

Nanotech Business Entering Singapore I

- Summary of the World Nano-Economic Congress Singapore Held on Oct13th – 14th 2004 in Singapore Suntec International Convention and Exhibition Center

Singapore, with a population of just over four million, is ambitious in becoming a nanotechnology business hub in Asia. The Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) in collaboration with Cientifica, an active EU based Nanotech consulting firm (www.cientifica.com) jointly organized the World Nano-Economic Congress (WNEC) Singapore on Oct 13-14th at the Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Center, co-currently held with the Global Entropolis Singapore (GES, 11-15th Oct 2004), the largest Enterprise, Innovation & Technology Exchange showcase in Singapore.

The WNEC (www.world-nano.com) was founded by Cientifica started its first event held in Washington DC during Sept 8-10th 2003 aiming to bring together technology and business. After its subsequent successful events in London and Munich, Cientifica brought WNEC in Asia and Singapore was strategically chosen as its landing city in Asia, thanks to the strong support of EDB and the Singapore Nanotech and business community.

Different from its events in USA and EU, WNEC Singapore focuses on nanotechnology in Asia and its impact upon Asian industries and market. Nanotechnology is a global trend, and many companies in Europe and USA are actively searching R & D, manufacturing, investment and business partners in Asia. On the other hand, Asian countries particularly one of Asian's most advanced economies, Singapore, is hungry for innovations and technologies and is keen to attract foreign technologies and know-how for building its knowledge based economy. WNEC Singapore provided a timely platform for the west met the east in the nanospace. It gives valuable introductory education to the business community in Asia particularly investors, entrepreneurs and the public on the state of development in nanotechnology.

The event began with the opening presentation by the Managing Director of the Agency for Science and Technology and Research (A*STAR, Singapore Funding Agency for Science and Technology) stressing on the Singapore's `Big` vision and `Strong` commitment for Nanotechnology particularly in the areas of medical, energy, IT and space. It was then followed by the Keynote address by the President of LG Electronic Institute of Technology Dr Hee-Gook LEE from Korea. Day One continued with the Executive Panel on `How Nanotechnology Initiatives of Asia & the Pacific Rim are Making a True Nanotechnology Hub` and `Examining the Industrial Applications for Nanotechnology: Where are the low hanging fruits?`.

Day Two started by the Keynote address by Mr Tim Harper, CEO of Cientifica, the event organizer, `NanoEconomics: The Facts and the Future of Nanotechnology` overviewing on the global nanotech trends and fundamental issues of nanotechnology.

WNEC Singapore addressed a number key technology areas relevant to the Singapore and Asia industries including Textiles, Electronics, Medical and Pharmaceutical, and

Advanced Polymers. It also addressed important and fundamental areas such as Water and the enabling Nanomanufacturing technology. Tool makers such as FEI Company, Electronic company such as STMicroelectronics and Financial company such as Analytiq Group which are also sponsors for WNEC gave presentations on `How can the Microscopy and Software Modeling Tools that Enabled the Nanotechnology Revolution Propel Nanotechnology from Lab Projects into Manufacturing Processes?`, `The Role of Nanotechnology in Semiconductor Industry` and `Analyzing the Financial Markets and Nanotechnology: When will IPO of Nanotechnology become Common Place and What will this mean for the Commercial Development of Nanotechnology` respectively.

It event was well attended by over 150 participants from, in addition to its majority of local Singapore participants, Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand and from USA and EU (about 10%).

Highlights of the WNEC Singapore presentations will be featured in the next APNW report.



CEO of Cientifica Mr Tim Harper Introducing the WNEC Singapore at the opening of the event on Oct 13th.



Managing Director of A* STAR Dr BOON Swan Foo giving welcome and an opening address on `How Academic Science is Transformed into Business: Singapore`s Role in the Support of Making Science into Products`



President of LG Electronic Institute of Technology from Korea Dr Hee-Gook LEE gave the Keynote Speech on `The Future of Nanotechnology in Industry and the Trends of Nanotechnology in Korea`.

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CEO of Eikos Dr Joe Piche giving the first presentation at the Electronics Track on Displays `Invisicon™ Transparent Conductors- The ITO Alternative`



Director of Institute of Textiles and Clothing of Hong Kong Polytechnic University Prof. Xiao-ming TAO giving the first presentation at the Textile Track on `Smart Apparel and Nanotechnology`

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