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PRESS RELEASE

Specialised training and knowledge acquisition is key to meet demands of the growing pharmaceutical industry in Asia

The ISPE Singapore Conference 2009, held from 31 May to 2 June this year, features 35 highly qualified speakers from 11 countries. Organised jointly by Reed Exhibitions and ISPE (International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering), the conference is held concurrently with INTERPHEX Asia 2009.

With the theme “Advancing Excellence and Innovation in Regional Pharmaceutical Manufacturing”, the ISPE Singapore Conference programme places equal emphasis on providing insights and solutions on issues relating to the manufacturing processes facing both multinational corporations and local enterprises in the region. Elevating awareness and updates on regulatory issues, PIC/S adoption and harmonisation, key insights on sustainable solutions, challenges of outsourcing manufacturing processes, challenges in validation of processes and the development of biopharmaceutical manufacturing processes will all be discussed at the various sessions of the conference.

Mr Joseph Famulare, Deputy Director from the Office of Compliance of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), will be presenting the Regulatory Keynote during the plenary session and share guidance on how manufacturers can maintain consistent high quality production and improve efficiency.

Said Mr Sia Chong Hock, Division Director, Health Sciences Authority: “Globalization and international pharmaceutical developments pose challenges to the regulator and the industry. Collaboration via regional and multi-lateral agreements and other “work-sharing” programs, is the most appropriate strategic direction for regulatory agencies. From an industry perspective, conformance to international regulatory standards and best practices, appears to be the way forward in meeting the regulatory requirements of both the domestic and export markets.”

Welcoming 405 participants from Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, UK and USA, delegates are expected to take full advantage of the plenary session, 2 industry workshops and 9 individual tracks, of which environmental sustainability is a key topic and showcase this year. Delegates will hear about Waste Minimisation, Energy Optimisation, Energy Management as well as case studies on plant facilities incorporating solar elements in the facility design. In addition, delegates will have a first-hand unique opportunity to view operations of 8 top pharmaceutical manufacturing plants in Singapore.

Commencing the conference were 2 concluded workshops held on Sunday, 31 May, where more than 100 participants engaged in active exchange, centering around key topics involving the ISPE Guide on commissioning and qualification, as well as a special focus on regulatory for GMP audits. Leading these workshops were industry professionals in Singapore such as Mr Robert Steen, Director from Process Design and Commissioning Services and Mr James Frankenfield, Senior Director of Quality Operations from Genentech.

Singapore has established a reputation for providing advanced manufacturing capabilities as well as expertise in process development and automation technologies. This is evident with the recent news reports on the building of new plants in Singapore by Lonza and Alcon, which only serves to highlight the high potential of Asia despite the economic slowdown.

This year, INTERPHEX Asia received positive support and opens on an optimistic note with 90 participating companies from 16 countries, and in addition, 2 official pavilions led by Ireland and Singapore.

Says Michelle Lim, General Manager, Reed Exhibitions: "INTERPHEX Asia has been recognised as a regional exhibition that provides a dedicated platform for the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector. This year we are delighted to have the Singapore Academy of GxP Excellence (SAGE) as our partner, a positive signal that the industry acknowledges INTERPHEX Asia as a key event for pharmaceutical professionals. We are aware of the critical need to bring together international suppliers, industry regulators and pharmaceutical manufacturers in Asia, and INTERPHEX Asia and the ISPE Singapore Conference's key objective is to achieve that."

She added, "The strong participation and support from the industry, is especially encouraging at a time of global economic slowdown. It re-affirms INTERPHEX Asia / ISPE Singapore Conference's pivotal role in promoting learning, networking and sharing of best practices in pharmaceutical manufacturing excellence."

With 11 of the world's top pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in Singapore, scientific research with complex manufacturing, results in the need for specialized training for the community. Said Ms Tracy Clemmer, President of ISPE Singapore Affiliate said: "The aim of the ISPE Singapore Affiliate is to continue to develop and provide education and training opportunities for pharmaceutical manufacture and GMP compliance. Being a part of INTERPHEX Asia and the ISPE Singapore Conference meets our continuous efforts to promote learning, networking and communication, we seek to offer relevant courses, seminars and events that are highly relevant to the industry's activities in this region."

INTERPHEX Asia welcomes 20 per cent of first-time exhibitors who will be using the exhibition as a launch pad to introduce their product range and solutions. The exhibition will be open to all pharmaceutical professionals till 2 June, Tuesday. For more information on the event, visit www.interphexasia.com.

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About Reed Exhibitions

Reed Exhibitions is the world's leading events organiser. In 2007 Reed brought together over six million industry professionals from around the world generating billions of dollars in business. Today Reed events are held in 38 countries throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Asia Pacific, and organised by 39 fully staffed offices.

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About ISPE

ISPE, the International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering, is the Society of choice for 25,000 pharmaceutical science and manufacturing professionals in 90 countries. ISPE aims to be the catalyst for "Engineering Pharmaceutical Innovation" by providing Members with opportunities to develop technical knowledge, exchange practical experience, and collaborate with global regulatory agencies and industry leaders. Founded in 1980, ISPE has worldwide headquarters in Tampa, Florida, USA; its European office in Brussels, Belgium; its Asia Pacific office in Singapore; and its newly established office in Shanghai, China. Visit www.ISPE.org for additional Society news and information.

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