





May 20-23, 2019

# InnoBRIDGE Sweden Report

Indian delegation visit to Sweden



InnovatioCuris (IC) works with large network of thought leaders, start-up companies, investors, incubators, policy makers, and academicians to bring down the healthcare delivery cost and improve the quality of care. IC is a knowledge platform which hosts Innovators' Club, Webinars, Annual Conference, Magazine, Market Access Program and Trainings to help innovators penetrate markets faster and create a mutually beneficial relationship with startups and entrepreneurs to ensure new horizons of growth.

IC launched its InnoBRIDGE initiative by organising its first delegation to Sweden in May 2019. InnoBRIDGE is an initiative to strengthen healthcare collaborations between various countries with a primary aim to create a seamless access platform for both the countries and showcase the best practices of developed and emerging economies.



# Strengthening Healthcare Collaborations



## OVERVIEW

The primary aim of InnoBRIDGE was to create a seamless access platform for both the countries and showcase the best practices of developed and emerging economies.

Sweden, being an emerging market after China, is keen to invest in India, a volume market with rich data. India also has a large pool of highly skilled IT professionals. On the other hand, Sweden is one of the world's largest 10 economies and counted amongst one of the most innovative countries. Sweden is home to companies like Volvo, Ericsson, SKF, Spotify, Skype, IKEA, etc.

*Innovation is fostered by opening boundaries, by gathering insights and information from new connections, and by sharing knowledge. Keeping this in mind, IC envisioned InnoBRIDGE, an initiative to strengthen healthcare collaboration between various countries. Under this initiative, IC along with Swedish partners, Swecare and Business Region Gothenburg hosted InnoBRIDGE Sweden. An Indian delegation of nine senior healthcare leaders from government, public & private sectors and non-government organizations (NGO), visited Sweden from 20-23 May 2019.*



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

1

### Innovation Unit in Hospitals and Universities

The Karolinska Institute (KI) is Sweden's largest research-led medical university and innovation center. Since 1901, the Nobel Assembly at KI has selected the Nobel laureates in Physiology or Medicine. The Karolinska Hospital and its Innovation Unit have been running over ten years and have formalized

the innovation process. The Region Stockholm has a policy for innovation i.e. every organization should have an innovation center. The Innovation Center is a great model which encourages and engages stakeholders, such as health professionals, patients, medical researchers and industrial partners to address unmet needs in hospital services through innovation.

In addition to the university hospitals, primary care centers and mobile units of Region Uppsala also have innovation drives and R&D

department where ideas from employees, patients, and relatives are collected, assessed, and implemented by hospitals, as shared by the Chairman of the Board, Vivianne Macdisi, Region Uppsala. The county also has Uppsala Innovation Center (UIC) which is the world's fourth-best university-affiliated business incubator. UIC offers business development programs and supports innovative start-ups and growth companies to commercialize, scale-up and access the international market. UIC provides expert help, awareness and knowledge for companies, and a national platform to connect them. This is a big learning for Indian healthcare sector wherein the hospitals and universities should foster innovation in their own setting by creating an environment where ideas can become a reality. Also, a collaboration can be sought from interested Swedish hospitals to launch such trainings and innovation programs.

# 2


## Developing Healthcare Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Through the intervention of innovation units in hospitals and county-level regional initiatives, Swedish agencies are evolving the understanding of developing AI solutions. This was evident when the delegation attended the largest eHealth event in Scandinavian, Vitalis. The themes included Artificial Intelligence, IoT, decision support, medical imaging, home care, elderly care, remote health care, and robotics. With possibilities to pay with data to develop AI tools, hands-on experiments about trying latest AI tools to build an informative position are some of the considerations already being made at the Swedish end.

There is a natural synergy between India and Sweden on the topic of AI. India can offer data to build AI and can gain from the Swedish expertise of processes and considerations to be made for collecting and refining that data. These synergies were discussed at the India Nordic Seminar themed 'AI and Collaborations in AI and

Innovation', organized by the Business Region Gothenburg and Swecare.

The keynote speech was given by Linda Swirtun, Program Manager of Vinnova, Sweden's government agency for innovation. Vinnova funds healthcare/life sciences innovation projects and research by collaborating internationally. Under the Swedish-Indian Innovation Partnership, the Swedish companies can collaborate with Indian companies in joint research and innovation projects to address global challenges such as climate change and sustainable development. The corporate driven collaborations can include smart cities and clean technologies, digitalization, and IoT. The panel discussions at the seminar had representatives from the Nordic-Baltic region and India. The first panel focused on the transnational collaborations between the two regions and its challenges. Rohini Pimple, Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad; Dr. V K Singh, InnovatioCuris; Dr. Sandeep Bhalla,



Surgeon R Admiral V K Singh (Retd.), MD, IC from Indian delegation presented his healthcare innovation book to the chairman of Swecare board and Uppsala regional council, Ms Vivianne Macdisi



Indian delegation members with SBU Staff, Sophie Werko

Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI); Kingshuk Poddar, Medivalley Incubator represented the Indian side. Lars Lindskold, Swelife AI Institute; Iris Ohrn, Business Region Gothenburg; Jaanus Pikani, Scanbalt Forum and Magnus Bjorsne, AZ BioVenturehub represented the Nordic- Baltic side. The session was moderated by Shampa Bari from Swecare. The Indian panelists discussed how the current government has been very supportive and driving innovation in all sectors.

There have been changes in policies and regulations which has led to a smooth process for collaborations. India has huge data which can be used to develop AI tools by countries like Sweden. Also, knowledge sharing between the regions could be beneficial. The panelist further discussed the unmet needs, and public-private partnership models working in India. The research cluster of India shared the opportunities of life sciences. The government incubation center shared how it can be a soft-landing spot for Nordic-Baltic companies for medical devices.

The representative from PHFI discussed the challenges in public health in India and how capacity building can be done at-scale. The Nordic-Baltic panelist emphasized on the various technologies which are relevant for India. In addition, the representative from Business Region Gothenburg stated that it is easier to do research collaboration – to test and validate one’s products in Sweden as compared to others.

Furthermore, the Nordic-Baltic region has a strong IP protection regime. Therefore, the collaboration will be a win-win situation for both regions.

The panel discussed in depth the challenges of AI development and how processes are evolving at the end of the health system to collect and refine the data. Interesting observations were made on the role of data in AI, future job roles for AI in health sector and business models that may emerge when the providers and IT players collaborate.



Field visit to the site of planned GoCo Health City

### 3

## New Innovation Model of large private companies to incubate SMEs

A path breaking innovation model, which is experimented by AstraZeneca in the form of AZ Bioventures at their Gothenburg site was a key showcase of the visit. It is a collaborative innovation ecosystem for emerging biotech, medtech companies, and academic groups to strengthen competitiveness in the Nordic life science industry. AZ provides space to the SMEs and an opportunity to interact with highly-skilled AZ professionals. In addition, the SMEs can use the state-of-the-art lab facilities and infrastructure of AZ. Home to some 30 SMEs for the past 5 years, the model has already resulted in 5 Initial Public Offers to some billion-dollar successes. The model

was discussed in last year's Davos Summit and now actively being taken up by other corporates like ABB, Volvo in Sweden and AkzoNobel in the Netherlands, as an inspiration to unlock innovation in the ecosystem.

AZ has also enabled a bigger initiative called as GoCo Health Innovation City, which will be a collaborative innovation city where companies can take advantage of co-innovation programs and services such as networking events, experienced facilitators to mentor the innovator, connect members with similar challenges, growth guides.

## Start-ups/ SMEs looking for collaboration with India

The delegation visited H2 Health Hub, Stockholm which is a coworking space where 45 Health Tech start-ups from 26 countries connect, collaborate and share their innovations. The delegation was welcomed by representatives from the Swedish Ministry of Health, Swecare, SMEs and start-ups comprising of medical technologies, wellness, Health IT, mental health, pharmaceutical, radiology solutions, etc. The Sweden Ministry of Health

Science and Technology, India). The collaboration aims at innovation projects linked to addressing global challenges such as climate change. The delegation also got an opportunity to meet few start-ups including EMPE diagnostics with has background from KI and in collaboration with KI researchers developed rapid diagnostic solution for Tuberculosis (TB). The test uses DNA sequencing which can correctly identify virus or bacteria and



First panel had regions and clusters from both sides discussing collaboration

representative shared his views on how Sweden is facilitating cross-border collaboration with India by using innovation to increase social impact such as the 10-years MoU signed between Sweden and AIIMS Jodhpur, aimed at learning and exchanging best practices.

The discussion also pointed out the India-Sweden collaborative industrial research and development program between Vinnova (Swedish government agency) and GITA (Global Innovation & Technology Alliance) (executing organization under the Department of

their antimicrobial resistance within 2 hrs. India has around 86,000 new cases of TB per day and 1.7 billion people at risk. Considering these statistics, EMPE - through InnovatioCuris (IC) - are looking forward to venture into the Indian market.

In Gothenburg, the Indian delegation was welcomed by Business Region Gothenburg, West Swedish Chamber of Commerce and Surgical Science. The delegation visited Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothia Forum and West Sweden Bio Bank.



A part of the Indian delegation also visited the Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services (SBU). Health Technology Assessment (HTA) involves systematic independent assessment of a method, including side-effects, cost-effectiveness, and ethical implications. SBU is one of the oldest organizations in the field of HTA and expressed interest in collaborating with India.

Visit to EMPE  
diagnostics at  
Karolinska Institute  
Campus



## WAY FORWARD

Sweden being the global innovation leader and start-up hot bed, can be a great example for India. The country has an innovation policy and each county is working towards it. It is focusing on the unmet needs of the population and fostering a culture of innovation. The Swedish innovations can be plugged into the Indian ecosystem and vice-versa.

IC looks forward to build on the initial interests among stakeholders from both sides in the form of knowledge webinars, physical visits and signing MoUs. The next milestone for us would be InnoHEALTH 2019 on 4-5 October 2019 where interested Swedish.

# TESTIMONIALS

## “ Deepali Jetley

Managing Partner  
Qwazent Health Search

*It was very well organized program with carefully picked relevant companies. Meetings and entire tour was well planned. This program was the first of its own kind and we were largely able to deliver on the program objectives. Overall it was quite satisfactory.*

## “ Kingshuk Poddar

CEO  
AIC-AMTZ MediValley Incubation Council

*Multi city involvement and healthcare specific. Fairly good. In fact excellent engagement.*

## “ Rohini Pimple

Director (Lifesciences)  
Research and Innovation Circle  
of Hyderabad (RICH)

*The choice of participants from the Sweden side was very good. The event was very well coordinated and the Vitalis conference served as a good platform to understand the healthtech scenario in Sweden.*

## “ Rajesh R Singh

COO  
WISH Foundation India

*Meticulously planned and executed, gave each of the participants to speak and present their views and thoughts.*

## “ Dr Sandeep Bhalla

Director-Training  
Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)

*It was an awesome experience and great learning.*

## InnoBRIDGE USA 2020

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InnoBRIDGE is back with the prospects of a journey to USA in 2020. The trip is likely to comprise of visits to conferences, startups, industry interaction for "**AI in health products**", medical colleges/hospitals/clinical establishments having healthcare innovation departments.

Express your interest for joining InnoBRIDGE USA 2020 by filling the form on the below link or through the QR code

[innovatiocuris.com/innobridge/innobridge-usa-2020](https://innovatiocuris.com/innobridge/innobridge-usa-2020)



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Wish to host a power packed **Indian healthcare delegation** to showcase your country's healthcare innovations?


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