

**High Commission of India**  
**Canberra**  
**Press Release**  
**Indo-Australian Joint Biotechnology Committee**

Representatives of India's Department of Biotechnology, Australia's Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education and senior researchers from both countries' expert advisory panels met in Canberra on 14 March 2012 for the annual meeting of the Indo-Australian Joint Biotechnology Committee (JBC). The meeting was co-chaired by Dr M K Bhan, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), and Dr Don Russell, Secretary of Australia's Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE).

The scientific and technological relationship between India and Australia has a long history. The 1986 treaty on Cooperation in the Fields of Science and Technology underpins a memorandum of understanding between DIISRTE and DBT regarding cooperation in biotechnology signed in 2006 at the same time as the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) was announced and renewed in April 2011 for a further five years.

Both sides reaffirmed the strength of the bilateral science relationship and the important role the AISRF had played in building greater linkages between the Australian and Indian research communities. They stressed that it was important to examine how to build on the good work supported through the fund to create a long-term, sustainable partnership in science and technology.