

Cymru Corporate Wales

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Ten Years of Economic Improvement

Rhodri Morgan, First Minister

Mae'n ddeng mlynedd bellach ers i Gymru bleidleisio o blaid datganoli – a dyna wahaniaeth mae wedi'i wneud i fywydau pawb, yn w r a gwragedd ac yn blant, yn mhob cwr o'r wlad.

Mae ein Cymru heddiw yn wahanol iawn i'r Gymru oedd yn bodoli ddegawd yn ôl. Mae ein hunanhyder fel cenedl yn datblygu yn wleidyddol, yn economaidd ac yn ddiwylliannol. Rydym yn dod i arfer â gorfod cymryd penderfyniadau sy'n gwneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol a phositif i'n bywydau. Rydym yn cefnu o'r diwedd ar y traddodiad oesol o weld bai ar eraill am ein problemau.

Mae'r gwelliannau rydym wedi'u gweld yn economi Cymru yn arwydd o wir lwyddiant. Mae nifer y swyddi yng Nghymru 130,000 yn fwy na'r ffigur cyn datganoli, sef cynnydd o 11 y cant, o'i gymharu â saith y cant ar gyfer y Deyrnas Unedig gyfan.

Balchder arbennig yw gweld sut mae ein prifysgolion a'n busnesau yn gyrru Cymru yn ei blaen. Pwy fyddai wedi dychmygu ddeng mlynedd yn ôl y byddai dau o enillwyr y Wobr Nobel am Wyddoniaeth ar staff un o brif brifysgolion Cymru – Caerdydd.

Ddeng mlynedd yn ôl nid oedd gennym gwmpniau uwch-dechnoleg gwirioneddol enwog ar raddfa fyd-eang yn datblygu eiddo deallusol newydd, sef y genhedlaeth nesaf o wasanaethau a chynhyrchion yma yng Nghymru, yn hytrach na gwneud mân declynnau neu gromedau mewn ffatrioedd bach.

Bellach, fodd bynnag, mae gennym gwmpniau tebyg i IBM yn y Sefydliad Gwyddorau Bywyd ar gampws Prifysgol Abertawe, GE Healthcare yng Nghaerdydd, General Dynamics yn Oakdale a EADS yng Nghasnewydd ymhlith eraill sy'n defnyddio Cymru fel sail i ddatblygu eu technoleg newydd.

Yn y Gogledd mae gennym Airbus sy'n cyflogi dros 6,000 o bobl ac sy'n cynhyrchu'r adenydd awyrennau masnachol mwyaf datblygedig yn y byd. Mae Parc Menai ym Mangor â'i gysylltiadau agos â'r brifysgol yn barc

busnes llwyddiannus iawn yn llawn unedau technolegol. Bu'r ganolfan feddalwedd CAST yn gyfrwng i feithrin cysylltiadau agosach fyth rhwng y brifysgol a'r sector busnes uwch-dechnoleg. Dyna'r rheswm y mae cwmniau fel Inspired Broadcast Network wedi lleoli yno.

Bydd y ffaith ein bod bellach yn denu cwmniau uwch-dechnoleg i wneud gwaith ymchwil a datblygu yma yng Nghymru yn arwain at fanteision hirdymor, yn arbennig ein gallu i greu cyfleoedd gwirioneddol ar gyfer y goreuon a'r mwyaf disglair yn ein plith. Yn y gorffennol, po uchaf i'fyny'r ysgol addysg yr oedd pobl yn llwyddo i ddringo, mwyaf tebygol yr oeddent o bacio eu bagiau ac anelu am yr M4 neu'r A55 allan o'r wlad. Nid dyna'r sefyllfa mwyach.

Gallant yn awr ddatblygu eu doniau a'u gyrfaoedd yma yng Nghymru i fod yn beirianwyr, yn wyddonwyr ac yn arweinwyr y dyfodol.

Gallwn edrych ymlaen yn awr yn hyderus i sefydlu Academi Hyfforddiant Amddiffyn yn Sain Tathan ym Mro Morgannwg a fydd yn cynnig swyddi o ansawdd da i filoedd. Caiff personél y lluoedd arfog eu hyfforddi mewn academi a fydd yn sicrhau onnyn cenfigen Rhydychen a Chaergrawnt pan fydd yn agor ei drysau yn y degawd nesaf.

Ochr yn ochr â'n llwyddiant economaidd rydym hefyd wedi gweld ein hyder yn tyfu fel cenedl, gan ddangos awydd a pharodrwydd i wneud ein penderfyniadau ein hunain a chymryd y cyfrifoldeb am y penderfyniadau hynny. Gallwn gyraedd pobl ar draws y byd oherwydd hanes cyfoethog Cymru a'n sefyllfa bresennol yn arloesi ym maes technoleg newydd.

Byddwn yn manteisio ar arddangosfeydd rhyngwladol a digwyddiadau chwaraeon mawr i dynnu sylw at drefnadaeth ddiwylliannol a diwydiannol Cymru a'i lle yn y byd fel gwlad sy'n edrych i'r dyfodol yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain.

Pleser, er enghraifft, yw cofnodi mai Cymru fydd y wlad a fydd yn cael sylw arbennig yng Ng y Bywyd Gwerin Smithsonian yn Washington yn 2009.

Mae mor bwysig ein bod yn cyfleu'r hanes yn gywir amdanom ni ein hunain fel

cenedl i filiwn o Americanaid yn ystod yr yl hon – ac yna ein bod yn adrodd yr un hanes i ni ein hunain.

Mae'r hanes hwnnw yn seiliedig ar wau tri llinyn yn un – mae'r hanes cyntaf am y Gymru Geltaidd hynafol, Cymru Hywel Dda a'r Eisteddfod a Dafydd ap Gwilym. Yn ail mae hanes y Gymru ddiwydiannol, cenedl ddiwydiannol gyntaf y byd. Ac yn olaf, mae hanes y Gymru fodern, y Gymru uwch-dechnoleg hyderus yn y cyfnod ôl-ddatganoli yng nghanol harddwch ein hamgylchedd sy'n cynnig ansawdd bywyd heb ei ail. Dyma hanes yr hyn oeddem ni a hefyd yr hyn y byddwn ni.

Ar ôl i ni adrodd ein hanes i'r Americanaid, rhaid i ni droi ein golygon hefyd at godi ein proffil ymhlith megafarchnadoedd newydd y byd fel Tsieina ac India.

Mae ein cysylltiadau â Chongqing, sydd ar y groesffordd rhwng dwyrain a gorllewin Tsieina, yn golygu ein bod mewn sefyllfa fanteisiol yn hyn o beth gan mai dyma'r cyswllt tramor mwyaf ffyniannus sydd gennym ar hyn o bryd.

Erbyn 2050 – neu cyn hynny hyd yn oed – mae'n debyg y bydd y berthynas ag India a Tsieina hyd yn oed yn bwysicach na'n berthynas â'r Unol Daleithiau, yr Almaen neu Ffrainc. Dyma'r ddwy farchnad economaidd newydd enfawr y bydd yn rhaid i Gymru eu concro.

Mae dyfodiad Tata a'r datblygiad yn Corus, y cyswllt rhwng Tata Software a chanolfan ragoriaeth meddalwedd BT yng Nghaerdydd ac, yn anuniongyrchol, y posibilrwydd y bydd Tata Motors yn prynu cwmniau Land Rover a Jaguar yn arwydd cynnar o'r hyn sydd i ddod.

Ein pobl yw ein cryfder. Rydym bellach wedi croesawu datganoli ac mae hyder newydd a pharodrwydd i feddwl yn bositif yn ein gwlad. Dyma'r ysbryd mae'n rhaid i ni ei harneisio a'i gyflwyno dramor er mwyn creu gwell argraff a chyflawni mwy eto. Mae ein hanes yn un gwerth ei adrodd - gwannau hynny felly yn afieithus ac yn orfoleddus.



Rhodri Morgan, First Minister

It's now more than ten years since Wales voted in favour of devolution – and what a difference it's made to the lives of every man, woman and child in the country.

Wales today is very different from the Wales of a decade ago. Wales is now a 'can do' country. Our self confidence as a nation is growing, politically, economically and culturally. We are getting used to taking decisions that make a real and positive difference to our lives. We are discarding a tradition going back many centuries of blaming others for our problems.

The improvements we have seen in the Welsh economy are a real success story. The number of jobs in Wales is up by over 130,000 since devolution, a rise of 11 percent, compared with seven percent for the UK as a whole.

I'm particularly proud of the way our universities and businesses are propelling Wales forward. Who would ever have imagined 10 years ago that in 2007, one of Wales' top universities – Cardiff – would have two Nobel Prize winners in science on its staff.

A decade ago we didn't have any really world famous, high-tech companies developing new intellectual property, the next generation of services and products here in Wales, not just making widgets or grommets in branch factories.

But now we have the likes of IBM at the Institute of Life Sciences at the Swansea University campus, GE Healthcare in Cardiff, General Dynamics in Oakdale, and EADS in Newport among others using Wales as a basis for developing their new technology.

In North Wales we have Airbus employing more than 6,000 people and producing the most advanced commercial aircraft wings in the world. Parc Menai in Bangor with its close links with the university is a very successful technology unit business park, and the CAST software centre involves an even closer tie-up between the university and the high-tech business sector. That's why companies such as Inspired Broadcast Network have located there.

The fact that we are now attracting hi-tech companies to do R&D in Wales will bring long term benefits, not least in our ability to provide real opportunities for our brightest and best. In the past, the higher up the education ladder people have climbed the more likely it has been in the past for them to pack their bags and head out along the M4 or A55. But not any more.

Now they can develop their talent and careers here in Wales, to become the engineers, scientists and leaders of the future.

Now we can look forward with confidence to the establishment of the huge Defence Training Academy at St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan, which will provide thousands of high quality jobs. It will train service personnel in an academic environment that will turn Oxford and Cambridge green with envy when it opens for business next decade.

Coupled to our economic success has been our growing confidence as a nation, willing and eager to make our own decisions and to take responsibility for these decisions.

We can reach out to people across the globe thanks to Wales' rich history and our current position at the cutting edge of new technology.

International exhibitions and major sports events will be exploited to the full to publicise the cultural and industrial heritage of Wales, and its place as a

forward-looking country in the 21st century.

For example, I'm delighted that Wales will be the featured country in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington in 2009.

It's so important that we tell the right story about ourselves as a nation to a million Americans on their own front lawn during this festival – and then that we actually tell that story to ourselves.

It is about weaving together three stories – first is the story of ancient Celtic Wales, the Wales of Hywel Dda and the Eisteddfod and Dafydd ap Gwilym. Secondly, it is about the story of industrial Wales, the World's first industrial nation. And last it is about the story of modern Wales, the confident post-devolution high-tech Wales set in a beautiful environment offering a quality of life you can't beat anywhere. These are the stories of who we were, and where we are headed now.

When we have finished telling that story to the Americans, we must also think about how we raise our profile in emerging mega-markets such as China and India.

Our links with Chongqing, which is at the crossroads between eastern and western China, has given us a head start as it is now the most active overseas relationship we have.

By 2050 - or even earlier - the relationship with India and China is probably going to be more important to us than our relationship with the USA, Germany or France. These are the two new giant economic markets that Wales has to crack.

The Tata takeover of Corus, Tata Software's hookup with the BT software centre of excellence in Cardiff and indirectly even the possible purchase of Land Rover and Jaguar by Tata Motors is an early sign of what's to come.

Our strength lies with our people. We have now embraced devolution, and the country exudes enthusiasm and positive thinking. That is the spirit we must harness and project abroad to have greater impact and to punch above our weight. We have a wonderful story to tell – let's not be shy about shouting it from the rooftops.

Contents



4 Foreword

The First Minister Rhodri Morgan discusses how the economy has improved since devolution and that Universities in Wales have thrived in recent years. He welcomes the fact that technological industries have located in Wales and are making breakthroughs.

10 Economic Development

Ianyn Wyn Jones the Deputy First Minister forewords the section and gives us his views about the economy and giving support to new enterprises as well as taking the Welsh economy into the 21st Century. Dr Tim McIntyre Batty, Dean of Newport Business School, is interviewed about inward investment in Wales. And then we look at the Welsh Assembly's Heads of the Valley Initiative; the plans to regenerate the area. John Osmond, Director of the Institute of Welsh Affairs looks at the relationship that Wales and Scotland have with England post devolution. A look at the new training ground for the armed forces to be opened in St Athan. And Helen Monks gives an objective London view of business in Wales.

22 Arup

A look at the at Arup a global design and business consulting firm. We look at their work in healthcare in Wales and how they are creating sustainable design solutions in healthcare buildings. We also look at the company's consultancy work on renewable energy for the Welsh Assembly Government. We also look at how their concepts for transit in Wales are being discussed especially in relation to the proposed Metro project in Cardiff.

30 Isle of Anglesey

Council Leader Gareth Winston Roberts OBE talks about the economic successes of Anglesey, the continued regeneration in Holyhead and the successful partnership with Stena Line. Then the industries within the region are looked at and the importance of Anglesey as a tourist destination. European funding is ensuring that the region continues regeneration and costal improvements. Transport links and communications systems such as broadband ensure that Anglesey is easy to get and is flexible for workers.

38 Newport

An introduction to the section from the Council Leader Bob Bright and Grant Watson, Chairman of Urban Regeneration Company, Newport Unlimited, they outline the ongoing and future dramatic changes to the bustling city. Then follows an article about Newport Unlimited and the transforming area, the 2010 Ryder Cup to be held in Newport, the projected growth of the population in the city, more retail space and how the city is attracting new business. Associated British Ports underline the importance of Newport as the gateway for the steel and coal trade to transport goods.

48 Pembrokeshire

A look at the beauty of the area and the costal walks that mix built and natural heritage. The development of the energy industries and the proposed new Marina development at Fishguard.

- 56 Cardiff**
Council Leader Rodney Berman introduces the section by looking at the Capital City, its culture, heritage, natural assets such as Cardiff bay and compactness. He also looks at economic growth and the increasing employment figures. A look at how Barry and Cardiff Ports help growth in Cardiff.
- 62 Swansea**
An introduction to the section from Leader of the Council Chris Holley who discusses the developments taking place in the city. A look at the Port Talbot and the transportation of Swansea's forest products.
- 68 Hyder Consulting**
A look at Hyder Consulting the company specialises in engineering consultancy, plans, designs and manages the development of water, property, highways, rail, defence, telecommunications. We look at their groundbreaking indoor mountain ski resort in Dubai as their other latest projects both locally and globally.
- 76 Sustainable Wales**
Foreword by Mike Batt Manager of the Carbon Trust who discusses that Wales can take the lead in tackling climate change. Then a look at two companies dedicated to bringing sustainable options to manufacturing. Then we look at how the University of Glamorgan is leading the world in Hydrogen Technology. Then Nigel Roberts MD of Paramount Office Interiors leads us through the true costs of having a green office environment. Jane Davidson the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing discusses the Welsh Assembly's Energy Initiative. Jeremy Williams Partner at Hugh James Solicitors looks at sustainability in the built environment.
- 94 Communication and Transport**
Foreword by John Fitzgerald, Port Director of Associated British Ports, South Wales. He discusses the importance of a good logistics network to keep any economy efficient, he details the role that freight transporters have in the structure of Wales. We then look at the importance of public transport, and Cardiff Bus looks at the transit for people in the city. Royal Mail look at how modernisation is driving the postal services forward. Associated British Ports looks at the five ports in Wales and their importance to the economy. A look at how Stena Line is continuing to provide vital links for both passengers and for freight.
- 106 Professional Services**
Andrew Davies Minister for Public Service Delivery outlines his vision for delivery of public service in Wales. Phillip Rees Partner at Hugh James Solicitors looks at the way that the company is excelling in outsourcing. Good Relations Director Paul Shackson tells us about web mapping, a revolutionary new way of tracking comments made about businesses online.
- 114 Wales in London**
Robert John, Chair of Wales in London introduces the section explaining the role of the organisation and a selection of the members are profiled. We then take a look at Paramount Office Interiors activities in London. Matthew Tossell Managing Partner of Hugh James Solicitors outlines the company's expansion and the opening of their London office in the last year. Then a look at Arup's projects both in the UK and internationally.
- 128 Education**
Jane Hutt, Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills looks at the latest educational initiatives. Then we look at the courses that Newport Business School has to offer to students.
- 134 UWIC**
A section that focuses on the University of Wales Insitute, Cardiff its history and tradition and its impact on the local community. We also look at Quantum an example of a company that the university is building corporate links with.

Contents

140 Sport and the Economy

An introduction by Nigel Roberts, MD of Paramount Office Interiors, on how sport is contributing to the Welsh Economy. The University of Glamorgan is offering training in top rate sporting vocations, we profile the options that the university specialises in. A look at the sports coverage that S4C provides to Wales and beyond. Head of BBC Sport Nigel Walker is interviewed about the BBC's sports coverage and how they cover the action in Wales. Gareth Senior Partner at Hugh James Solicitors goes into the company's involvement with the legal side of the big sporting events in Wales. Then an overview of Golf in Wales. A look at Welsh Rally GB and how it will continue to impact the automotive industry.

156 Media

Foreword by Iona Jones Chief Executive of S4C about the implications for the channel and the move towards digitalisation. Then a look at the impact that S4C has on the Welsh economy. Then an interview with Menna Richards controller at the BBC about how top dramas such as Dr Who and Torchwood are produced in Wales and the growing international reputation that this is giving the country.

164 Creative Industries

A look at the University of Glamorgan's excellent creative courses that are taught in a state of the art building. The degree paths appeal to an international market as well as a local one. Then a look at dynamic architectural practice Boyes Rees, their recent projects and their award last year for Commercial Architecture.

170 Culture and Tourism

An introduction to the section by Rhodri Glyn Thomas minister at the Welsh Assembly for Heritage and Tourism. He discusses Wales' rich built heritage and how the beauty of the buildings and of the land is bringing increasing tourism to the nation. Then a look at the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the quality that they bring to the cultural scene. It is discussed how they have more opportunity to play and develop than other national orchestras. Then we look at the National Museum of Wales and the seven museums that the organisation supports. The museums are attracting an unprecedented amount of visitors from both home and abroad. Geraint Talfen Davies Chairman of Welsh National Opera talks about devolution and how it has effected the cultural scene in Wales. We then take a look at some of the country's best hotels and venues. The Hilton in Cardiff, Park Plaza in Cardiff, the Millenium Stadium, The Quay Hotel in Conwy

188 Automotive and Aerospace

An overview of the automotive and aerospace industries in Wales.

194 Food and Drink

An overview of the Food and Drink industries in Wales. The new Rural Affairs Minister in the Welsh Assembly Elin Jones gives her views. We then look at Penderyn Distillery and their renowned whisky as well as gin, vodka and other drinks.

202 Information

Corporate Wales provides comprehensive information on the Welsh Assembly Government and the National Assembly for Wales, on Wales' Local Authorities, the top 100 Companies in Wales, as well as listings of official and professional bodies, architects, surveyors, accountants, solicitors, universities and further education colleges, television and radio broadcasters, newspapers, conference facilities and travel information.



