

## Creative Places CEO's Blog – September 2011

My China visit for the science park international training workshops in September was awe inspiring. The Chinese bring a very clever, intelligent approach to an area of activity notoriously difficult to deliver results in. The Chinese have a lot for other governments around the world to learn from, I think. Their policies do not rely on large capital projects to enhance collaboration between the research base and R&D intensive businesses and for high tech zones they clearly find the 'cream' to attract the 'clever cats'.

In China there was good opportunity to learn from other counties too - with Canada standing out as another place good at driving innovation and enterprise.

So what about the UK then? The [OECD Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2011](#) is fresh out, and latest figures are showing some exciting news for us too. Like most other OECD countries we've been losing jobs in finance, insurance, manufacturing, etc, but growing those in community, social and personal services. This provides interesting activity for many of us. And in terms of real excitement, the UK has more top 50 universities in the following subject areas than any other country in the world - Agriculture and biological sciences, earth and planetary sciences, environmental science, and the social sciences. This bodes well for our client projects in Edinburgh and Norwich particularly, I think.

Another interesting development in recent months has been the beginning of the roll out of some Cisco led innovation centres. We think these have great potential. They were showcased at the [UKSPA](#) conference last week in Birmingham and we think they'll be good news in a number of locations over the next twelve months. Potential hosts have until Christmas to put themselves forward.

My China trip ended in a whirlwind as I stepped off the plane and went straight to Hatton Garden to speak at the Henry Stewart University Property Conference that I mentioned last month. There I stressed the importance of universities creating the opportunity for enhanced business interface on their campuses – something which will now materially influence first, second and third stream funding, so critically important for global competitiveness.

We are looking forward to a busy autumn.

Jonathan