



“Strong R&D collaboration between the public and private sectors aligns with Thailand 4.0 in transforming the country to become an innovation driven economy.”

- Pham Hong Thai

Chief Executive Officer of Bionet-Asia

BIONET-ASIA COMPANY, LTD.

Biotechnology Enterprises

BioNet-Asia was initially founded in 2001, and has since become not only a leading bio-tech company, but also one of the fastest growing vaccine companies in the region. The company focuses on developing, manufacturing and supplying vaccines to Thailand and many other countries throughout the world. The company is widely recognized internationally for their technological innovations and expertise. In 2009, in order to further strengthen its position as a center of excellence in the research and development of vaccines, the company

established its first research and development center in Thailand, the only state-of-the-art vaccine facility in Southeast Asia. In collaboration with other international vaccine specialists, Bionet-Asia has been providing expert vaccine consultants and advanced technology to enable other countries, particularly those in Asia and Africa, build up their capacity in vaccine R&D and become self-sufficient in producing their own vaccines. They are the leading supplier of the polio vaccine in the world, and in cooperation with

researchers from Mahidol University the company recently developed an innovative monovalent recombinant pertussis vaccine which is more efficient and affordable than conventional vaccines and has been approved for use with adolescents and adults.

Why Thailand

Mr. Pham Hong Thai, Chief Executive Officer of BioNet-Asia outlined the key reasons that the company chose Thailand as their research and development hub. Most critical, he said, was the quality of Thailand's academic research and its excellent human resources. He pointed out that the company has created a strong collaboration with Thai leading universities and government institutes. By cooperating with a research team from Mahidol University, for example, the company successfully developed

its innovative recombinant pertussis vaccine which is now licensed and approved for patient use. The company also collaborated with the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) to develop a new dengue vaccine for distribution to help millions of people worldwide. Additionally, as the Thai Food and Drug Administration is recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO), the company can export its high-quality products throughout the world.

Supporting Policies from the Government

The foundation of Thailand's biotechnology industry was laid in 1983 with the creation of the National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC). Secondly, the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) provides resources to develop the

critical mass of researchers necessary to achieve Thailand's national research and development (R&D) goals for biotechnology. Additionally, the Thailand Center of Excellence for Life Sciences (TCELS) and the Board of Investment (BOI) support the industry to facilitate its continued growth. Numerous local universities are available to provide support for advanced research and development activities.

Attractive BOI Incentives

The Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) offers a wide range of tax and non-tax incentives for projects that meet national development objectives.

Tax-based incentives include an exemption or reduction of import duties on machinery and raw materials, as well as corporate income tax

exemptions of up to eight years. Non-tax incentives include permission to bring in expatriates, own land and take or remit foreign currency abroad.

Recognizing the importance of the biotechnology sector, tax incentives are granted to approved projects in numerous activities, such as the use of biotechnology to improve food and agricultural product yields and quality, pharmaceutical development for emerging and tropical diseases, bio-energy production such as bio-gas and bio-diesel, and other bio industries such as bio-plastics. Projects in biotechnology that use modern biotechnology approved by the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) or the Thailand Center of Excellence

for Life Sciences (TCELS) are granted an eight-year corporate income tax exemption regardless of location and are not subject to the corporate income tax exemption cap.

Additional information about specific activities relating to biotechnology investments can be found by clicking [here](#) or contacting the BOI's Investment Promotion Division 1.