

SPEAKERS' CORNER - FD SOLUTIONS AT THE LECTERN

The directors of FD Solutions have maintained high-profile positions on the speakers' rostrum at various events around the UK and beyond.

In May 2010 Richard Brooks was a speaker in Trieste, Italy at a five-day workshop on Entrepreneurship for Physicists and Engineers from Developing Countries.

Richard delivered several lectures during the week, including *Financial Terminology* and *Business Planning Fundamentals*, and also sat on the panel of judges who, 'Dragons' Den style' assessed the teams' business plans prior to awarding a prize to the best presentation.

This was the second time that Richard has taught at this course in Trieste. Details can be seen at http://cdsagenda5.ictp.trieste.it/full_display.php?email=0&ida=a09143

In November 2009, Richard lectured at the first African workshop on Entrepreneurship for Scientists in Cape Town. The goal of this workshop was to encourage and impart entrepreneurship skills to scientists and engineers from Africa. The scientists and engineers will be able to commercialise or licence their research findings and use science and technology to start enterprises to contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction in Africa. See <http://www.saip.org.za/events/entrepreneurship/>

Richard became interested in teaching entrepreneurship to scientists after being asked to speak at a conference run by Praxis Unico, an educational not-for-profit organisation set up to support innovation and commercialisation of public sector and charity research for social and economic impact.

Richard Simpson has been a speaker at CIMA events for over six years, notably running a course called *Financial Management in SMEs*.

In winter 2010 Richard delivered a lecture called *The FD in 2010* to an audience at the ACCA, based on a White Paper that he had written on the role of an FD in straitened times.

Following the success of that lecture, the ACCA commissioned Richard – together with our chairman Malcolm Durham - to deliver breakfast seminars in Leeds, Birmingham and Bristol on *The Changing Role of Finance* looking at how local, regional and global economic, technological, regulatory and environmental trends will affect the role of the accountant over the coming years.

Simon Walters spoke on *Turnaround, Restructuring, Corporate Recovery and Insolvency – the FD's perspective*, at a nationwide series of turnaround events for the ICAEW. From the lectern in Birmingham, Bristol and Manchester – coincidentally the same three cities in which we have provincial offices – Simon explained to his audiences how a strong assistance can assist companies in distress.

Law firm Halliwells asked Simon to deliver a lecture on *The FD's Perspective in Troubled Times* at their annual conference in Moorgate Hall, where he sat alongside a distinguished panel including Dennis Turner, chief economist of HSBC, and Vince Cable, Lib-Dem politician who has gone on to reach new heights in the coalition government.

Barclays Bank hosts a monthly breakfast seminar for clients and business contacts in central London, and in July 2010 asked Simon to address the audience. Simon's topic, *Cash is King – Top Tips for Businesses*, demonstrated myriad ways in which FD Solutions' finance directors have saved money for clients.