



Keynote Speech

Developing the Biomedical Sciences sector in Singapore

Swan Gin Beh

Director Biomedical Sciences
Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB)
Singapore

In year 2000, Singapore decided to give a major push to the development of Biomedical Sciences. It was part of the overall effort to diversify the portfolio of industries in Singapore and add knowledge-driven, research-intensive sectors. The presentation will outline the initiatives that were undertaken and our progress to-date. It will also highlight key differences between the North American model and the approach that we adopted.

Going forward, in the next phase of Singapore's Biomedical Sciences initiative from 2006 to 2010, we will extend our focus to translational and clinical research. This will strengthen the links between Singapore's growing base of researchers and companies, and our healthcare providers. It will help translate discoveries in the laboratories into clinically useful and commercially viable applications.

My presentation will include examples of and the rationale behind some of the international biomedical research partnerships that have been established in Singapore. I will also share my personal views on why some cross-border collaborations work and others fail, as well as opportunities for greater regional and global cooperation. In addition, I will discuss the emerging roles and impact of China and India on the R&D operations of global biomedical companies, and the key issues that executives need to consider.