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HK-BEIJING COLLABORATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS

The Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology (HKIB) of The Chinese University of Hong Kong has recently signed an agreement with the China National Biotechnology Development Centre (CNDBC) under the China State Commission of Science and Technology to collaborate in the development and commercialization of biotechnology products, as disclosed by Dr Siu-Leung Lee, Associate Director, HKIB.

CNDBC is an office charged with the responsibility to coordinate interdepartmental research and development in biotechnology. It is also a funding agency to support specific research projects in different departments including Chinese Academy of Sciences. For commercialization of biotechnology products which require the participation of various departments such as Department of Health, Department of Light Industry, and Department of Agriculture, CNDBC can coordinate the efforts of different departments. Such capability is important for such interdisciplinary area as biotechnology.

The joint venture will capitalise on the biotechnological research strengths of CNDBC as well as the strategic position of HKIB in the region in developing and commercialising novel biotechnology products targeted for the world market, said Dr Lee. Apart from marketing know-how, HKIB will provide also business and management training for exchange scholars from CNDBC.

HKIB recently held a foundation-laying ceremony. It is anticipated that after the completion of its close to \$100m R&D complex next summer, HKIB will become an important manufacturing base for biotechnology products in the Pacific Rim

(For further information, please contact Mrs Annie Tam at telephone: 6952674)