

China's Biomedical Industry: *innovation and collaboration blossom*

A Report on Hua-Chuang-Hui Grand-Pharma International Bio-Forum
By Qinglin Che



Wuhan, CHINA - On Oct 17, 2009, more than 400 professionals, scientists and executives from biopharmaceutical industries, research institutes and universities, including over 150 overseas guests, gathered at East Lake Hall, Wuhan Exhibition and Convention Center of Wuhan, Hubei to attend the Grand-Pharma International Bio Forum organized by Hubei State FDA and Wuhan City movement. This forum is one of the many activities of 2009 Hua-Chang-Hui conference, a three-day event organized by Overseas Chinese Affair Office of the State Council and the government of Hubei Province, which attracted more than 800 guests from China and abroad.



Mr. Xian-Qi Zou, Director of Hubei Provincial FDA, hosted the opening ceremony. Mr. Bin Zhao, Vice governor of Hubei Province, delivered the opening remarks. He emphasized, in order to accelerate the growth of local biopharmaceutical industry, the provincial government is taking significant steps to attract more outstanding overseas talents and global investments. Via collaboration with overseas professional organizations, a high level global talent pool composed of seasoned experts will be established to provide broad and in-depth supports to the local enterprises for a healthier and more sustainable growth. Mr. Guofan Xie, President and CEO of Wuhan Grand-Pharmaceutical Group gave a welcoming address representing the domestic pharmaceuticals companies in China. He stressed the importance and urgent demand for advanced technology, novel products and senior executive teams from the local companies, and he welcomed all kinds of collaborations with overseas enterprises and entrepreneurs.



Dr. Yihan Wang, Associate director of Medicinal Chemistry at Ariad Pharmaceuticals, Co-founder of Chinese American BioMedical Association, hosted the forum program. In his opening remarks, Dr. Wang reviewed the evolution of this forum as one of the multiple outcomes of long term collaborations between overseas Chinese professional communities with local governments and high-tech parks. As the co-Chair of this forum's plenary committee, Dr. Wang expressed his appreciation to those who had been

working so hard to make this forum possible and to get it in such a good shape.

Dr. Zhihong Chen from Eisai Research Institute and Dr. Qinglin Che from Synta Pharmaceuticals, both executive committee members of CABA, co-hosted the two sections of the forum.

The first section of the forum was kicked off by Dr. Junjun Wu (principle scientist at Pfizer; immediate past President of CABA), who reviewed the current hurdles and challenges in global drug discoveries and shared his opinions on how to accelerate the growth of China's bio/pharma industry during the global economic downturn. Afterwards, Dr Dajun Yang (President of Ascenta Shanghai), Dr. Mingde Xia (Senior director of Johnson & Johnson; former president of SAPA), Dr. Shoupeng Lai (Consultant at AnGes; General Sectary of CBA) and Dr Xiaorong Sun (President and CEO at Wuhan Landing Medicals Hi-Tech Ltd) respectively gave their wonderful presentations covering a wide range of topics such as US-China collaboration, emerging technology in biopharmaceutical industries and medical devices for early diagnosis of cancer *etc.*

The second section of the forum was featured by several recent returnees and senior entrepreneurs. Dr. Shangjin Yang, the Chief Scientist at Wuhan Grand-Pharmaceutical Group (WGP), updated the current progress of anticancer drugs at WGP. Dr. Yuanchun Ma, President and CEO of Canadian Phytopharmaceuticals, Richmond, British Columbia, Canada, introduced the technology used in the quality controls of formulated botanical products. Dr. Xiangming Fang, Sr. VP and CSO of EBioCenter and President of SABPA-San Diego, showcased the active roles played by overseas Chinese Professional Organizations like SABPA in bridging China and US in technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. Dr. Dan Zhang, CEO of Fountain Medical Development, Tianjin, China, overviewed prospects of the preclinical and clinical CRO industry in China. And finally, Dr. Hua Tu, CEO at Lakepharma, Belmont, CA, shared with the audience his personal story to build up Lakepharma, a biotech company



specializing in advancing DNA and protein engineering technology.

This half-day forum was highly successful – The audience was amazed by the high quality of presentations, the fabulous logistics and the exceptional networking opportunities with both local and international experts.

After a lunch reception at Wuhan Shangri-La Hotel, in the afternoon, the overseas delegation visited the Guanggu Bio-Lake Development Zone accompanied by Mr. Zhongning Yan, Associate Director of Wuhan National Bio-Industry Base. The delegation was highly impressed by the new drug screening service platforms and the bio-enterprises incubators. Some guests indicated their interests in building enterprises in the industrial park. Following the visit, the delegation attended a banquet reception hosted by Hubei Provincial FDA and Bio-Lake.

The success of this forum was not only measured by its size and scope of participation and long term effects but also by its immediate results. In terms of economic outcome, contracts with total value of 470 MM RMB were signed during the forum between participating enterprises and business parks.

For many overseas participants, Hua-Chuang-Hui is not the only stop of their China trips. Attending conferences, visiting the industrial parks, negotiating with potential partners, giving speeches in universities, are typical items in their calendars. Everyone believes, innovation and collaboration are going to blossom in China's biomedical industry in the very near future.

*Note for the TBI editors: more than enough photos were attached here, please choose the ones based on space available, thank you. More photo with high resolution available at <http://picasaweb.google.com/cabaconnect/20091017Wuhan?authkey=Gv1sRgCLqz7fHM5MvHAQ#>

