"... it was a great event, I really enjoyed it and there was lots of positive feedback afterwards."

Rachel Elnaugh, Entrepreneur, Speaker, Mentor, Business Consultant and Author, **London**

"Congratulations on a very successful international convention. Thank you for your leap of faith – I'm pleased it was a leap into the light, not the dark!"

Caroline Theobald, Managing Director, Bridge Club Ltd, **Newcastle**

"Congratulations on organising a fantastic convention."

Joy Nichols, Chief Executive, CMB2 Group Ltd, **London**

"Many congratulations on organising what I thought was an excellent event."

Andrew Lindsay, Partner, Denison Till Solicitors, **York**

"Useful, informative and enjoyable."

Sandra Ackroyd, Enterprise Champion, Probe Ltd, **Hull**

"... the conference was very well organised. I have organised conferences and seminars in the past ... and can appreciate the amount of work involved behind the scenes. As a delegate from an organisational perspective I was very impressed - well done to all involved."

Nynzi Maung, Maung Consultancy, **Newcastle upon Tyne**

"Well organised conference with plenty of interesting sessions making the time pass quickly!"

David Ludlow, Head of Economic Development, Torfaen County Borough Council, **Cwmbran**

"The conference exceeded expectations - especially in its inaugural year. Congratulations to David, Brian and the team for working so hard in attracting such a range of excellent speakers and presenters."

Beverley Pold, (Facilitator of Track W - Women's Enterprise),
Policy & Business Development Manager, Chwarae Teg/Fair Play, **Llanelli**

"The event was good in hearing from a business viewpoint rather than research papers."

Bob Hale, Emeritus Club, **Southport**

[most beneficial] *"meeting people - diverse, international and useful."*

Claire Kennedy, Institute for Manufacturing, **Cambridge**

"I'd like to thank all organisers - very smoothly run and excellent first conference."

Chris Phillips, Henley Business School, University of **Reading**

"Inspiring and re-assuring. For people like myself, working at the sharp end of small business start-up and development, it was great to be able to take in a much broader view of what is happening elsewhere in the 'enterprise' world."

Jerry Bennett, Employment Alternatives, **Kendal**

"I once failed a teacher training interview because I could not answer the following question: 'The government is spending millions of pounds on enterprise promotion in schools, what is your opinion on this?' I would now be able to answer this question!"

Allan Adam, Research Assistant, Stratagia Ltd, **Chesterfield**

"A highly practice-relevant, research-informed convention which has been a forum for stimulating debate - and some "conventional wisdom" as well as innovative thinking."

Dr Jonathan M Scott, Teesside University Business School, **Middlesbrough**

"Great opportunity to network with like-minded organisations."

Emma Charters, Enterprise Coach, TEDCO, **Jarrow**

"Thanks to the team for an excellent conference."

Richard Hanage, Richard Hanage Associates, **Middlesbrough**

"... really felt the event was well executed and should be repeated."

Louise Third, Director, Integra Communications Ltd, **Nottingham**

"I found the closing event on Tuesday very interesting and inspiring - certainly food for thought."

Emily MacDowell, Assistant Economic Development Officer, **Harrogate** Borough Council

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Testimonials 2009 *(continued)*

Partners & Exhibitors

"... what an outstanding job the whole Perlex team did, certainly well worth repeating. I enjoyed it far more than any academic conference and learned more too." " I just can't thank you enough or find the right words to praise the sheer professionalism of Brian, Beryl, Maggie, Chris, Geoff and Dawn it was the fantastic effort and skill and sheer persistence you put in before the event that pulled it off. Many people said it was a Wow and it certainly convinced the SFEDI team to incorporate more of our and our partners planned activities for 2010 into the Convention next year."

Tony Robinson, OBE, Executive Director, SFEDI, **Scarborough**

"My impression was that the convention was an excellent event and very well organised and I hope you continue it for the future."

Tom Stokes, Business Centre Association, **Borehamwood**

*"Thank you ... for creating a conference that was miles better than others in the same sector."
"Lots of energy and the feeling that people are really getting things done."*

Andy Coughlin, Chief Executive, The Small Business Company (UK) Ltd, **Sunningdale**

"This was an excellent cost effective convention during which I was able to communicate with other people and learn from them. The range of people and organisations represented was second to none."

Nigel Adams, Programme Director - BSc Business Enterprise Dept., University of **Buckingham**

"This conference has been wonderfully organised from beginning to end with no stone left unturned. Congratulations and thanks to all concerned for their hard work."

David Evans, Managing Partner, ESA Business Development, **Doncaster**

"Very many thanks for a well organised and thoroughly enjoyable conference. The conference delegates were a good blend of academics and practitioners providing thought provoking sessions and an excellent networking opportunity."

Alison Robson, Project Director, Shell LiveWIRE, **Newcastle upon Tyne**

"The experience and attention to detail of the Perlex Team created an excellent conference. Relaxed and friendly atmosphere, super location and host of practical and relevant presentations. Large expo/ refreshments/ relaxing/ networking space and very convenient breakout rooms. All the feedback I got was first class and people are obviously looking forward to next year."

George Derbyshire, Chief Executive, NFEA, **Bedford**

"If you want to meet people keen to find out about and use practical resources that advance development and learning of enterprise and entrepreneurship, then this is the event for you."

Peter Harrington, Director, Venture Simulations Ltd, **York**

"A very well organised convention with enough interesting and inspiring content for all enterprise promoters. Thank you very much for all the hard work and dedication that has gone into making the conference so enjoyable and inspiring. Please do count myself and Young Enterprise in for next year - looking forward to it already!" Janet Brumby, Senior Team Manager, Young Enterprise Yorkshire & **Humber**

"Thank you for a very well organised convention."

John Hartley, President CIM Yorkshire Region,
The Chartered Institute of Marketing, **Leeds**

"Congratulations on the smooth and efficient management of the IEPC. It was a significant event on our GEW calendar but I do appreciate the time conflicts it presented some of our partners. The dates for GEW 2010 are likely to be 15-23 November, IEPC would provide an excellent introduction to the week and allow people to devote time to both events."

Jane Walton, Head of Region - Yorkshire & Humber, Enterprise UK, **Leeds**

"I found the whole experience enjoyable and stimulating. The organisation, venue and presentations were first class - the opportunity to meet so many interesting international delegates was priceless."

Graham Hales, Principal Consultant, DeHales & Associates
+ Institute of Business Consulting Yorkshire & Humber Regional Chair, **Rotherham**

"I found the event very enjoyable and thought the organisation was excellent, most people I spoke to seemed to agree, I was also impressed the way you managed to not only arrange so many workshops but to have them running at the same time which seemed to work so well."

Chris Beckett, Chairman North West Institute of Business Consultants, **Manchester**

Compiled by Maggie Hall, Convention Co-ordinator