

2009 IRCSET Symposium “Innovation fuelling the Smart Society”

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The Minister for Education and Science Batt O’Keeffe T.D. formally announced the holding of the 2009 IRCSET Symposium to be held on the 25th of September in the RDS on the theme of *Innovation Fuelling the Smart Society*. The Conference is being sponsored by Sustainable Energy Ireland, Intel, Microsoft and the US Embassy. Minister Batt O’Keeffe said that he was delighted see leaders in innovation such as Intel and Microsoft working with public sector bodies like IRCSET and SEI to showcase the advances that Ireland was making in the areas of sustainability and green IT.

“The Irish Government and my department are committed to making Ireland a leader in the Smart Economy,” said Minister O’Keeffe, “For almost a decade we have invested in research and development and that investment is bearing fruit as Ireland is fast gaining a reputation for its international research excellence. Companies such as Wyeth, GlaxoSmithKline, Intel and Microsoft are collaborating directly with higher education institution based researchers here.”

“The green tech revolution will offer further opportunities for growth and I am determined that we will have the researchers to seize these new opportunities. Just as investment in second level education drove Ireland’s first economic revolution, investment in research and development will drive our next economic revolution,” O’Keeffe added.

Owen Lewis, CEO of Sustainable Energy Ireland, said that the conference was a great opportunity to expose participants, policymakers, business leaders and young researchers to the opportunities and dynamics of the new business environment created by energy-related issues. “Energy issues are no longer just threats to the Irish economy, but are in fact real opportunities”

Martin Hynes, CEO of IRCSET, said that Ireland’s Ph.D. students added a whole new dimension to Ireland’s ability to attract foreign direct investment and generate new start-ups in Ireland. “Our Ph.D.’s are as bright and as talented as any in the world and on average a lot younger, giving us a real edge in competing in the Smart Society.”

The conference will be held on the 25th of September and will include international speakers such as Intel sustainability guru Stephen Harper and Microsoft’s Cloud Computing expert Debra Chrapaty, as well as leading Irish researchers in the areas of sustainable IT and green tech.

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