

## Thailand's BIOTEC wins top honors in Korean fair

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**Singapore:** A tuberculosis test kit and a bioremediation agent from Thailand won the gold prize and semi-grand prize, respectively, at the Seoul International Invention Fair 2012. Both inventions are the collaborative work between BIOTEC and partner institutes.

DNA-dipstick test kit for diagnosis of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* was developed by the faculty of medicine at Srinakharinwirot University in collaboration with Ms Wansika Kiatpathomchai and colleagues at Center of Excellence for Shrimp Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, BIOTEC.

The detection device, a combination of loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) technique and lateral flow dipsticks, is designed for rapid diagnosis of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* with high sensitivity and specificity. It can be used as an alternative to traditional method which takes a longer detection time and requires expensive equipment and imported reagents.

Bioremediation agent KEEEN is a commercial product of Grimm Environmental and Research. It originated from a joint research between Hi-Grimm Environmental and Research and BIOTEC and is designed to screen for oil-degrading bacteria to develop into a commercial bioremediation product.

Leading BIOTEC research team on this project was Dr Somkiet Techkarnjanaruk. KEEEN offers a variety of products

targeting at various industries such as petrochemical industry, automobile industry, food industry, hotels and hospitals. They can be applied to various types of services such as wastewater and sanitary treatment, oil spill response and cleanup, site contaminated and remediation service and oil storage tank degassing and cleaning.

In addition to Semi Grand Prize, KEEEN also picked up the Gold Prize and Special Prize from the Association Russian House for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation at the same event.

Seoul International Invention Fair 2012 was organized by the Korea Invention Promotion Association (KIPA) on November 29-to-December 2, 2012, in Seoul, Republic of Korea. It is one of the world's largest international invention fairs. This year, there were a total of 591 inventions entering the competition. The National Research Council of Thailand selected 32 inventions from Thailand to participate in the competition, taking home five special awards, 23 gold prizes, four silver prizes and five bronze prizes.