

Subject: News from the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission - May 3, 2010

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**Exporting to the USA
Workshop
Tuesday, May 25**

Ramada Inn 2170 Harvey
Ave.
Cost \$15 person

Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission and the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce invite you to this half-day morning workshop. It will provide you with detailed information on US customers and US immigration requirements and feature a presentation by IRV Weinberg, co-founder of Mind over Markets, a green marketing/business development company in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Irv has helped many "green" companies achieve sustained success. To view the complete agenda [click here](#).

Pre-registration is required. Contact Sandra Ballan-Brown at (250) 469-6280.

**Enhance Your
Competitiveness
with Internationally**



**Business Hosting Program Wins Gold
for BC Economy**

British Columbia is already reaping the rewards from the Province's 2010 Olympic and Paralympic business hosting program with a dozen partnerships that will create jobs and build a stronger economy, Iain Black, Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development said recently. The Provincial Government is also monitoring at least 27 other pending agreements.

The business hosting program that took place during the Olympics involved about 11,000 participants at more than 100 events including roundtables, tours, receptions and meetings. Business leaders from across North America, Europe and Asia attended, representing industries including airline, automotive, energy, film and entertainment, forestry, information and communications technology, life sciences, manufacturing, mining, pharmaceuticals, tourism and venture capital. The Okanagan Valley Economic Development Society (OVEDS) was among the organizations that participated in the program, providing indirect profile and benefits to Okanagan companies.

The Conference Board of Canada has forecast that the Games will inject \$770 million into BC's economy in 2010 alone. A formal report on the success of the hosting program, including details around ticketing, will be completed and made public later this spring.

For more information [click here](#).

**Greg Salloum Named
Sustainability Leader of the Year**

Local hotelier Greg Salloum, president of the Best Western Inn, has been named the 2010 Sustainability Leader of the Year by the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce as part of its Green Business Awards.



The award, one of five Green Business Awards handed out by the Chamber last week in partnership with Students in Free Enterprise

Trained Workers

Workshop
Tuesday, June 1

7:30 am to 9:30 am
Kelowna Chamber of
Commerce
544 Harvey Avenue,
Kelowna

The Conference Board of Canada, on behalf of the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce and The Alliance of Sector Council (TASC) is presenting this informational workshop aimed at:

- Increasing awareness among Canadian employers of the advantages of hiring internationally trained individuals, and
- Providing practical tools and resources to assist employers, particularly small and medium-sized businesses, in hiring internationally trained workers.

There is no cost to attend however pre-registration is required. For more information and register online, [click here](#).

(SIFE), recognized what the Chamber calls the Harvey Avenue hotel's innovative practices to reduce negative environmental impacts and its environmental stewardship.

The four other awards went to Campion Marine Inc. in the manufacturing and construction category; Sysco Kelowna Ltd. in the retail and commercial goods category; Rackforce Networks Inc. in the business and professional services category, and Holiday Park Resort in the personal services and hospitality category. [Click here for details](#).

AgriForest Bio-Technologies Ltd.

Quality Plants Through Tissue Culture Technology

Commercialization of Agriculture Technology Award for AgriForest Bio-Technologies

AgriForest Bio-Technologies Ltd. is one of the winners at the Commercialization of Agriculture Technology (CAT) Competition organized by the BC Innovation Council. The competition is designed to bridge the gap between research and industry by transforming innovation into real world solutions.

The award will help AgriForest build an environmentally-friendly photoautotrophic micro-propagation facility. Creation of the facility will not only enable the company to increase its productivity and profitability, it will have sector-wide benefits for agriculture and horticulture. AgriForest will be able to produce economically important plant varieties at a competitive price and reduce environmental pollution by using recycled greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, and by using natural sunlight instead of artificial light.

For more information contact Dr. Kamlesh Patel, President and CEO at (250) 764-2224 or [click here](#) to visit AgriForest Bio-Technologies Ltd.'s website.

Links and Events

[Game Developers Conference Canada- May 6-7](#)

[UBCO Distinguished Speaker Series - David Dodge- May 4](#)

[SR&ED General Information Seminar- May 26](#)

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