

## NEWS

### **Introducing the European Foundation**

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions is an autonomous Community body established by a Regulation of the Council of Ministers of the European Communities which came into force on 26th May 1975.

The Foundation was created to recognise the fact that problems associated with improving living and working conditions were growing more numerous and complex, that Community action to resolve them should be built on scientifically-based information, and that the social partners should be associated with such action.

#### **Aims**

The Foundation aims to contribute to the planning and establishment of a better quality of life by providing those in a position to influence policy with essential knowledge and information. In particular it is concerned with:

- man at work
- the organisation of work and particularly job design
- problems peculiar to certain categories of workers
- long-term aspects of improvements of the environment
- the distribution of human activities in space and in time.

#### **Research**

The Foundation's first four-year programme (1977-1980) began by mainly examining working conditions. The second four-year programme (1981-1984) moved towards a greater emphasis on living conditions to create a better balance between the two areas.

Research initiated by the Foundation is contracted out to research institutes within each of the member States. Many of the research projects are carried out in several countries simultaneously to obtain a Community dimension and facilitate cross-national comparisons. The Foundation tries to promote innovations and develop ideas emerging from the research which might be used by the Community institutions, national governments, and the social partners at national and European level.

#### **Publications**

The Foundation published its first research report in December 1979. The theme was new forms of work organisation. In the six years since then some 200 have been produced. Topics concerned include shiftwork, new technology, wage payment systems, commuting, retirement, surveys into working time and leisure time, activities for the unemployed, and the transport of waste.

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## **THIRD INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP SYMPOSIUM**

**5-8 September 1988**

**Conrad International Hotel, Gold Coast, Australia**

Organised by the Utah Foundation in the USA and UniQuest Limited in Australia, this third Symposium follows the successful Salt Lake City, USA, Symposium of September, 1985 and the 1987 Birmingham, UK, Symposium. It sustains the international effort to maintain and expand an enduring forum to promote economic development and community prosperity through technical innovation and entrepreneurship. Strong emphasis will be placed on Asian technological advances and export drives.

The Symposium coincides with World Expo 88. The theme of *Leisure in the Age of Technology* is of particular relevance to this Symposium.

### **Plenary Sessions**

- Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth
- Technical Innovation in the Pacific Rim
- Converting Research Discoveries into Commercial Products
- The Asian Challenge
- Innovation Worldwide

### **Panel Topics**

- Research and Technology Parks
- Managing and Marketing High Technology Business
- Leadership in Technology Based Enterprises
- Progressive Technology Transfer Policies
- Global Marketing Wars
- World Market Trends
- Developing a Research Base in the Community
- Creating Venture Capital Resources
- Seed Capital
- Government Initiatives and Private Enterprises
- Public Sector Entrepreneurship
- Capitalisation on the Commercialisation of Space
- Funding Opportunities for High Growth Companies
- Exercises and Lessons from Asian Technology Exporters
- Asian Markets (presentation by Asian countries)

### **Further Contacts**

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