

## **UCSD to sponsor international conference on Perspectives on Biotechnology in the Pacific Basin**

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### UCSD SPONSORS CONFERENCE ON PERSPECTIVES ON BIOTECHNOLOGY IN THE PACIFIC BASIN

The Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies and the Center for Molecular Genetics at the University of California, San Diego will jointly sponsor an international conference on Perspectives on Biotechnology in the Pacific Basin. The conference is September 6-7 at the Center for Molecular Genetics and is being supported in part by the University of California Biotechnology Research and Education Program.

The two-day conference will bring together biotechnology leaders representing universities, industry and government. Five University of California campuses, representatives from the United States and California state governments, and distinguished scientists from several other Pacific Basin countries including Australia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico and Taiwan will participate.

The objectives of the conference will be to 1) review the scientific, economic and policy contexts of U.S.-Pacific relations as they affect biotechnology; 2) assess U.S. scientific and commercial biotechnology-related opportunities and needs within those contexts; and 3) identify feasible research, teaching and public service options through which the University of California can help address those opportunities and needs.

Advances in molecular biology during the past 15 years provide the basis for the biotechnology industry, an industry which barely existed a decade ago. Its commercial potential extends over a wide range of areas - pharmaceuticals, medical diagnostics, agricultural production, food processing and energy development.

California's leadership in biotechnology is evident from the high quality of the basic research conducted at universities throughout the state and the fact that more than 200 industrial biotechnology firms have been established here. Because of the enormous potential, other countries besides the United States, including several in the Pacific Basin, are also investing heavily in biotechnology research and development. According to experts, this is almost certain to have an important impact on future scientific and economic relations in the Pacific region.

When the conference adjourns, organizers intend to invite selected participants to explore some of the ideas generated at the conference through one or more focused follow-up conferences to take place over the next 12 months.

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