



## **AIB and Tipperary Institute Agree Banking Franchise**

**27th February 2001**

Tipperary Institute (TI) is Europe's only Institute integrating third level education with rural and business development. TI has a campus in two locations, Clonmel and Thurles, both of which are equipped with state-of-the-art technology to enhance the learning experience. The Institute currently offers courses in Business, Technology and Sustainable Rural Development and plans to include fields of economics and social activity such as Tourism and the Environment in phase 2 of its development.

AIB Bank and TI have advised of the commencement of a ten year Banking Franchise where AIB will provide a range of Banking services on campus in both Clonmel & Thurles to serve the Student and Academic population.

Aligned to TI's culture of innovation, the franchise agreement also includes the provision of AIB specialist personnel services covering areas such as International Business and Graduate Development.

Commenting on the franchise agreement, Mr. Padraig Culbert, Chief Executive, TI, said that, "The agreement between TI and AIB is important to us because, not only does it provide for top-class financial services to our students and staff, but there is specific provision for the funding of student -related projects. Also, the international facilities of AIB will be made available to us and we hope that this will help us to reach out to people abroad who may be likely to invest or set up business in Tipperary. The deal was reached after the institute considered a wide range of options available to it and the AIB offer was the best one that was made to us."

Mr. Ciaran Mahon, Development Manager, AIB Area South, praised the Institute's course on Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) which is very much aligned to the Bank's commitment to supporting rural development.

"It has been recognised both nationally and internationally that we must use our scarce natural resources in a way which conserves them as far as possible for future generations while also meeting the social and economic needs of today. It is also recognised that the maintenance of strong, stable and self-sufficient rural communities is both a desirable goal in its own right and one of the best guarantees of the development of rural areas in a sustainable way. The Institute's course in SRD will contribute significantly to the achievement of this goal. "

Mr Michael Carr, AIB's Senior Manager, Kilkenny/ North Tipperary, stated that he was particularly delighted as a Tipperary native that the Franchise Agreement had been concluded. "A tremendous working relationship has already developed between the people of IT and AIB Bank locally, and augurs well for the years ahead. I have no doubt that this

alliance bodes well for the continued social and economic development of Tipperary and surrounding counties."