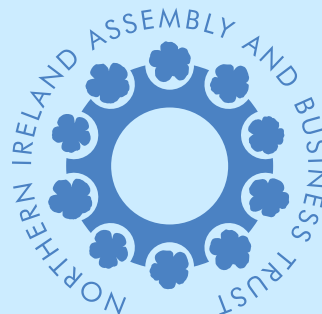


Northern Ireland Assembly and Business Trust

"To advance and encourage business understanding of the Assembly and the Assembly Members' understanding of business."



Issue 4:
Autumn 2009

Members Visit the Fish Factory in Kilkeel



L-R: Willie Clark MLA, Simon Hamilton MLA, Andrew Rooney (Rooney Fish), Sammy Wilson MP MLA, John Rooney (Rooney Fish)



L-R: Willie Clark MLA, Sammy Wilson MP MLA, in the fish factory in Kilkeel

MLAs braved an early morning start to attend the busy fish market in Kilkeel—part of a series of Education Programmes run by the NIABT, aimed at showing MLAs the realities of working in a local business and the impacts that decisions made at policy level have on the day-to-day running of the business.

After viewing the fish market, where various local businesses bid on the morning's catch, MLAs were taken on a tour of the Rooney Fish Factory where fresh prawns were fast frozen and packaged for sale.

Parliamentarians present at the event found it an enjoyable experience and a unique opportunity to observe a business in an environment that they would not normally get an opportunity to see.

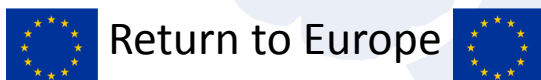
The Digital Economy with BT

NIABT members attended a seminar at BT Tower in Lanyon Place. During this event, discussion surrounded current and forthcoming advances in communication technology and particularly how these can relate to and benefit businesses in today's digital age.

The seminar proved useful for business members and parliamentarians alike in providing a greater understanding of how current and future developments in communication technology can assist in providing services to clients and constituents



L-R: James Devlin, Head of Business Sales for BT NI speaks to Dr. Alasdair McDonnell MP MLA at the BT seminar



Return to Europe

Members of the NIABT Board of Trustees undertook a pilot study visit to Europe in April 2009, consisting of a programme at the Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe and a visit to the European Parliament. Members of the Board had an opportunity to sit in on committee meetings and meet with Northern Ireland MEPs.

Following the success of this pilot visit, a European programme has been scheduled for February 2010. This Programme will be tailored to suit the needs of NIABT members, especially those from the business sector.

The programme will consist of a number of workshops and presentations, meetings with Northern Ireland MEPs and visits to local businesses.

Members interested in attending the NIABT 2010 European Programme may contact niabt@niassembly.gov.uk for further information.



L-R: Paul McAlistair, Paul McAlistair Architects, Dr. Gareth McGrath, NIA Director of Engagement, Sean Neeson MLA, NIABT Chairman



L-R: Melanie Humphrey, Mallusk Enterprise Park, Declan O'Loan MLA



L-R: Jonathan Craig MLA, Clive Grudgings, Lafarge Cement, Sean Neeson MLA

Welcoming New Business Members

In September 2009 the NIABT held a welcome reception in Parliament Buildings for its new business members. This allowed new members to gain an insight into the benefits of the Trust, as business members and MLAs who have been directly involved in Education Programmes and Fellowships took time out to talk to the group about their experiences.

Declan O'Loan MLA, Simon Hamilton MLA and Jonathan Craig MLA recounted their experiences on fellowships with NIABT business members.

John Rooney from Rooney Fish and James Devlin from BT NI also explained the nature of NIABT educational visits to their premises.

There was a large turn-out of businesses and the Trust is looking forward to developing further Education Programmes, Fellowships and seminars with new business members.

Business Members

Andras House Ltd.
 Anglo North Irish Fish Producers' Organisation
 AsItIs Consulting
 Belfast International Airport
 Bombardier Aerospace
 BT NI
 Carecall Ltd.
 Davidson Cockcroft
 Deloitte
 Enterprise Equity Fund
 Federation of Small Businesses
 Firmus Energy
 NI—ICTU
 James Brown Funeral Services NI
 Lagan Holdings Ltd.
 Law Society of Northern Ireland
 Londonderry Chamber of Commerce
 Mallusk Enterprise Park
 MCE Public Relations
 Mesh Technology
 Mivan Ltd.
 Next Level Impact
 NI Chamber of Commerce
 NI Independent Retail Trade Association
 NI Manufacturing
 Norbrook Laboratories
 O'Kane Poultry
 Paul McAlister Architects
 Rooney Fish
 Royal Mail
 Sandycove Holiday Homes
 Stratagem
 Wrightbus Ltd.

New Member

Lafarge Cement

Northern Ireland Assembly and Business Trust

Contact:

Room 401D, Parliament Buildings
 Belfast
 BT4 3XX

email: niabt@niassembly.gov.uk
 Tel: 02890 418365
 Web: www.niabt.org.uk

Recent and Upcoming NIABT Events and Fellowships

Event and venue	When?	Aimed at...
Danny Kennedy Fellowship with Stratagem	27 th October 2009	MLAs
Jim Shannon & P.J. Bradley Fellowship with Rooney Fish	28 th October 2009	MLAs
Sustainable, future-proof housing – seminar and site visit hosted by Paul McAlister Architects	6 th November 2009	Business members and MLAs
AGM and Panel Discussion	7 th December 2009	Businesses and MLAs
Simon Hamilton Fellowship with Royal Mail	15 th January 2010	MLAs
European Programme	1st—4th February 2010	Business members and MLAs
Simon Hamilton Fellowship with Firmus Energy	9th April 2010	MLAs

NI Assembly Education Day 2009

The NIABT held its second NI Assembly Education Day aimed at businesses, as well as MLAs' constituency staff and party support staff. This day long event gave attendees an overview of the workings of the Northern Ireland Assembly and an insight into the activities of the specific offices.

The Education Day was well received by all those who attended who, in many cases, were not familiar with some of the work that takes place in the Assembly. Positive feedback illustrated the relevance of this event and will help to inform future Education Days organised by the Trust.

Chairman's Thoughts

The NIABT has been particularly active since returning after summer recess and I am delighted at the range of programmes that have been on offer to MLAs and businesses.

It is heartening to see continued business interest in the work of the Trust, even in spite of the continuing economic downturn. I am especially pleased that the Trust has gained so many new members who are playing an active role in the NIABT, whether through education programmes or through some of the upcoming fellowships with MLAs.

I am pleased that the European Programme has been developed and is scheduled to be launched in February 2010, as the pilot study in 2009 proved very worthwhile. I hope that many of our business sector members and parliamentarians take up the opportunity to attend.

