

## BioSpectrum honors biotech excellence

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*The BioSpectrum India Awards, now in its 8th edition in 2010, is an endeavor to honor the outstanding achievements of the biotech industry captains.*



The BioSpectrum awardees were unanimously chosen by the 8th BioSpectrum Awards Jury headed by Mr Hari S Bhartia, co-chairman and MD, Jubilant Life Sciences. The award ceremony took place at Hotel Leela Palace in Bangalore. There were two categories of awards. Jury Awards – selected by the jury and Company Awards given on the basis of the BioSpectrum-ABLE annual industry survey the results of which are published in the June & July (2010) issues of BioSpectrum.

In his opening remarks, Mr Narayanan Suresh, group editor of BioSpectrum, said, "Ever since its inception, BioSpectrum Awards Nite has become an important day in the calendar of people related to life sciences sector. The awards recognize the inimitable contributions made by the companies, individuals and educational institutes. A special category a new Leadership Award was instituted this year to recognize the achievements of Dr Kiran Mazumbar-Shaw, who is the face of biotech in India."

After the Company Awards presentation, special addresses were delivered by Mr Karun Rishi, president of USA-India Chamber of Commerce, US; and Dr Satya Dash, COO of Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE), Bangalore.

In his address, Mr Rishi touched upon the patent expiry scenario in the global drug market and he stressed the need for industry deliberations between biotech and pharma companies in India and EU and the US. "There are opportunities for Indian companies in the global market and India should take advantage of that," he said.

Dr Dash spoke about the biosimilars regulations in India, "There is a need of joint efforts from industry and the government to find solutions on regulatory issues pertinent to the pharma and biotech industry and the procedure and technical aspects related to that. Industry should always thrive to retain the cost and time advantage. It is high time to create a single regulatory authority to look after regulations in India from the R&D process, pre-clinical protocol approval, clinical trials to marketing."

Prof VS Ramamurthy, director, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore; and a well-known Indian nuclear scientist with a broad base of contributions ranging from basic research to science administration, was the chief guest of the event. "In India, biotech sector came into being 25 years ago. In order to strengthen the progress of the sector, India needs to focus on creating quality manpower to fulfill the growing need of the sector. At the same time, public should get proper education on the prospects of science and innovation to maintain consistent growth."

Ms Nandita Singh, executive editor of BioSpectrum, delivered the closing remarks. The event saw the participation of about 200 key people representing various segments of the life sciences industry.