

It is a Privilege to Welcome You  
on Behalf of MIE Conference  
Series

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# A Three Point Agenda

- 1. A Welcome Note to the 12<sup>th</sup> McGill International Entrepreneurship (MIE) Conference at Hanken School of Economics.
- 2. A Very Brief Perspective on MIE Efforts.
- 3. A Perspective on this Conference and Beyond.

# 1. Simply, Welcome!

- On behalf of McGill University, I would like to extend a warm and official welcome to you to the 12<sup>th</sup> MIE Conferences and wish you a very productive and fruitful three days.
- I hope that this very well-organized conference serves as a springboard to get all us much further beyond the ordinary.
- Personally, the knowledge that some of you have come to many, if not all, of MIE Conference, and constitute the solid backbone of IE Scholarship now, pleases me tremendously.

## 2. A Brief Perspective on MIE

- It started with our dissatisfaction with IB in early 1990s.
- It was soon clear that we were not alone.
- The 1996-1997 International Congress of Small Business (ICSB) in Singapore made it abundantly clear that small firms had formed the backbone of international trade.
- Further, they were not following IB scholarly theories (and were also competing with IB professional Services).

# We Went to Worked!

- In 1997-1998 three of us at McGill began to re-orient our research.
- In early 1990s, we convened the first MIE conference for “**meeting of the minds**” of similarly-minded scholars in Montreal.
- We were not thinking beyond that conference, leave alone a series; but it became obvious that there was a need for it.
- **The long march of the Conference Series had started already, which was then called MIE Conference.**

## 2.1 Others Decided to Keep the Flame Alive

- We are congregating here today, and are increasingly recognized as an emerging scholarly field, because of the uncompromising commitments, and relentless efforts of, a few individuals that I would like to recognize, first:
  - My Colleagues **Peter Johnson and Richard Wright** (McGill, 1998, 2000)
  - **Leo Paul Dana** (Nanyang University of Singapore, 1999),
  - **Marian Jones** (Strathclyde, Glasgow, 2001),
  - **James Bell** (University of Ulster, Londonderry, 2003),
  - **Rolf Dahlberg** (University of West, Uddevalla, Sweden, 2005),
  - **Robert Spich** (UCLA, Los angles, 2007),
  - **Brendan Gray** (University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, 2008)
  - **Sören Kock** (Hanken Scholl of Economics, Vaasa, 2009) and
- These individuals carried the torch; but
- Then, the ie-scholars, such as you, kept the flame alive!

# Handsome Reward for a Minor Role!

- I also played the role of “**flame-keeper**” when it was McGill’s turn (with a large box of matches in 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006)!
- **Others gave us much more credit!**
- In fact, the enduring impact of high-scholarly-works have been because of the hard work and contribution of **ie scholars, such as you**, who have organically become a strong links in what is now affectionately known as the MIE network of ie scholars, and formalized in **ie.-scholar.net**
- **I wish you the ultimate success in carrying your own personal torch forward and illuminating the dark path of discovery for the rest of us.**
- **There will be no annual conference without your efforts – THANK YOU for rewarding us so handsomely!**

# 3. Discovery, Opportunity and Leadership

- Perhaps, **due to my age**, you will allow me to leave you with a few entrepreneurial words:
- This conference is the “**land of discovery**” for friendship, research and scholarship -- you need to discover the gems in the raw, polish them and enjoy them,
- This conference is impregnated with **rich opportunities** -- you need to nurture and exploit in order to benefit from them, and
- This conference is a **platform for scholarly-leadership** – but you need to rise to the occasion to claim it.

# Achievements!

- I join the conference organizers at the **Hanken School of Economics** to sincerely wish you a pleasant 3-day journey, full of discovery of opportunity, friendship, scholarly leadership, and above all, personal achievements in Vaasa, in 2009, and beyond.

I Thank You for Your Time and  
Patience!

I Thank You for the Privilege!