

Asia vaccine strategists call for collaboration

18 June 2013 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau



Asia needs a solution, that goes beyond traditional structure, models and pathways, to meet the essential vaccine supply for public health, and stronger partnership between international players, local research institutes and government policy makers is the way to achieve a better health ecosystem.

"Individual countries, and small to mid-size enterprises could face difficulty in being self sufficient and self reliant on vaccine supply. Therefore, international cooperation, support and public private partnership, through technological transfer and advice, could be a possibility for sustainable ways for vaccine developments in the region", said Mr Charung Muengchana, director of National Vaccine Institute, Thailand's Ministry of Public Health, at ongoing 7th Annual World Vaccine Congress, in Singapore.

The vaccine congress kicked-started in Singapore today, and witnessed a gathering of international vaccine players, regional research institutes and strategists, to share knowledge on vaccine pipeline in Asia meant to address the unmet medical needs.

Dr Joseph Santangelo, Chief Operating Officer of Singapore-based vaccine company Inviragen, said that vaccine development in Asia can be driven by multi stakeholders' support for scientific innovation and implementing regional initiatives to expedite vaccine development.

Brain storming session highlighted the need for countries to get together and develop a favorable, and robust vaccine research, development and production.

The event pointed out the need for developing Asian countries to secure access to existing vaccines amidst public health challenges, and through international collaboration. China, India and Japan have many local R&D players with a strong pipeline of innovative vaccines. Also, local production lines are expected to give a boost to the market supply of cheaper vaccines, stressed Mr Muengchana.