



IBSA Enterprise Innovation Summit
Parliament House, Canberra
Monday, 22 June 2009

The Summit was by invitation-only to a small number of leaders of enterprise innovation as well as government and key tertiary sector leaders and industry associations.

This Summit was organised by Innovation and Business Skills Australia (IBSA). IBSA is one of the 11 national Industry Skills Councils recognised and funded by the Australian Government to plan for Australia's 21st Century workforce capability and skill requirements.

The recent Federal Budget initiatives bring some convergence to the Education Revolution and the Powering Ideas agendas. For the first time, there will be an infrastructure conducive to industry's research needs, taxation credits and other incentives to enterprises and individuals for skill development and innovation. What is needed though is a genuine surge of activity from enterprises to model innovation in its many aspects from incremental changes and improvements to business systems, processes and job design, through to brave new inventions. Australia needs not only skilled, flexible and engaged workers, but leaders and managers who will foster the culture necessary for these new workplaces and emerging forms of work.

The Summit focussed on international and domestic responses to enterprise leadership development to create a culture of innovation in workplaces which enables greater productivity. IBSA's working definition of ***innovation is the deliberate use of ideas leading to a new or modified product, process or service which adds economic and/or social value.***

Speakers focussed on international and domestic experiences, as well as executive led and ground up examples of innovation. Speakers included:

- Ms Bernie Cullinan, CEO Clarigen, a company providing outsourced solutions for companies in the small and medium enterprise sector in Ireland
- Mr Hutch Ranck, Managing Director, DuPont Australia and New Zealand and Chair of the BCA's Education, Skills and Innovation Task Force
- Mr Geoff Fary, Assistant Secretary ACTU
- Bruce Biltoft, Managing Director, Memcor Australia Pty Ltd
- Ms Narelle Kennedy, Chief Executive, Australian Business Foundation and Member of the Cutler Review of the National Innovation System
- Mr Philip Williamson, CEO Intelledox
- Mr Grant Kearney, CEO InnovationXchange and IXC International
- Mr Tony Pensabene, Associate Director, Economics and Research, AiG
- Dr Tony Golsby-Smith, CEO and Founder of SecondRoad
- Professor Roy Green, Dean, Faculty of Business, UTS and Reviewer of the TCF Industries
- Mr Steve Vamos, Chair, Society of Knowledge Economics (SKE)

Mr John Vines, Chair of IBSA was the MC. Both Professor Roy Green and Mr Steve Vamos played significant roles as commentators throughout the day.

Ideas and case studies presented were both ground-up and executive led. The Summit compared Australia's rankings and appetite for enterprise innovation with the experiences of other countries. Data was presented that showed a direct correlation between innovation leadership and workplace performance.

The Summit agreed on some practical actions that can be taken by enterprises to improve leadership skills, workplace culture, innovation capability and productivity.

IBSA ENTREPRISE INNOVATION SUMMIT

22 June 2009

A summit meeting conducted by Innovation and Business Skills Australia (IBSA) has suggested a number of practical steps to foster innovation.

Australia must begin investing now in the policies and practices that will generate the next round of productivity gains. Failure to do so will see Australia fall in the rankings in terms of global competitiveness, with a resultant decline in the overall economy.

Innovation is at the heart of national productivity gains. It is not an end in itself, but is an ongoing process. It enables organisations to transform their capabilities. It is not only embodied in goods and services, but includes a broader pantheon of activity including business processes and practices. Innovation can come from markets and customers as well as from research and development.

Based on the summit, IBSA will distil the collective discussions to produce specific documents and actions relating to the following areas:

- Development of a National Charter for Innovation and Leadership, incorporating government, industry and education and training, including the assessment of the appetite for innovation and collaboration of beneficiary organisations.
- Development of a Centre for Workplace Innovation (Enterprise Connect).
- Strategies to identify and support effective collaboration mechanisms to underpin and support innovation, to be promoted through the peak bodies, and coupled with ongoing research into the roles of government, business leaders and services providers.
- Proposals to enhance networking and mentoring opportunities relating to collaboration and innovation, both domestically and internationally.
- Identification of methods developing workplace leadership capabilities and employee engagement for innovation and collaboration, and promotion a greater understanding of the relationship between entrepreneurship, innovation and risk.
- Investigation of mechanisms for developing and providing resources that can be disseminated to organisations that wish to improve their skills in innovation and collaboration, while creating a greater understanding of the rewards.
- Assisting young people to understand the value of information sharing and collaboration.

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