



MINUTES OF THE SECOND CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON INDUSTRY PLATFORM FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY

15TH JULY 2008, FICCI, NEW DELHI

The second consultative meeting on Industry Platform for Biotechnology was held at FICCI Federation House, New Delhi. The following participants were present:

Department of Biotechnology

Dr. M.K. Bhan, Secretary
Sh. N.S. Samant, Joint Secretary
Dr. S. Natesh, Scientist 'H'
Dr. K.K. Tripathi, Scientist 'G'
Dr. Renu Swarup, Scientist 'G'
Dr. Arvind Duggal, Scientist 'G'
Smt. Prachi Saroop, Director

FICCI

Sh. V.K. Topa, Advisor to Secretary General
Ms. Bishaka Bhattacharya, Additional Director
Sh. Navneet S. Tewatia, Assistant Director

Industry

As per annexure

2. Sh. V.K. Topa, Advisor to Secretary General, FICCI welcomed all the participants and invited Dr. M.K. Bhan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology for initiating the discussion.

3. Dr. Bhan gave an overview of the concept of European Technology Platform (ETP) that has synergized Research & Development (R&D) across the European Union. While highlighting their achievements, he called attention to the need of tailoring the ETP concept to Indian requirements. It was also brought out that the industry would be expected to collaborate on large projects and derive value from a well-managed, well-governed and well-partnered organization to solve intractable problems.

4. It was reiterated that the proposed Industry Platform should

- Provide connectivity in the knowledge ecosystem within and if necessary even outside the country and be a tool to produce knowledge / technology that is backed by resources and enhanced basic research e.g scout for early stage technology for further development within the country
- Help in envisaging ambitious R&D which is presently difficult for individual companies in the country and address the emerging challenges for the biotechnology industry
- Be an association to bridge the public R&D institutions and industry
- Train and expose scientific communities to new ideas, procedures and processes in the industry as well as the academia. The Industry Platform is expected to expand the industry's scientific pool through interaction with academia.
- Build capacities in all areas to make the Indian science globally competitive
- Have a chairman with domain knowledge and strong leadership qualities to steer the Platform through various challenges especially of the Industry collaborations.

5. The participants discussed the concept of Industry Platform and while its need was acknowledged, reservations were also expressed from certain quarters. Suggestions that emerged during the discussion are summarized as below:

- Platforms, through its networking, can help in integrating multiple sectors to provide targeted solutions e.g. New Technology for manufacturing equipments, vaccines etc.
- Industry Platform projects can, in the long term, lead to creation of a critical mass in the new technology areas like cell research, that is currently unavailable.
- Industry Platform can add value by providing access to international resources like IPR, infrastructure and potential international partnerships. It can extend value added services such as formulation of IPR Policy, address the financial and human resource issues.
- Industry Platform should be able to help industry from moving up the value chain, e.g. Biosimilar companies could examine ways for new discovery and more efficient production issues. Smaller companies could collaborate with academia with fruitful results
- Platform projects will help the medical devices industry to address technology needs of the industry.
- Platform structure should be flexible and accommodate different industrial sectors such as the current size, its potential, the level of innovation possible etc.
- Network should also be created between the Platforms to optimize resources for the common issues.
- Existing structures like SBIRI and NMTLI can be guiding examples for implementation of agreed upon projects, which should not conflict with the other members. The organizational structure should ensure transparency and balance the requirements of all members.
- There should be prescribed membership fees for the Industry Platform. Around 40 to 50 members are necessary to have a successful Industry Platform.
- A Platform should be decision-making body and not a forum to deliberate. Decision should be taken on the number of Platforms to be established and crystallization of ideas for further action.
- Centralized facilities could be developed through Industry Platform which would also identify and focus on business issues such as development of human resource, infrastructure, regulatory matters etc.
- The Platform could be a dynamic structure with firm IP policies.
- Different models of Industry Platform could be created such as -
 - a) Industry sponsored research center, as presently functioning in IIT, Chennai.
 - b) Section 25 company
 - c) As a Society etc.
- Industry Platform can take up the following areas for setting up Platforms:
 - Biomarkers, high throughput screening
 - Development of adjuvant, expression vector
 - Manufacturability issues after technology transfer – stability
 - Novel methods of administration for vaccines. E.g. oral vaccines
 - Joint R&D is possible in areas of national need. E.g. neglected diseases, dengue, chronic diseases

- Nanotechnology in agriculture
- Platforms can negotiate purchase of genes/strains for Agriculture BT.
- Focus on animal biotech: Increasing cost of feed in poultry, bovine etc.
- Tissue banking
- Stem cell
- Medical devices and implants for the Indian market.

6. The organizational structure and the governing mechanism of the Industry Platform was also discussed. The proposed structure for Industry Platform was explained by Secretary, Biotechnology, which had also been circulated to the participants along with invitation for the meeting. The following views/suggestions materialized during the discussion on the structure and mechanism of the proposed Industry Platform:

- The Chairman of the Steering Committee who would lead the Industry Platform was the critical factor. The chairman could be from the Industry or the public sector.
- Multiple stakeholders involvement was necessary such as financial institutions, social scientists, IPR lawyers / managers etc.
- Confidentiality agreement amongst members was essential for Industry Platform

7. While concluding, the Secretary summarized the discussion as under:

- It was clearly established that Industry Platforms are needed.
- The proposed organization structure was agreed in principle with a governing board and separate platforms with respective steering committees, platform management committee and working groups. The governance structure may be fine tuned to specific industry platform needs. Each Platform will have a dedicated person with relevant technical expertise to actively network and follow up the ideas, and will work with FICCI's support.
- Willingness for membership to the following industry platforms would be invited:
 - a. BioPharma
 - b. AgriBio
 - c. Medical Devices and Implants

Small group meetings (platform wise) will be organized where industry & academia will be invited to provide feedback on the specifics relating to the above.

- There will not be any restrictions on companies to be members; however they will have to comply with some minimum set of responsibilities. There will be a membership fee of Rs 50,000/-.
- Stakeholders can also share their suggestions through the web portal of the Industry Platform (www.industryplatform.org).

8. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the chairman.

ANNEXURE – I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

INDUSTRIAL PARTICIPANTS

1. Dr. Smita Singhania, Group Leader - Regulatory Affairs, Actis Biologics Pvt Ltd.
2. Dr. Rashmi Barbhaiya, MD & CEO, Advinus Therapeutics Private Limited
3. Prof. S. Keishnaswamy., CMD, Animal Biotech (Bangalore) Pvt. Ltd.
4. Dr. Rama Mukherjee, Managing Director, Ara Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. (AHL)
5. Dr. Biswanath Mazumdar, Vice President, Bejo Sheetal Seeds Pvt. Ltd.
6. Mr. Surinder Kumar, Area Manager, Bejo Sheetal Seeds Pvt. Ltd.
7. Dr. Alpna Seth, MD, Biogen Idec Biotech India Pvt. Ltd.
8. Ms. Meenu Batolar, Regulatory Affairs Head, Biogen Idec Biotech India Pvt. Ltd.
9. Ms. Samita Mathur, Research Manager, BIRD eTechnology Group @ IMRB
10. Ms. Divya Bhatia, Research Manager, BIRD eTechnology Group @ IMRB
11. Dr. Anurag Sharma, Correspondent, Business Bhaskar
12. Dr. Gita Sharma, Head - Biotech R & D, Claris Lifesciences Limited
13. Dr. Arun Bhatt, President, ClinInvent Research Pvt Ltd
14. Dr. Shakti Upadhyay, Chief Research Officer (Life Sciences), E.I.D. Parry (India) Ltd.
15. Mr. N.K. Sagar, Director - Corporate Affairs, Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
16. Dr. Subhash Singh, Head - R&D, Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd.
17. Mr. S. Deb, General Manager - Govt. Affairs & Institutional Business Development, GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Limited
18. Dr. T.R. Grover, Sr. Vice President - Corporate Relations, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd
19. Mr. K V Balasubramaniam, Managing Director, Indian Immunologicals Ltd
20. Dr. G.S. Reddy, Chief General Manager (Manufacturing), Indian Immunologicals Ltd
21. Dr. D.C. Jain, DGM - Green Tech (HOD), Ipca Laboratories Limited
22. Dr. Anil Pareek, Medical Director, Ipca Laboratories Limited
23. Mr. Raju Barwale, Managing Director, Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd (MAHYCO)

24. Dr. Usha Zehr, Lead, Biotechnology Research, Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd (MAHYCO)
25. Mr. Sanjay Deshpande, DGM (Public Relation & Coordination), Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd (MAHYCO)
26. Dr Arvind Kapur, MD, Nunhems India Pvt. Ltd.
27. Dr. Pradip Kumar Bhatnagar, Sr.VP-New Drug Discovery Research, Ranbaxy Labs. Ltd.
28. Mr. M. Ramasami, Managing Director, Rasi Seeds (P) Ltd.
29. Mr. G. Ranganathan, Manager (Corporate Relations), Rasi Seeds (P) Ltd.
30. Dr. Venkata Ramana, Research Director, Reliance Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd. (Reliance Industries Ltd)
31. Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao, Director, Relisys Medical Devices Ltd.
32. Dr. Subhash V. Kapre, Executive Director, Serum Institute of India Ltd
33. Dr. Sivaram Chintalapati, Business Unit Manager - Research Biotech, Sigma Aldrich Chemicals Pvt. Ltd
34. Mr. Dhananjay Singh, Business Unit Manager and Research Speciality & Essentials, Sigma Aldrich Chemicals Pvt. Ltd
35. Mr. B.N. Manohar, President, Stempeutics Research Pvt Ltd
36. Dr. Anselm de Souza, Director Biotechnology, Tex Biosciences (P) Limited
37. Dr. Rammanohar Puthiyedath, Director of Reseach, The Arya Vaidya Pharmacy (Coimbatore) Ltd
38. Dr. Niranjana M. Kumar, Senior VP, Biotech manufacturing, Wockhardt Limited
39. Dr. M.K. Sahib, Director - Genomics & Biotechnology, Wockhardt Research Center
40. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Vice President - Biotechnology, Zydus Research Center

INSTITUTES, UNIVERSITIES & GOVERNMENT PARTICIPANTS

1. Prof. Venugopal P. Menon, Professor & Head, Anna Malai University
2. Dr. V.M. Katoch, Director, Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy
3. Dr. Lalit Bharadwaj, Dy. Director, Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO)
4. Dr. Sanjay Kapoor, Associate Professor (Reader), Deptt. of Plant Molecular Biology, DU, South Campus,
5. Dr. C. K. Basu, Scientist E, DIPAS
6. Dr. Meenu Kapoor, Associate Professor, DU, South Campus
7. Prof. Akhilesh Tyagi, Professor & Director (ICPG), DU, South Campus
8. Dr. Ashok Kolaskar, Advisor, National Knowledge Commission, Government of India
9. Dr. V.S. Reddy, Group Leader, Plant Biology: Plant Transformation, ICGEB
10. Dr. Kanaury V.S. Rao, Head - Immunology Group, ICGEB
11. Dr. K.C. Gupta, Acting Director, IGIB
12. Prof. M.Gourie Devi, Emeritus Professor of Neurology, IHBAS, Delhi
13. Dr. Tanmoy Mukherjee, Head - IPR, IICB
14. Dr. A.K. Sen, Scientist - F and Head - BDG, IICB
15. Prof. J.S. Yadav, Director, IICT (Deptt. of Biotechnology)
16. Prof. Pradip Sinha, Professor & Head - School of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering, IIT Kanpur
17. Dr. Shaloo Srikrishna, Sr. Research Associate - Apollo Hospitals Educational and Research Foundation
18. Dr. Ranjit Roychowdhury, Chairman (Research), Indraprastha Apollo Hospital
19. Dr. Shantanu Chowdhury, Group Leader, Institute of Genomics & Integrative Biology
20. Dr. Dipika Mohanty, Ex - Director, Institute of Immunohaematology (ICMR)
21. Dr Virender S Sangwan, Head, Cornea & Anterior Segment Services, L V Prasad Eye Institute
22. Dr. Sanjay Mehendale, Scientist - F, National AIDS Research Institute [NARI]
23. Dr. Satish Kumar Gupta, Senior Scientist, National Institute of Immunology
24. Dr. Dinkar M. Salunke, Scientist, National Institute of Immunology
25. Dr. P. N. Tandon, President, NBRC Society
26. Dr. Parikshit Bansal, Asstt. Professor (IPM), IPR and Technology Cell, NIPER
27. Dr. HK Mittal, Advisor & Head, NSTEBD
28. Dr. S. Nagarajan, Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmer's Rights Authority
29. Dr. K. Mohandas, Director, SCTIMST