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The evolving clinical trial landscape of Asia

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Singapore: At a recent Pharma CI Conference & Exhibition Asia held in Tokyo, Citeline, a leading research authority on clinical trials reported that clinical trials in East Asia have increased dramatically over a recent 10 year period, driven primarily by local studies.

The team presented an analysis revealing that nearly 65 percent of all clinical trials took place in a single East Asian country, with a high of 78 percent of Japan's initiated studies involving only local sites compared to 55 percent in China. In other countries such as South Korea, the majority of trials initiated were part of a larger multinational study.

Ms Doro Shin, a Citeline analyst, highlighted that more Phase 1 trials were conducted in Asian countries, in comparison to phase II and phase III trials and the most common therapeutic area is oncology.

"When looking at who is conducting the trials, there is a very diverse set of players," commented, Ms Shin, "Large multinational companies such as Novartis and Roche, and local headquartered companies such as Takeda and Otsuka, initiated hundreds of their own trials, however overall there were 617 different companies with an average of only 16 trials each. And for this part of the globe, a surprisingly small number of trials involved collaborations between sponsors."

For the analysis, Citeline studied data from over 30,000 sources focusing on Phase I-III industry sponsored trials located in China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan that were initiated or planned in 2002-2012.