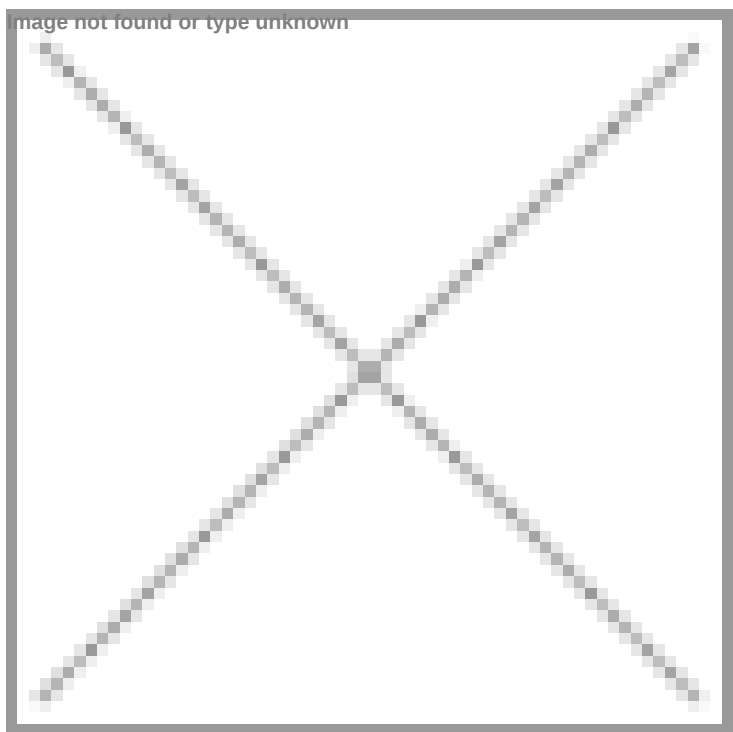


“Korean life science companies concentrate on low-carbon manufacturing processes”

07 May 2025 | Opinion | By Dr Manbeena Chawla

ICPI WEEK 2025 in South Korea wrapped up with 41,720 visitors and \$1.265 billion in export consultations. A total of 41,720 attendees visited the exhibition over four days, from April 22–25, 2025, at KINTEX, Goyang, Korea. Following this successful run, BioSpectrum Asia spoke to Gil Soo Kim, Vice President of Kyungyong Exhibition Corp.



What criteria were used to select keynote speakers and feature pavilions this year, and what message are you aiming to convey to the global audience?

ICPI Week 2025 brought together over 1,200 companies and more than 40,000 visitors, facilitating active global networking and business consultations. During the exhibition, business meetings valued at over \$100 million took place, leading to numerous technology collaborations and partnerships. Technological innovations centered on eco-friendly packaging and digital manufacturing emerged as key outcomes, enabling participating companies to explore strategies for strengthening global competitiveness and achieving sustainable growth.

How is this year's event becoming more globally relevant and attractive to international attendees and media, and what behind-the-scenes discussions drive real industry changes?

At ICPI Week 2025, a new ESG Sustainable Packaging Fair was introduced, spotlighting eco-friendly packaging and sustainable manufacturing. The event also featured the KOREA STAR AWARDS ceremony and a dedicated exhibition hall showcasing the award-winning eco-friendly products. Additional programmes included an Eco-Friendly Technology Forum and a Technology Innovation Showcase, offering participants insights into the latest technologies and industry trends. These programmes served as a venue for industry leaders to gather and discuss the future direction of sustainable industrial development. A powder technology seminar for the battery industry was held in chemical processing, contributing to enhanced product safety and efficiency for materials and manufacturing companies. New programmes were also introduced across the pharmaceutical, bio, cosmetics, and logistics sectors.

What trends or surprises have emerged in this year's exhibitor lineup, innovation focus, and the types of new industries or startup verticals entering the logistics sector?

To foster greater collaboration between biotech startups, pharmaceutical companies, research institutes, and investors, ICPI Week operated partnering meetings, open innovation programs, and biotech venture pitching sessions, thereby enhancing practical business networking. All participants and visitors could consult effectively through a 1:1 on-site meeting platform. A web-based smart solution, accessible via mobile phones, allowed users to search for specific companies and view booth layouts, streamlining navigation throughout the exhibition.

How are Korean logistics companies adapting to cultural and generational shifts, especially regarding automation, cross-border logistics, and Southeast Asia's rise as a manufacturing hub?

ICPI Week also elevated the global presence of Korean companies through exhibitions and conferences, reflecting the trend toward eco-friendly and functional cosmetics. Covering the entire process of cosmetic development—from raw materials and formulations to AI-based smart solutions, cosmeceuticals, and inner beauty products—the exhibition contributed to innovative product development and reinforced global competitiveness. In particular, the CI Korea Conference focused on international regulations and market trends, broadening industry knowledge and insight.

With the growing emphasis on green logistics, what regulatory challenges, policy developments, and future opportunities shape Korea's decarbonized logistics and regional cooperation?

Korean life science companies concentrate on low-carbon manufacturing processes, develop bio-based raw materials, and reinforce ESG management. They actively pursue future growth in biomanufacturing by expanding smart manufacturing technologies and forming global partnerships.

Dr Manbeena Chawla

(manbeena.chawla@mmactiv.com)