

## **Joint North Sea and Interreg Annual Conference 2006**

### **UHI Millennium Institute Study Tour Programme**

#### **UHI Millennium Institute – creating a university for the Highlands & Islands of Scotland**

As long ago as 1653, Sir Thomas Urquhart put forward ambitious plans for a Highland university, to be based in Cromarty, a small town on the north east coast of Scotland. Although his plans floundered at the time, his dream has survived for more than three centuries.

In the early 1990s, campaigners began to create a truly visionary perspective and the UHI Millennium Institute (UHI) was born - its aim, the creation of a new kind of university, which would meet the unique requirements of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. It would create new opportunities in higher education for school-leavers and mature students, and attract people from out with the region to come and pursue their studies in the Highlands and Islands.

Now, in 2006, a university of, and for, the Highlands and Islands of Scotland is at last becoming a reality with a target date of 2007 set for full university status.

UHI is a unique institution – a partnership of thirteen Academic Partners, two Associate Institutions and an Executive Office. Through its constituent partners, it delivers a wide range of higher education across the Highlands and Islands, including degree and higher national programmes, continuing professional development, lifelong learning and research activities.

As it continues to grow and develop it is committed to leading from the front in initiatives which address social exclusion due to geography, demographic trends such as depopulation of remote rural communities, and attracting and retaining the skills needed to ensure the economic development of the region.

On our tour today, you are invited to come and find out more about UHI and how we are supporting the economic and social regeneration of the Highlands & Islands of Scotland.

## **Outline Study Tour Programme**

- 1.45 Depart Aviemore
- 2.30 Arrive UHI Millennium Institute Executive Office, City of Inverness
- 2.40 Welcome – Professor Robert Cormack, Principal
- 2.50 Community Learning Networks in Northern Periphery Areas  
The establishment of a Virtual Learning Community across learning networks based in Scotland, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland  
Jill de Fresnes, Project Manager
- 3.05 Q&A
- 3.10 Highlands & Islands Learning Centre Strategy  
The importance of community learning in remote communities  
Margaret Cameron, Learning Centre Co-ordinator
- 3.25 Q&A
- 3.30 Tea/coffee
- 3.45 Student Perspective – Video Conference Link with Lochaber College  
Mallaig  
Jane Henderson, former UHI student and Centre Manager
- 4.0 Q&A
- 4.05 Structural Funding 2007/2013 – Looking to the Future  
Linda Stewart, Head of External Relations
- 4.20 Q&A
- 4.25 UHI – Growing Research Capacity
- 4.40 Q&A
- 4.45 Close of Session – the real ‘spirit of the Highlands & Islands’!