

International Symposium on Biotechnology held

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RESEARCH and applications of biotechnology in the fields of agriculture, medicine and fisheries are gradually coming to the centre stage. Climate change due to global warming, topographical change and other determining factors are necessitating intense research in improving the qualities, lifetime and yieldability of crops. In view of this, BRAC University and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) have jointly organized an International Symposium on *Regulatory and Safety Issues in Commercialization of Biotechnology Research in Developing Countries* in Dhaka- between the 2nd-4th of this month.

The Symposium covered topics on technology transfer; IP and IPR; Biosafety; Bioethics; Clinical and Field Trials and Regulatory Affairs which are considered very relevant to research, development and commercial application of biotechnology in developing countries.

Dr. C S Karim, Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest at the inaugural session while Mr. Manik Lal Samaddar, Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser, Ministry of Science and ICT, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was present as the Special Guest.

The symposium was funded by Ministry of Science and Information Technology (GoB), Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, the Center for Intellectual Property, CIP (Sweden), Incepta Pharmaceuticals Limited, ICDDR,B and a number of other local organizations.

The main purpose of the symposium was to provide relevant information and to educate practising biotechnologists and other professionals in these areas so that they can make informed decisions based on international practices.

Invited foreign speakers included Prof. Virander Chauhan and Dr. Siva Reddy of ICGEB, Delhi, Mr. Decio Ripandelli and Dr. Mark Tepfer of ICGEB, Trieste and Prof. Ananda Chakravarty of University of Illinios among others. Local speakers included Prof. A A Azad, Prof. Naiyyum Chowdhury (BRAC University), Dr. Firdausi Quadri and Dr. Michael Behan (ICDDR,B), Prof. Haseena Khan and Prof. Rakha Hari Sarker (University of Dhaka), Dr Liakat Ali and Dr Azad Khan (BIRDEM) among others.