



Press Release

MOU Signing Ceremony on

Quality Control for Vaccine Development between

BioNet-Asia Co., Ltd. and

**National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, National Science and
Technology Development Agency and**

King Monkut's University of Technology Thonburi

29 March 2012, 14:30-16:00

at Sarocha room, second floor, Research Development and Pilot Plant Building

King Monkut's University of Technology Thonburi Bangkhunthian

Press Release

For immediate release

March 29th, 2012

KMUTT and Biotec join hands with BioNet-Asia on quality control for vaccine development

KMUTT and Biotec, NSTDA (National Science and Technology Development Agency) have announced today the signing of a MOU with BioNet-Asia Co., Ltd. (BNA) to co-operate on the quality control for vaccine development.

KMUTT has co-invested with Biotec, NSTDA to develop the National Biopharmaceutical Facility (NBF) project, which aims to increase Thailand's biotechnology industrial capacity with the goal of being a center of technology transfer, to extend pre-commercial scale of production of pharmaceutical products and vaccines for clinical trials phase 1 and 2, and to play a pivotal role in bridging laboratory research and actual industrial manufacturing.

During the signing ceremony, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suvit Tia, Deputy Executive Director of Biotec, NSTDA, said, "This pilot plant is the network center of collaboration among institutes including research institute, university, public, private and industry for multidisciplinary expertise."

NBF is located in KMUTT industrial park, Bangkhunthian. The facility has been designed in compliance with international good manufacturing practices (GMP) standards for production of biological products, which will be used for clinical study. The production facility is divided

into four units (Bioprocess Unit 1, 2, 3, and 4), each commanding an area of 600 sq. m. In the initial phase, only 2 units will be utilized -- Bioprocess Unit 1 for protein production from recombinant yeast or bacteria in cleanroom grade C and biosafety level (BSL)-1 facility, and Bioprocess Unit 2 for protein production from recombinant yeast or bacteria in BSL-2 and Quality Control Unit.

The Quality Assurance/Quality Control Unit consists of chemistry, biology, and microbiology labs, which have been designed with special facilities such as a sterility room, and a well-equipped ELISA room essential for QC of pharmaceutical and vaccine products. The collaboration on "Quality Control for Vaccine Development" will be undertaken by BNA and KMUTT in the first phase of the project.

BioNet-Asia is a biotech company focusing on the development and manufacturing of vaccines through public-private partnerships with universities and institutes in Thailand and abroad with the ultimate goal to share vaccine knowledge and to supply affordable and innovative vaccines. BioNet R&D pipeline includes pediatric combinations using a recombinant acellular pertussis and dengue vaccines.

Mr. Vitoon Vonghangool, Managing Director of BioNet-Asia thanked KMUTT for proposing the use of NBF for testing vaccines in the development phase. "This is of great help because our own development and production facilities at Hi-Tech Industrial Estate, Ayutthaya have been heavily hit by floods last year. We are now investing THB 3 billion to renovate the existing plants, and build new upstream production and filling facilities for the development and manufacturing of innovative vaccines such as DTaP-HBV-(Hib). By using NBF for quality control, we can therefore stick to our initial project timelines to produce pediatric vaccines from upstream in the medium-term and contribute to vaccine self-sufficiency in Thailand."

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sakarindr Bhumiratana, President of KMUTT, said, "This collaboration enhances the networking relationship between the government institutes namely, KMUTT and Biotec, NSTDA, and the private sector (BNA) to develop the vaccine production technology to meet international standards in Thailand. This is in accordance with the goals of our National Agenda, which is to facilitate Thailand's capacity for vaccine development from laboratory to production scale for commercial purpose in order to enhance self-reliance and gain a competitive edge prior to the materialization of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015".

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