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South Koreaâ??s Biopharma Expansion Signals Next Decade Of Global Innovation Growth At API China 2026

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KBIOâ??s Jurie Hwang Highlights Investment Momentum, Advanced Therapeutics, and International Collaboration Driving Koreaâ??s Biopharmaceutical Rise



Reporting on ground from API China 2026, BioSpectrum Asia observed strong international interest around South Korea's rapidly expanding biopharmaceutical ecosystem during a strategic session at the 2026 Overseas Pharmaceutical Products and Market Trends Conference organised alongside ECHEMI.

The session, titled *"Growth Trends in South Korean Biopharma Market: Opportunities for the Next Decade,"* was delivered by Jurie Hwang, Director of Public & International Affairs at the Korea Biotechnology Industry Organization, and focused on South Korea's accelerating transformation into one of Asia's most strategically positioned global biopharmaceutical innovation hubs.

The presentation highlighted how South Korea has steadily evolved from a strong domestic biotechnology market into an internationally recognised centre for biologics manufacturing, advanced therapeutics development, biosimilars, CDMO expansion, and precision medicine innovation. Delegates attending the session noted that the country's long term investment approach, research infrastructure, regulatory agility, and coordinated industry government collaboration continue to strengthen its global competitiveness across the life sciences value chain.

Jurie Hwang emphasised that South Korea's biopharmaceutical industry is entering a new growth cycle driven by sustained investments in innovation, manufacturing capacity expansion, next generation therapeutics, and international partnerships. The session explored how Korean biotechnology companies are increasingly positioning themselves within high value global healthcare markets through scientific capability, export readiness, and large scale manufacturing excellence.

A major focus of the discussion centred on the rapid emergence of biologics, cell and gene therapies, antibody therapeutics, RNA based technologies, and precision medicine platforms as key strategic growth areas for the Korean

biopharma sector. Industry participants observed that South Korea’s ability to integrate research, manufacturing, clinical development, and commercialisation capabilities within a highly coordinated ecosystem is becoming a significant competitive advantage globally.

The presentation also examined the role of South Korea’s advanced manufacturing infrastructure and globally recognised CDMO ecosystem in supporting multinational pharmaceutical partnerships and international supply chain resilience. Delegates discussed how Korean biopharma companies are increasingly participating in cross border collaborations spanning the United States, Europe, Southeast Asia, and emerging healthcare markets.

The session further reflected growing international confidence in South Korea’s innovation ecosystem, supported by government backed biotechnology initiatives, strong academic research networks, highly skilled scientific talent, and expanding venture investment activity. Discussions indicated that Korea’s biopharmaceutical sector is expected to play a progressively larger role in global healthcare innovation over the coming decade, particularly across specialised therapeutics and advanced manufacturing technologies.

Industry stakeholders attending the conference also highlighted the increasing importance of regulatory harmonisation, technology transfer partnerships, and global market accessibility as Korean companies continue expanding their international footprint.

The discussion reinforced how Asia’s biopharmaceutical landscape is becoming increasingly interconnected, with South Korea emerging as a strategic pillar within the region’s broader innovation and manufacturing transformation.

The 2026 Overseas Pharmaceutical Products and Market Trends Conference forms part of the wider activities taking place during API China 2026 in Shanghai, bringing together pharmaceutical manufacturers, biotechnology leaders, exporters, regulators, and healthcare industry stakeholders to discuss the future direction of global pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical markets.