



Isle of Man

**International Business School**

Scoil Dellal Eddyrashoonagh Vannin

## NEWS RELEASE – 03.05.06

# Alternative Programme for Budding Leaders Comes to a Close

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 8 local business people made history, when they became the second and last group to complete the Business School's "inspirational and hugely challenging" Mindful Leadership Programme.

Designed and facilitated by Dr. Leslie Gadman, Lecturer in Strategic Management and Organisational Behaviour and Consultant for IBS Consulting, the unique programme will no longer run at The IBS given Leslie's pending departure to become Managing Director of Duke CE Corporation - a joint venture between the London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE) and Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.



With the emphasis on the 'human' element of modern business, the Mindful Leadership Programme enhances participants' ability to reflect in-depth on the knowledge, skills and requirements of a successful business leader/manager. Comprising three themes (Understanding Our Evolving World, Leading and Mindfulness, and Leading and Managing Organisational Transformation), the programme was taught by a team of international researchers and experts via a series of three-day master-classes and some 'alternative' teaching methods.

By exploring multi-disciplinary ideas and concepts through flexible daily agendas, participants were encouraged to reflect on the trends and pressures shaping corporate life today; on how to create organisations that are valuing of human relationships, innovative and profitable; and on the basic concepts of Complexity Science - including interdependence and impermanence/change. Ethics, social responsibility and trust - and their implications for profitability and resource allocation - were also on the itinerary, as well as discussions about what is expected of today's leaders and a leader's role in generating interest, caring and willingness in organisations. The concepts of a learning organisation and knowledge management; strategic planning, visions and organisational transformation; and the theories of emotional intelligence, diversity and personal support systems were also brought to participants' attention. The programme closed with individuals making specific commitments to apply the lessons learned and to endeavour to adopt 'mindfulness' in practise.

With participants also engaging in a range of physical activities - including yoga, meditation, and blindfolded tours of The Nunnery Estate - the programme was definitely one for the open-minded. All participants recognised that The Nunnery building/estate was the ideal location for the relaxed, retreat-like learning atmosphere of the programme and were impressed with the quality of the facilities (including bean bags!) provided by the Business School.

To summarise the programme, as one participant eloquently put it, "*Conscious is the new black.*"

**Pictured from left to right are:**

**Back row:**

Gemma Webb, Marketing Officer, Isle of Man International Business School

Rachel Middleton, **Internal Auditor**, Royal Skandia

Angela Gilman, **Social Worker**, DHSS

Dr. Leslie Gadman, Mindful Leadership Programme Director

Tracey Greenhow, Corporate Solutions Sales Manager, Manx Telecom

Rebecca Kissack, Assistant Manager, Operational Risk, Royal Skandia

Laura Kangas, Mindful Leadership Programme Contributor

**Front row:**

David Long, Business Development Director, Capital International Ltd

Robert Floate, Compliance Director & Company Secretary, Capital International Ltd

Michael Sharp, Director of Management Information, DHSS

**(Job titles not confirmed)**

Dr Leslie Gadman, Programme Director of the unique Mindful Leadership Programme, has been with The IBS since August 2003 and was a key player in the development of IBS Consulting, the business consultancy division of the Business School.

He leaves the Business School to become Managing Director of Duke CE Corporation - a joint venture between the London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE) and Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Leslie will be responsible for managing the research, design and delivery of corporate education programmes for businesses worldwide.

**For further information, please contact:**

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