

Human Resource development: Key to research success

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Biotechnology has become the latest revolution and is considered by many to have a bigger impact than the industrial and IT revolutions in this century. The degree to which each country adopts biotechnology will largely depend on one key factor: availability of qualified human resources.

To our Asian friends, Thailand has been considered a regional training hub for biotechnology. Each year the country receives scientists and trainees of various nationalities. Training topics range from plant biotechnology, to medical biotechnology, to food biotechnology. In addition to government research facility involvement, local universities have joined in the drive to increase qualified researchers by including biotechnology courses. The private sectors, sensing the importance of this field, have started to include a biotechnology research and development section in their facilities. This involvement by universities, research institutes, and private sectors has produced a significant number of biotechnology related human resources. To foreign companies establishing offices overseas, this is an important decision factor. Currently, over 1,500 biotechnology experts are available online to meet the market demand for skilled researchers and laboratory technicians.

A topic that goes hand-in-hand with human resource development in science is the fostering of research collaborations both with domestic and international partners. Government research facilities like those under the directive of NSDA have initiated collaborative research projects with various partners from academia, research institutions, and the private sector. This collaboration helps build alliances and broaden in-house research mindsets, and acts as a multiplier for networking and expanding existing and future research projects. For Thailand, collaboration with neighboring countries helps build scientific relationships and improve technology know-how in these countries. In this day and age, when trade is on a global scale, researchers need to be aware of market trends and availability of up-to-date technology. Having the opportunity to work with overseas research teams also exposes local researchers to international research directions and needs of the global market.

The National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC) is an autonomous research institution under the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and Ministry of Science and Technology. BIOTEC provide support to strengthen the research capacity of Thai scientists in biotechnology.

From September 22-25, 2009 BIOTEC, ABIC Foundation, and BioAsia 2009 will co-host the ABIC 2009 International Conference “Agricultural Biotechnology for Better Living and a Clean Environment” at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center in Bangkok, Thailand. The international conference will focus on two biotechnological tracks: Plant and Animal Biotechnology, and Aquaculture Biotechnology. BioAsia 2009 will organize a 100+ exhibition showcase including business to business partnering

sessions. The Thai Society for Biotechnology (TSB) with its 300+ member delegations will hold their Annual Meeting at ABIC 2009.

ABIC 2009 will have the key components for a winning conference: energetic participation, contacts leading to collaborations, and participants leaving with insights that will accelerate or redirect their research.

Secretariat of ABIC 2009

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