

HANSEATIC INDIA COLLOQUIUM

Healthcare, Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical sciences

14th November 2008, 9:30-18:00 h
Chile House, Conference Room of Union Invest, 6th Floor

A Brief Report:

The Hanseatic India Colloquium has been conceived to focus on the bilateral business relationship between Hamburg and India. The Colloquium was held for the third year running in 2008, as well as being a part of the India Week celebrations in Hamburg. However, it turned out to be a truly international event as participants from UK, Switzerland and Belgium also attended, apart from India and Germany. This emphasizes the positive impact that the Colloquium has effected internationally.

The Colloquium was well attended, 109 persons reported at the registration desk between 9:00h and 09:30h. Out of the total participants, approximately 25% came directly from India. We also had late participants arriving during the day, who wanted to register; however, no more badges were available at this point of time to distribute. Judging by the positive feedback received till date, the Colloquium was highly successful.

Among the participants, we had many luminaries from Indian Pharmaceutical/Biotechnology sectors like Mr. Pankaj R. Patel, MD, Zydus Cadila, Mr. J. R. Vyas, MD, Dishman Pharmaceuticals, Mr. G. Mohapatra, MD, Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd., Dr. R. Barbhैया, MD, Advinus Therapeutics, Ms. Anu Acharya, CEO, Ocimum Biosolution, Ms. Deepanwita Chattopadhyay, CEO, ICICI Knowledge Park, Mr. George Varghese, Sr. Vice President, Piramal Healthcare, Dr. Deepak Jain, an eminent Cardiologist and a Member of the Advisory Board, Umkal Medical Institute, New Delhi, etc.

The opening session of the Conference started at 10:00h with an opening address by Dr. Vinod Kumar, the Consul General of India, Hamburg, followed by a "Welcome speech" by the State Secretary Mr. Bernd Reinert, Ministry of Science & Research of Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. Dr. Christian Ehler, Member of European Parliament and the Chairman of Europe India Chamber of Commerce took the stage to deliver a lecture outlining the initiatives taken at Brussels for developing a closer co-operation between Indian and European research oriented companies in both pharma and biotech sectors. Dr. Amal Mukhopadhyay made a detailed comparison between German and Indian pharma/biotech segments and emphasized various facets of co-operation that may bring profit to both German and Indian companies. Dr. Tomas Kahn, Head, Expert Team Life Sciences, Deutsche Bank AG, talked about the good experience Deutsche Bank has made in India, gave an assessment of current economic scenario in India which according to the bank is still optimistic and outlined the various financial options available to Indian companies coming to Europe and for German companies going to India.

In the first business session Dr. R. Barbhैया, spoke about the progress India has made in R&D efforts and described various R&D deals that Advinus has signed with several MNCs. At the point of time we were joined by a high powered business delegation from Gujarat. Mr. Pankaj Patel, the leader of the delegation, introduced the important members of the delegation and then described in detail the impressive industrial progress the State of Gujarat has made in the years after Indian independence. A very interesting film on Gujarat was shown.

Just after lunch, we heard a special lecture from Mr. Baldes, Chairman, Executive Board, World Wide Water System AG, about their ongoing cooperation in India, providing purified water. During his talk he emphasized how essential highly pure water was in the production of pharmaceutical and biotech products.

In the second Business Session, on "Biotechnology and Bioinformatics", we heard from Ms. Chattopadhyay first about the impressive progress India has made in developing knowledge clusters like ICICI Knowledge Park where a large number of biotech and pharma companies have clustered together. This was followed by a talk on North German Life Sciences cluster, by Dr. Adlkofer, CEO Norgenta. Ms. Anuradha Acharya in a very interesting way described her companies efforts in providing solution for genomics from global perspectives, as Ocimum has been on an acquisition spree both in the USA and Europe. She really told us a story of enormous growth. The last lecture of this session was delivered by Dr. P. Fischer, CEO, Euroferm GmbH, who has been to India developing a joint venture with an Indian partner. He described the innovative approach his company has adapted to develop organic pesticides based on baculovirus.

In the third Business Session, Mr. George Varghese discussed the current scenario in the diagnostic sector in India. He was followed by Dr. Deepak Jain who gave a lecture describing his research work on developing novel therapeutic approaches for cardiovascular disorders, highlighting aspects of Indo-German academic cooperation in medicine.

In the Closing Session, Mr. Stefan Matz, Director International Business, HWF, Hamburg, summarized the opportunities and support available from HWF and other Government agencies for foreign companies interested in setting up a business in Hamburg. Also he emphasized the important role being played by Hanseatic India Colloquium in building bridges between German and Indian companies active in healthcare sector. He then declared the Colloquium as closed at 18:00h as per schedule.