

**Tech Summit** - from page 1

cialization of R&D, as well as special sessions on earth sciences and disaster mitigation, and post-graduate research opportunities. Partnering sessions for Canadian and Indian delegates and site visits have been organized.

**Summit themes and India's highlights**

Driven by new enterprise and recent innovation, biotechnology in India is witnessing accelerated growth. The sector has a potential to generate annual revenues of \$5.9 billion and one million skilled jobs. In the renewable energy area, the Indian private sector has invested mainly in wind, biomass, small hydro and solar thermal projects. Other areas, such as clean coal technologies, offer a wide range of Clean Development Mechanism projects. A nanoscience initiative of India's Department of Science and Technology has allocated nearly \$29 million over five years to support over 50 Indian research organizations.

In the area of ICT, India is among the fastest-growing wireless markets in the world, with over 39 million cellular phone users. Internet use is growing and educational software is becoming increasingly popular—industry experts anticipate this sector will develop toward Web-based learning. Opportunities exist for firms and academic departments in rural communications and specialized software, including digital imaging, animation, industrial automation and multimedia.

Today, India is emerging as a global R&D hub, where more than 150 multinational corporations have set-up their R&D units. It is doubling its investment in the S&T sector to over \$8 billion in the next 10 years. Key investments include 20 new national research centres, 220 universities and 200 laboratories. These investments, along with complementary areas of expertise between the two countries, present tremendous opportunities for collaboration between Canadian and Indian S&T institutions.

**For more information** on the Summit, go to [www.infoexport.gc.ca/science/india\\_techsummit-en.htm](http://www.infoexport.gc.ca/science/india_techsummit-en.htm).

**A word of warning for business travellers**

**Ottawa** > Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC) has changed the terminology it uses to communicate official Travel Warnings. If it is not safe to travel to a foreign country or region, FAC will advise Canadians to avoid "all travel" to that destination. If the threat is lower, it will advise Canadians to avoid "non-essential travel."

For example, in light of the dangerous and unpredictable security situation in Iraq—where all Canadians are at risk—the Travel Warning will contain, "Foreign Affairs Canada advises against all travel to this country." In the case of the Central African Republic, which is recovering from civil unrest, it will say, "Foreign Affairs Canada advises against non-essential travel to this country."

The change responds to a request from the World Tourism Organization to standardize the terms used in travel warnings worldwide. Among the many events that can trigger an official travel warning are civil unrest, war, rebellion, natural disasters and health emergencies.

"Travel Warnings remain the Government of Canada's official advice to Canadian tourists and business travellers," says Lucie Chantal, Director of Consular Communications. "The decision to travel is still the sole responsibility of the individual."

**For more information**, business travellers should consult FAC's Consular Affairs Web site at [www.voyage.gc.ca](http://www.voyage.gc.ca) before going abroad.

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**Publication Mail Agreement Number: 40064047**

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Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:  
**CanadExport (BCS)**  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

CanadExport is published twice a month by International Trade Canada's Communications Services Division.  
Circulation: 54,000  
CanadExport *paraît aussi en français.*  
ISSN 0823-3330

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**Trinidad and Tobago selects Canada for new mobile network**

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago** > The promise of competition in one of the more significant cellular phone markets in the English-speaking Caribbean has been realized, breaking a monopoly that the majority state-owned Telecommunication Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT) has maintained on mobile telecommunications service for over 25 years.

The decision to award two new licences to LaqTel, a Trinidad-based group, and Irish telecom company Digicel, was the first step in introducing competition into a monopoly market in Trinidad and Tobago by providing competing cellular services. LaqTel received support from two major Canadian players in the telecom market: Nortel Networks and Saskatchewan Telecommunications International (SaskTel).

Nortel's code-division multiple access (CDMA) technology will give LaqTel's customers access to high-speed 3G data networks such as simultaneous voice and data services and streaming media. This strategic alliance was launched on July 25 at the official signing of an estimated \$60 million cellular services agreement between Nortel and LaqTel, which took place at the Canadian High Commission in Port-of-Spain.

Having been the longstanding supplier of equipment and services to TSTT, Nortel is no stranger to Trinidad and Tobago. TSTT engaged Nortel in 2004 for building a high-capacity, next-generation infrastructure based on Internet protocol technology, and again in 2005

for the expansion and upgrade of its GSM/GPRS wireless network.

Trinidad and Tobago's telecom initiative will further benefit from Canadian expertise through LaqTel's partnership with SaskTel, selected as its partner to design, build and operate the country's \$125 million CDMA cellular network business. SaskTel brings to the partnership expertise in network planning, design and operations, billing, process and customer care.

These events mark the commencement of the long-anticipated liberalisation of the telecom sector in Trinidad and Tobago. Competition is expected to stimulate growth in the cellular market size, estimated to reach some 800,000 customers and thus attracting fresh market possibilities for peripheral services and equipment in the sector.

**For more information**, contact: Michaeline Narcisse, Trade Commissioner, Canadian High Commission in Trinidad and Tobago, tel.: (868) 622-6232, ext. 3552, e-mail: [michaeline.narcisse@international.gc.ca](mailto:michaeline.narcisse@international.gc.ca).



Officials from Nortel, LaqTel and the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service at the official signing of the agreement.

**Norway aquaculture show** - from page 1

In collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and AquaNet, the Canadian Embassy in Norway organized a series of science and technology seminars at Aqua Nor to highlight Canada's leading-edge research in areas such as fish genomics, fish health, alternative feeds and the integration of traditional ecological knowledge with modern science. Presentations by Norwegian researchers involved in projects with Canada were an integral part of the program, and helped strengthen linkages between the two countries and identify new areas for collaboration.

Canada's successful week at Aqua Nor culminated with a dinner hosted by Minister Regan, attended by 160 guests. The meal recreated a corner of Canada in

Norway by featuring a menu consisting entirely of Canadian products, accompanied by film and music showing the best Canada has to offer.

Aquaculture is a relatively new commercial activity in Canada and in many other parts of the world, but already it occupies a significant position in the seafood production sector. Given Canada's close proximity to one of the world's largest markets, a reputation for high-quality, safe seafood products, excellent biophysical potential and a highly knowledgeable labour force, Canada is well positioned to benefit from aquaculture development.

**For more information**, go to [www.aquanor.ca](http://www.aquanor.ca). To receive an overview of the above-mentioned science and technology presentations, contact Barbara Thorjussen, Canadian Embassy in Norway, e-mail: [barbara.thorjussen@international.gc.ca](mailto:barbara.thorjussen@international.gc.ca).