

Moderator's Comments

The General Assembly Special Session on S&T Policy and Biotechnology in Asia was held during the 5th SCA Conference. It was my pleasure to serve as moderator for the Panel Discussion, during which 4 speakers from China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam shared with us their country's S&T policies and their biotechnology activities.

Prof Liu Shuangjiang made a presentation on "Biotechnology and Life Science Research in China", outlining the stages of development in biotechnology research and the key organisations involved with research in China. Dr Shigetaka Asano's presentation on the "Trend of Japan's S&T" highlighted Japan's current S&T policy, and its priorities for the 3rd S&T Basic Plan in 2006. Prof Byung-Dong Kim shared information on "S&T Policy and Biotechnology in Korea", and the increased emphasis placed on S&T by the Korean Government, as well as the biotechnology achievements of Korea. Mr Nguyen Hong Ha spoke on "S&T Development in Vietnam and Suggested Policies for International Cooperation in Biotechnology", elaborating on the S&T structure of Vietnam, and the advances made in high-tech development.

The insightful and informative presentations made by the panelists enabled participants to gain a better understanding of the S&T policies of countries in the region, as well as learn about each country's experience in biotechnology development. I thank all panelists as well as participants for contributing to the success of the GA Special Session Panel Discussion."

Chong Tow Chong