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Cork City Enterprise Board launch new website

THE Cork City Enterprise Board has launched its new brochure and enhanced user-friendly website as part of an initiative to further assist and facilitate small business to grow in the Cork City area.

The website, www.corkceb.ie, enables entrepreneurs to ascertain whether they are eligible for funding, grant aid or business mentoring services, as well as providing details on how to apply to the Board for such assistance.

In addition to these functions, the website, along with the brochure, also outlines the various subsidised training courses available, including Website Marketing, Website Design and SAGE accounting for small firms, along with several courses tailored to encourage personal development and entrepreneurship. An additional educational bonus for any budding entrepreneur is that the site offers

logical steps on writing a business plan, providing a business plan template to work with.

Speaking about these online developments Dave Cody, CEO of Cork City Enterprise Board said, "We want to encourage would-be and existing entrepreneurs to click on to the fact that there are many free and subsidised supports available to them. We recognise the web as the way forward. The world at the click of your mouse. We realise that in the information age, everything is instant and websites provide the instant solution in the quest for information".

For those who prefer hard copy, The Cork City Enterprise Board's new brochure, outlines comprehensively the various services they offer. Copies are available at their offices in Union Quay Cork or, alternatively interested parties can call (021) 4961828.

UCC students Charity Fashion Show



UCC Students at the Charity Fashion Show organised by the UCC Law Society in aid of Action Breast Cancer. Picture: Pascal Ungeres.

NEWS BRIEFS

14,000 signatures collected for disability campaign

FOURTEEN thousand signatures have been collected in Ireland so far as part of the Europe-wide 1million+disability campaign, or 166 per cent of the country's quota.

A total of 850,000 signatures have now been collected as part of the campaign across Europe with just 150,000 still required to meet the one million target. Independent MEP and Vice President of the European Parliament Intergroup for Disabilities, Kathy Sinnott congratulated all those who helped to collect signatures since she launched the campaign with PWDI and Down Syndrome Ireland in March.

Ms Sinnott said, "Most countries reached the required quota. Ireland is even two thirds above it. There were helpers all over the country involved as well as many big organisations".

Musgrave success acknowledged

CORK Chamber Chief Executive Conor Healy has congratulated the Musgrave Group on winning the Overall Outstanding Achievement Award in Corporate Social Responsibility at Chambers Ireland's President's Awards which were held in Dublin recently.

Mr Healy said, "The Musgrave Group has been a part of the business community in Cork for the past 130 years. As the group has expanded its operations they have followed the principle of supporting the local community in which its retailers operate. The company is one of the few Irish international companies who have its headquarters in Cork and we are delighted that their commitment to sustainable development by ensuring the lowest environmental impact in the design and construction of their new head office has been recognised." Corporate social responsibility is an essential part of a company's operations. The Chamber is pleased to nominate Cork companies for the annual awards which recognise the work being carried out by small, medium and large Irish and multinational companies."

Cobh marina plan scuttled

PLANS to develop a major mixed-use commercial and residential development with a marina at the east end of Cobh have been rejected by An Bord Pleanála, writes David Forsythe.

Reacting to the decision in a statement, the Mayor of Cobh, Cllr Paddy Whitty said, "We are extremely disappointed at the decision of An Bord Pleanála to refuse permission for the proposed marina and related developments at

the east end of the town. "This project would have given Cobh the very necessary impetus required to kick-start the rejuvenation of the town and would have greatly improved the eastern landscape and seaward approaches, presently in a very run-down state".

He added, "Cobh town council are very grateful to the developers for their continued interest in the area. We earnestly hope they will examine

the reasons for this second refusal, with a view to compiling a submission which would meet the requirements of both the objectors and An Bord Pleanála".

Despite the setback, Mayor Whitty said there were positive projects in the pipeline for the town including the redevelopment of the Irish Spat site, tourism potential for Spike Island, the IFI site, a new golf club, the refurbishment of the

railway station and the long-awaited Pota Road improvements.

He added, "There is a major refurbishment coming to completion in the centre of town and work is due to commence on the buildings at one and two Pearse Square. These are all positive indicators for Cobh's future, which will hopefully attract further investment to our heritage town and encourage the marina developers to stay on board".

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Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr. Donal Counihan with HE Japanese Ambassador to Ireland Keiichi Hayashi during his visit to Cork City Hall. Picture: Donagh Glavin Photography

Poland for business

A CONFERENCE presenting the current economic and political situation in the South of Poland will be held in Cork at the Maryborough House Hotel, Cork on Tuesday, October 9, writes Graham Lynch.

The conference, 'South of Poland - Preferred Capital Investment Location', forms part of the ongoing 'Invest in Poland Seminar Series 2007', which outlines economic policy and development plans for the coming years, legal and tax procedures, comparison of investment costs, labour costs and other information in order to attract potential investors to this region.

The seminars, which have been organised by the Cork Chamber

Euro Info Centre, PM Group, Eversheds, the British Polish Chamber of Commerce and the Irish Polish Chamber of Commerce and will feature a number of guest speakers.

In November, the Cork Chamber Euro Info Centre are also offering Cork companies the opportunity to participate in a three-day trade mission to Wrocław in Poland.

Companies will be able to take part in scheduled matched meetings with their Polish counterparts and will also visit PRO-TECH trade fair.

The cost for Tuesdays conference is €50 per participant, includes tea/coffee and a light lunch.