BioSpectrum Asia launches the APAC Bioeconomy Index 2026, the region's first independent value-journey benchmark

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Inaugural edition maps 12 markets across five stages and four sectors, and identifies a Commercialisation Cliff where Asia-Pacific loses the most value between capability and market.

BioSpectrum Asia launched the APAC Bioeconomy Index 2026, the first independent, region-native benchmark of Asia-Pacific's bioeconomy. Rather than scoring markets on a static list of strengths, the Index traces the value journey a bioeconomy takes, from Originate to Build, Prove, Commercialise and Renew, across twelve markets and four bio-sectors.

The signature finding of the inaugural edition is what the research team calls the Commercialisation Cliff. Across the region, capability climbs through discovery and peaks at build capacity, then falls roughly seven points at commercialisation. In short, Asia-Pacific is better at making than at monetising, and the gap is widest exactly where build capacity is greatest.

The cliff is steepest for the region's strongest builders. South Korea builds at 78 but commercialises at 59, a 19-point drop. China and Taiwan each lose 15 points, and India 13. Markets with less upstream strength to convert show almost no cliff at all.

The Index plots every market on a Momentum Map, positioned by how well it converts capability into commercial value against whether it is accelerating or plateauing. Four archetypes emerge: Originators, the science-led leaders; Scalers, the manufacturing powerhouses that face the steepest cliff; Converters, smaller markets that commercialise efficiently for their size; and Emergents, the accelerating markets still building the full journey. Singapore leads the 2026 table with a composite of 78.8 of 100; the regional composite is 59.6.

“For a decade, Asia-Pacific has proven it can build,” said Ankit Kankar, Chief Operating Officer of BioSpectrum Asia. “The harder question is how much of that capability the region turns into commercial value, and where it slips away. The Commercialisation Cliff is the story of this edition: our strongest builders lose the most between capacity and market. That is not a criticism of the region. It is a map of where the value is waiting to be unlocked.”

The Index measures the whole bioeconomy, not biopharma alone, spanning health and therapeutics, industrial and synthetic biology, agri-food biotech, and bio-based materials and green chemistry.

Read and download the full inaugural edition: https://www.biospectrumasia.com/apacbioeconomyindex2026