

Singapore, Italy launch joint lab for cancer research

SINGAPORE, March 2 (Xinhua) -- Singapore and Italy launched a joint research laboratory in Singapore on Wednesday for cancer research with new targeted therapies.

The facility involving Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research of Singapore and Italy's FIRC Institute of Molecular Oncology will be a key platform for scientific exchange and interactions, the agency said.

"We are particularly excited by IFOM's capabilities and expertise in the field of molecular oncology, and look forward to both broadening and deepening our scientific interactions with them," said Lim Chuan Poh, chairman of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, a science promotion agency.

IFOM said the future of cancer research relies on the establishment of international cooperative agreements to achieve the necessary synergies and benefits resulting from shared technologies, human resources and cross-fertilization of ideas.

"In an increasingly competitive world, establishing long term alliances on projects of common scientific interest is key to achieving first class results which matters not only to Italy but to the entire community," said Marco Foiani, scientific director of IFOM.

The Agency for Science, Technology and Research and three Italian research institutions signed a memorandum of understanding on research cooperation in 2009.