



Dear Member,

I would like to inform you that “*Bio Asia-2008 – The Global Bio-Business Forum*” will be held at Hyderabad, International Convention Centre from 7-9, February 2008. The Conference which will be dwelling upon the current developments of reach and development in biotechnology, will undoubtedly provide an impetus to the growth and development of biotechnology in India, more so in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The biotech industry in Andhra Pradesh is about Rs.455 crore, contributing to nearly 10 per cent of the size of the industry in India. It accounts for 24 per cent of the total biotech revenue generated by companies in South India (Rs. 1,898.47 crore) . Out of the top 20 home grown biotech companies, 6 are from Andhra Pradesh. They contribute to about Rs.280 crore.

As an encouragement to the fast biotech hub at Hyderabad, the State Government has christened the city ‘Genome Valley’. It provides research, training, collaboration and manufacturing activities for biotech companies. It is spread over 600 square kilometers and houses more than 100 biotech companies. ‘*Genome Valley is forging ahead. We have a well defined policy to forge a private-public partnership in the development of biotechnology in the State*’ says the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. The Genome Valley has on its pipeline projects such as setting up of an International Life Science Institute in Hyderabad, establishment of a National Animal Resource Facility for Biomedical Research by Indian Council of Medical Research in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health of the United States, an Umbilical cord stem Cell Bank, a Bio-Medical Research Centre and a state-of-the art maternity/neo-natal hospital by the Pacific Health Care holding.

In addition, the Government of Andhra Pradesh extends a host of incentives for establishment of biotech specified units. They include a nominal sales tax of 1 percent for ‘high end’ biotech products manufactured and located in the specified ‘Biotech park’ for a period of 7 years for those units commencing commercial production on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March,2008. The State Government will provide, wherever possible, suitable government land on lease or as equity for putting up of biotech units. Establishment of bio-informatic centres shall also be encouraged without any locational restrictions. Lands would be allotted to such units at a rebated price subject to an employment commitment. The biotech industry will be exempted from the purview of statutory power cuts. Industrial power tariff and all other admissible incentives and concessions as applicable to general industry would be extended to the biotech industry. Labour concessions will include; permission to run a 3-shift operation subject to Government of India’s concurrence; establishment of exclusive special Industrial Tribunals for biotech parks to give a top priority to the settlement of disputes that may arise in units located in the “Biotech Parks”.

Further the State Government proposes to allot land either free of cost, or at a concessional rate and give grant for capital expenditure to Institutions of Training in the field of biotechnology. Lands will also be allotted at concessional rate for developing housing and recreational facilities for personnel working in Biotech field in designated areas and in and around Genome Valley.

The conference which will have National and International participation, will be inaugurated by the Vice-President of India Shri Hamid Ansari.

Thanks for your cooperation.



Atluri Subba Rao