

## Bioplasma World Asia 2012 to be held in July

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**Singapore:** Recognizing the region's need to work towards self-sufficiency in plasma products, Bioplasma World Asia 2012 will bring together the Asian and international blood plasma community on July 18 and 19 at the Intercontinental Grand Stanford, Hong Kong. For the first time in the region, plasma fractionators, blood centers, health authorities and industry stakeholders will converge to discuss strategic issues and explore opportunities within Asia-Pacific's plasma therapeutics sector.

Despite the increasing popularity of recombinant coagulation factors, fractionated human plasma remains crucial to patients' access to a range of medicinal products to treat severe bleeding and immunological disorders. Being included in WHO's Model List of Essential Medicine, plasma-derived products are considered indispensable and of utmost importance, and should therefore be accessible at all times.

Asia faces a shortage in plasma and plasma products, with only 20 percent of the total world volume being fractionated here, despite comprising 60 percent of the world's population. Several factors come into play, such as insufficient funding and a weak blood collection infrastructure. However, Asian countries have begun to make efforts in strengthening their capacity for plasma fractionation, and developments are underway.

"I have always thought that Asia is a very different market, and so are the issues. Quality plasma, regulation, and pricing are some critical issues, and we must put these on the table," shared Dr Ranjeet Ajmani, who works as a member of the core group that advises the Government of India on its national plasma product plans, while serving as CEO of PlasmaGen Biosciences. "This meeting will give us a chance to discuss various issues of mutual concern related to plasma business in our own territory and globally," he added.

Bioplasma World Asia 2012 is designed to promote discussions on the Asian plasma landscape, regulatory issues, business strategies, market trends, and partnership opportunities to facilitate the development of the region's plasma industry. Successful case studies, lessons learned, and best practices in plasma collection and fractionation will be shared by key speakers from across the world. Cutting-edge technologies and innovative solutions in pathogen safety, quality assurance,

and fractionation will also be staged.