

New partnership to facilitate exchange of biodiversity content across Asia

Singapore, Sydney 18 June '08 ~ KOOPrime Pte Ltd and Macquarie University are seeking to improve the standardization and exchange of biodiversity information in Asia via an **Integrated Biodiversity Exchange Engine (iBEE)**.

The proper conservation of biodiversity and stabilization of environments has become particularly critical given current rates of climate change and the increasing frequency of large scale disasters.

Protecting biodiversity can not only help mitigate erosion, landslides and flooding, it can also work to minimize inflationary forces on food, drug and energy prices due to the development of new plant strains with higher yields.

The expertise of the two organizations will complement each other. KOOPrime has actively built up an extensive life sciences network via its business operations in Asia while Macquarie has developed strong bioinformatics expertise in the area of biodiversity.

“Biodiversity has become key to addressing many of the environmental, food and energy issues globally,” said Mr. Lim Teck Sin, founder of KOOPrime. “We welcome the opportunity to work with our technology partner, Macquarie University to deliver a holistic IT platform, iBEE in short, that will address the biodiversity requirements of our users and enable the exchange of biodiversity information across geographical borders.”

Professor of Bioinformatics and UNESCO Chair of Biodiversity Informatics at Macquarie University, Shoba Ranganathan, said one focus of the collaboration will be the adoption of suitable ontological systems that will allow standardization, thus facilitating communication in spite of variation and localization in biodiversity concepts and terminologies.

“Having actively contributed to the development of several bioresources and bioinformatics systems, Macquarie is in a strong position to accelerate the adoption of biodiversity centric technologies that are scalable and robust,” she said.

This initiative will be in accord with the open access and data sharing policies of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).

“GBIF has always promoted open access to scientific biodiversity data, so as to bring benefits of data sharing to all users,” said Mr Vishwas Chavan, DIGIT Chair of GBIF. “I am therefore delighted that KOOPrime and Macquarie University share similar aims. I am also pleased that the iBEE development will start with a strong focus on Asia, a region that is receiving increasing attention from various worldwide organizations, including GBIF.”

About KOOPrime Pte Ltd

KOOPrime is a leading Asian based life sciences IT company. Its integrative technologies have been applied since 2000 in a number of market verticals. The bioresearch product, iBIOSUITE is targeted at organizations that are into biomedical and agricultural-veterinary development. Within the pharmaceutical vertical, KOOPrime delivers knowledge management systems for drug discovery, clinical research and clinical trial purposes. In the healthcare vertical, iTRIALS is delivered for tissue registries, HL7 data exchange systems and clinical studies. ICHEMS was recently launched to provide chemical and safety management features. KOOPrime now has business operations in Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. KOOPrime’s shareholders include Bio*One Capital, GlaxoSmithKline, National University of Singapore and MerLion Pharmaceuticals. Find out more at www.kooprime.com

About Macquarie University

Macquarie University is a modern research-intensive institution with a mission to serve the needs of industry and the community. Macquarie's relaxing and spacious 126 hectare park-like campus is strategically located within the high-technology corridor of Sydney's north-west. Find out more at <http://www.mq.edu.au/>

Macquarie University contact:

Prof Shoba Ranganathan
shoba.ranganathan@mq.edu.au
Tel: +612 9850 6262

KOOPrime contact:

Ms. Wang Huiping
huiping@kooprime.com
Tel: +6567754220 ext.102