

**Welcome by Cathaoirleach of the Dublin Regional Authority,
Councillor Peter Coyle**

Welcome ladies and Gentlemen to the launch of the new Dublin Regional Authority initiative, the 'Innovation Enterprise Network'.

The Innovation Enterprise Network is an innovative network catering for the professional and social needs of unemployed high-skilled/ professionals in the Dublin region.

The purpose of the IE Network is threefold:

1. to facilitate professional and social networking amongst the peer group of unemployed high-skilled/ professionals and to consolidate the existing services available to them;
2. to target these services to IE Network Members, so that they can either go about setting up their own business, or simply brush up on crucial job-seeking skills; *and*
3. to supplement available public services with tailored professional social training and events.

The IE Network is the next stage development of the pilot scheme undertaken by South Dublin County Council for the benefit of its unemployed high-skilled/ professionals, which it recognised had limited assistance from existing State, local employment and welfare

resources, most of which catered to the needs of traditional lower-skilled unemployed.

Since, September 2010, the Dublin Regional Authority has undertaken the expansion and rollout of this initiative across the Dublin Region and has committed some of its very scarce resources to help this project develop.

THIS PROJECT IS YOUR PROJECT. Its success will depend on the extent to which you engage and drive its content. The Dublin Regional Authority has set the ball rolling by providing you with the facility to network virtually through our IENetwork website, and physically through interaction with our new IENetwork staff, who you will hear from later this morning.

To finish, it is in the interest of all of us to help each other to ride the storm of the current economic uncertainty and as Cathaoirleach of the Dublin Regional Authority, I hope that this project will assist you to move forward with your careers and to come through this economic storm stronger and well prepared for the future.

I thank you for coming today and I look forward to seeing this project contribute to your lives in a positive way.

Thank you