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Results of Idea Contest on International Innovations

International Otaniemi project at TKK organized the Idea Contest with the purpose to collect well thought out ideas on Strategic Actions and process improvements that TKK should undertake in order to improve its international education and research operations, administration, processes and activities. The Contest was announced in October, 2006. By deadline, December 24th, 22 proposals were received.

TKK Internationalization Committee appointed a Jury to evaluate the proposals. Members of the Jury were Professors Raimo Kantola (chair), Saska Lindfors, Peter Lund and Antti Ylä-jääski, International Officers Anita Bisi, Eeva Lyytikäinen, Eija Kujanpää, TKK Senior International Affairs Officer Dr Minna Söderqvist and Ms Katri Kotinurmi of TKK Recruitment Services.

Having carefully evaluated the proposals, the Jury finds that

- The contest raised a reasonable interest among students and members of staff at TKK.
- A small group of proposals could be identified that met best the criteria of clarity of presentation, feasibility, high positive impact and some amount of novelty.
- Many other proposals contained important feedback to TKK on our International Operations and on the small amount of care we award to International students and foreign members of staff.
- Many proposals that were taken as a whole in evaluation and thus did not win against the rest still contained ideas that may be developed into actions that may have a positive impact as a part of a wider program of developing our International operations.

The Jury made the following nominations of prize winning proposals.

First Prize (600€) in Idea Contest on International Innovations

- goTek by Matthew Turnquist, TKK International Master's student

The Jury finds that goTek of creating a multimedia marketing tool is a very clear proposal. It is clearly feasible and can potentially have a significant impact on improving TKK marketing to new prospective students. The Jury noted that there is clear need of improving TKK visibility among prospective students in the world and enhancing our marketing operations overall.

Shared Second Prize (400€ each) in Idea Contest on International Innovations to the following proposals

- TANDEM SISU by Helena Pohjonen

The Jury finds that this proposal of joint master thesis projects between TKK students and students of partner Universities is clear, it is classified as a process innovation, it may have a high impact for the students that are selected to do a joint master's thesis project and the idea shows great "teekkari" spirit. The Jury recommends that TKK promotes this proposal in either Nordic or other suitable University networks (for example Cluster) where we participate. The Jury believes that the proposal focuses on an area where TKK can do well in promoting itself as a top class University.

- Understanding and Developing International Research Collaboration at TKK by professor Eila Järvenpää

The Jury finds that the idea is well presented, addresses an issue of identifying and spreading good practices in research collaboration, which is important, is feasible and can spread good practices of research collaboration at TKK among research groups. The Jury endorses prof. Järvenpää to complete the proposed research and with this decision supports any friendly outside organization or TKK to fund that research work.

- HUT International Essay Contest by Oscar Santolalla and Blerta Bishaj

The proposal of an Essay Contest brings forward an idea of organizing an Essay Contest for prospective students. The Jury finds that the idea is clear. It is seen as a simple, yet possibly effective marketing tool. The idea is feasible and it is novel in the context of TKK. The Jury promotes the idea to possible organizers in Otaniemi.

Addressing the last bullet of our findings, the Jury brings forward an example of the idea of allocating a small sum of money to research assistantships and teaching assistantships for International Master's students. Provided that each Master's Program separately makes this decision or TKK makes this a policy, this could be one means of showing care to International Students, one additional means of motivating foreign students to study hard, one means of selecting the best among them to research projects and would have a positive marketing impact. Prospective students need to be told, how they can start

managing economically while they are studying for a Master's degree or a Doctoral degree. Naturally, this line of action for Master's students is only one among others helping International Master's students manage their studies economically but it is something where TKK is the decision maker. The Jury believes that this idea is worth consideration by suitable decision makers at TKK.

Another example is the way we do induction to foreign members of staff and short term visitors. Good practices in the form of so called secretarial handbook have been developed by the Department of Electrical and Communications Engineering. This handbook was created by a team of secretaries lead by Ms Arja Hänninen of Netlab to capture a wide range of administrative practices at the Department where previously a lot of tacit knowledge was involved. The handbook is continuously maintained with clear responsibilities allocated to suitable people in administration. First these practices need to be spread to all departments that can benefit from them. An additional measure could be organizing internal training for admin personnel that works with foreign members of staff on a part time basis.

On behalf of the Jury

March, 08, 2007 Professor Raimo Kantola