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**US NEWS**

**US-India BioPharma Summit in Cambridge**

*Sunday, 06.08.2008, 10:36pm (GMT-7)*

NEW YORK: USA-India Chamber of Commerce's annual US-India BioPharma Summit taking place at Hyatt Cambridge on June 13th has evoked strong interest among participants. The organizers have seen a very high level of interest and participation from across the nation and other countries.

It has become the Bio Pharma event in the world focused on US-India Life Sciences and Healthcare said Karun Rishi, President of the USA-India Chamber of Commerce. Kapil Sibal, Minister of Science and Technology, India will be the keynote speaker at the summit. Other keynote speakers are: Dr. Surinder Singh, Drug Controller General of India and Dr. Joshua Boger, CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals & Chairman of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO). There will be panel discussions covering Drug Discovery and Development, Clinical Research, In and Out Licensing, Funding innovation and Cross Border M&A trends.

The Summit theme is: "Delivering Affordable Innovation through Cross Border Partnerships". We are very pleased with the quality of participants, said Karun Rishi. "Industry and the investment community have recognized the importance and high quality of our annual Summit. Participant's names are like the who's who of the industry."

Prominent participants are: Dr. Gary Stiles, Chief Medical officer-Wyeth; Dr. William Chin, Vice President Discovery Research, Eli Lilly; Dr. Rod MacKenzie, Sr. Vice President Worldwide Research- Pfizer; Dr. Mark Powell, Worldwide Head Pharma Development-Bristol Myers Squibb; Jim Mullen, CEO- Biogen Idec; Dr. Jeff Elton, Chief Operating Officer- Novartis Institutes of Biomedical Research; Dr. Barbara Yanni, Chief Licensing Officer- Merck & Co; Gregg Alton, Senior Vice President- Gilead Sciences.

CEO's and senior executives of over 100 emerging and mid size companies are participating. Investor side has heavy weights of the Wall Street like Frederick Frank of Lehman Brothers, David Gluckman from Lazard and top tier Venture Capitalists like Dr. Helmut Schuhsler- TVM Capital; Stephen Knight- Fidelity BioSciences, Tom Monath-Kleiner Perkins; Joel Marcus- ARE and senior partners from OrbiMed, Pappas Ventures, Bain Capital, Oxford Biosciences, MPM Capital, Ampersand Ventures, Extera Partners, Healthcare Ventures, Venrock Associates etc.. Over 30 prominent Life Sciences and Healthcare focused Venture Capitalists and Private Equity firms have confirmed.

One of the area of strong interest for the US side is cross border M&A. Indian Pharma companies have been very active in acquiring companies in the US and Europe. Outbound investments in Bio Pharma from India were more than inbound last year. Many emerging companies in the US could be potential targets of acquisition by the Indian firms. Indian industry is well represented by prominent heavy weights like Venkat Jasti, Vice Chairman- Suvan Life Sciences; Villoo Patell, Chairperson-Avesthagen; Arun Chandavarkar, Chief Operating officer- Biocon; CSN Murthy, CEO- Aurigene; Rashmi Barbhayia, CEO- Advinus and senior executives from Dr. Reddy's Labs, GVK Biosciences, Orchid Pharma, Biovel, Strand Life Sciences.

Over 30 Indian companies have confirmed their participation till end of May. Several academicians and Dean of prestigious schools like Harvard Medical School, Tufts Medical School, Harvard School of Public Health, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston University are participating. India has become an attractive destination for clinical research and trials not just for the big global pharma companies but also for emerging Bio Pharma companies. Drug Controller General of India is very bullish about the opportunities in this area. Added Dr. Surinder Singh: "World class IP regime in compliance with TRIPS has made India an attractive destination for global healthcare and life sciences companies."

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India is becoming a global hub for innovation, drug discovery and collaborative research. Diverse genetic pool, large patient pool, drug naive population, competent medical professionals, high quality hospitals where trials can be undertaken and low cost of services have stimulated the flow of clinical research to India. Further boost has been given due to India's health ministry establishing comprehensive rules for conducting clinical trials in India. Indian government has taken very significant and proactive measures to support the Biotech industry. The National Biotechnology Development Strategy has been approved recently and several measures outlined in it are already implemented, said Sibal. India's biotechnology sector is experiencing accelerated growth in the last 4-5 years. It is already showing signs of becoming the engine that will drive socio-economic growth in the coming years.

The biotech industry, traditionally strong in manufacturing and services, is currently poised to enter the phase of discovery and innovation added Sibal. In this new milieu, India looks forward to forge new and strategic global partnerships in life sciences and biotechnology, he said. In a statement, Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce & Industry stated that India is "Partner of Choice" in the life sciences area globally.

Regulatory and TRIPS compliant Intellectual Property changes have made India an attractive choice for investments in the Bio Pharma industry. Annual US-India Bio Pharma Summit provides continuity and helps bring together all stakeholders- industry, investors, policy makers and academia- creating an enabling environment.

The result oriented work being done by the USA-India Chamber of Commerce to promote and facilitate biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and healthcare business and investments between the two countries is laudable. Globalization has favored the technology intensive industries in general and the biotech industry in particular.

The biotechnology industry in India has almost doubled in size during 2005-07. The India biotech companies are progressively gaining global competence through strategic global alliances, mergers & acquisitions, investments and new product launches. Keeping in spirit with this trend, the summit theme has very rightly been set as "Delivering Affordable Innovation through Cross Border Partnerships", added Dr. M.K. Bhan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology.

The current challenge before global R&D is management of innovation. International collaborations play a critical role in the innovation process as it paves way for accessing the R&D infrastructure and capabilities from multiple sources at lower costs.

The liberalization of trade and investment regime in India over the last decade has already made it one of the most favored destinations for R&D location. India's status of being compliant with the international trade and patent conventions also takes care of one of the most sensitive issue of securing intellectual property rights in R&D, said Dr. Bhan. In a statement, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Minister of Health & Family Welfare said: The annual US-India Bio Pharma Summit provides continuity of thoughts by bringing together important stakeholders.

It is important to mention here that the 2007 Summit had generated a number of partnerships and business deals following which many US Bio Pharma companies have not only shown interest but have also set up their base in India.

Added Dr. Ramadoss, "As India emerges as a major global economy; it is making changes in its regulatory scenario to harmonize them with the rest of the world. Growth drivers in this evolution are mainly cooperation between industries and academia, and institutions like India Council for Medical Research and NIPER have developed excellent partnership with US institutions in this area. According to Dr. Helmut Schuehler, Managing Partner TVM Capital and an active participant in the summit, the "pharmaceutical ecosystem" is transforming.

The established pharmaceutical markets of Western Europe and the US are predicted to slow. Markets in the US and Europe are in a stage of consolidation and cost reduction measures in healthcare will limit growth opportunities in the established large markets. Soaring costs of R&D and administration are persuading drug manufacturers to move discovery research, clinical trials and administrative center activities to the subcontinent to capitalize on India's high levels of scientific expertise and associated cost efficiency, he said.

As a result, current acquisition activities in the region aim to either establish an attractive product pipeline or reduce structural costs by benefiting from economies of scale, said Dr. Schuehler.



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