



Sunday March 8, 2009
17:30 to 19:00

Lyon Convention Center
France

CONTRIBUTIONS OF LIFE SCIENCES TO SOLVING ECONOMIC & SOCIAL ISSUES IN EXPANDING CITIES

Plenary session

Moderator

- **Maria Livanos Cattai**, Member of the Board of Directors of Petroplus Holdings AG, Switzerland

Speakers

- **Koji Omi**, Member of the house of representatives, founder & chairman of the Science and technology in Society *forum*, former Minister of Finance, Japan
- **Feike Sijbesma**, CEO of Royal DSM, Netherlands
- **Jean-François Dehecq**, Chairman of the board, Sanofi-aventis, France
- **Christian Bréchet**, VP Scientific and Medical Affairs, Mérieux Alliance, France
- **Werner Cautreels**, CEO Solvay Pharmaceuticals, Belgium

Summary

- This plenary session aimed at giving some insight as to what life sciences could bring to the development of cities around the world.
- For southern countries, uncontrolled and uncontrollable city planning induces issues ranging from health concerns (worsened by promiscuity) to waste management and water sanitation.
- Due to migrant workers moving from the impoverished south to a promising north, multiple diseases are also reappearing in the northern countries.
- Urban life is also causing a number of mental pathologies such as stress which in turn is affecting the south, making all current problems global and no longer regional ones.
- These are worsened in an urban environment where the lack of social fabric hinders the amount of help elderly people can have access to, limiting their ability to heal.
- Such plights are worsened by the economic crisis; over 100 million more people are starving, raising the current estimated number to 1 billion worldwide.
- The amount required to tackle food problems are minute compared to what has been put forward to bail out the financial system.



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BioVision 2009 session reporting

- From a science point of view, biotechnologies will have a major role in providing solutions to energy, health, food and climate change issues.
- Such research has yet to be conducted outside of the USA, the only current country strongly investing in such areas.
- Education of the general population, children and adults alike will play a major part in ensuring the successful use of biotechnology.
- As such, scientists need also to learn on how to communicate the various advances in Science. Indeed, miscommunication can lead to refusals, making the acceptance journey all the more difficult (i.e. GMOs).
- Science alone cannot resolve all of the current issues, each person must change his or her social mindset. A strong and determined political willpower will also be required so that society can go back on a certain number of choices.
- For example, new partnerships have to be devised in order to maximise results when facing health issues such as tuberculosis (10M people killed each year).
- Japan also provides us with an interesting insight through massive investments in applied IPS, bio-matters, personalised medicine and drug delivery system based on nanotech
- However, it also appeared that big gains would be derived from simplifying the clinical research and go to market bureaucratic procedures.

Quotes

"Biotechnology is not a problem, it is a real solution"
Feike Sijbesma

"We must change our mindsets, if not several revolutions will take care of it"
Jean-François Dehecq

"We (scientists and pharma company leaders) have been bad at explaining things"
Werner Cautreels

"Rules and regulations cut innovation"
Werner Cautreels

"We must show courage by being more ethical and showing more solidarity in all of our endeavors"
Jean-François Dehecq

"New partnerships must be devised dealing with intellectual property issues and conflicting interests"
Christian Bréchet



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