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BIO EVENT

Bengaluru Tech Summit 2017

Witnesses' amalgamation of best minds

Bengaluru Tech Summit 2017, hosted by the Department of IT & BT, Government of Karnataka, the three-day (November 16-18, 2017) mega event was a creative mix of two flagship events- the 20th edition of Bengaluru ITE.biz and the 17th edition of Bengaluru India Bio under one platform.

The three-day event was inaugurated on November 16, 2017, by the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Siddaramaiah, in the presence of Anne Berner, Minister for Transport and Communications, Finland, who was the Guest of Honor.

Karnataka Bio-Technology Policy 2017-2022 was released during the second day of the summit. Siddaramaiah pointed out that the new Biotechnology Policy is aimed at fostering development of bio-economy by supporting research and development in emerging technologies such as Bio-Agriculture, Marine Biology, Rare Disease Management, Synthetic Biology, Bioinformatics, Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine, Anti-microbial Resistance, Bioengineering, Medical Devices and Microbiome.

In addition to this, Priyank Kharge, IT, BT and Tourism Minister for the State mentioned that the new Biotechnology policy 2017-2022 is designed to give an impetus to the growth of the bioeconomy in Karnataka. The new policy lays emphasis on strengthening of the ecosystem required to give a boost to the startups, access to funds for R&D and product development, attractive incentives for investment, and mentorship for further growth of the Biotechnology Sector in Karnataka.

Along with the policy, a document prepared by ABLE (Association of Biotech Led Enterprises) -CMR (CyberMedia Research) titled "Primary Research Based Profiling of Biotech Sector in Karnataka" was also unveiled. The report findings reaffirm the leadership position of Karnataka in biotechnology.

Dr Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Chairman Vision Group on Biotechnology & CMD, Biocon, addressed the development in the life sciences space and heralded in a new age of digital health using advanced technology, AI and data sciences. She highlighted that the Indian biotech industry commands 5 per cent share of the global biotech industry, comprising of about 800 companies, and is valued at \$ 19 billion growing at 25 per cent.

The summit also had a separate event for women entrepreneurs on the first day, titled "She Drives

Technology" that highlighted women and their achievements in leading innovation in the IT and BT sectors. Following that on the second day, a biotech conclave was also organized which saw the participation of successful women leaders from the healthcare field.

Over the spread of three days, a number of interesting biotech sessions were conducted addressing issues such as regulatory policies, rare diseases, world of microbiomes, integrative medicine, infectious diseases & vaccines, biomanufacturing, biotech & pharma partnership, to name a few.

During the summit, Government of Karnataka gave out Bio-Excellence awards with the purpose of recognizing those biotechnology firms that have shown dynamic leadership and outstanding contribution in their chosen fields of biotechnology activities. Apart from the Bio-Excellence and Emerging Company awards, a set of Lifetime Achievement Awards were also given out during the session, to honour the outstanding contributions of eminent scientists in the field of Biotechnology.

On the concluding day, the summit saw students from across Karnataka competing in India's largest Biotech quiz 'Bio Quiz 2017'. Students from Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering, Mysuru, emerged as the winners and took home Rs 75,000.

BIO-EXCELLENCE AWARDS

- » Agri & Animal Biotech- MULTIPLEX BIOTECH
- » Biopharma & Healthcare- BIOCON
- » Bio-IT, Genomics, System Biology- STRAND LIFE SCIENCES
- » Bioindustrial- NOVOZYMES SOUTH ASIA
- » Bioservices- SYNGENE INTERNATIONAL

EMERGING COMPANY AWARDS

- » Agri & Animal Biotech- SEA6ENERGY
- » Biopharma & Healthcare- CARDIOTRACK
- » Bioindustrial- STRING BIO
- » Bio-IT, Genomics, System Biology- VIBRANT HEALTH SCIENCES
- » Bioservices- AFFIGENIX BIOSOLUTIONS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

- » Prof H Sharat Chandra, Director, Centre for Human Genetics; Emeritus Professor, Indian Institute of Science and Honorary Professor at the JNCASR; Chairman, IBAB Governing Body
- » Prof Narayanrao Yathindra, Professor and Director, Institute of Bioinformatics & Applied Biotechnology (IBAB)
- » Prof Govindarajan Padmanaban, Former Director, Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc)