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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
TEMASEK LIFE SCIENCES LABORATORY
[SG/SG]; 1 Research Link, National University Of Singapore, Singapore 117604 (SG).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **Ji, Lianghui**
[AU/SG]; 52 West Coast Crescent, #05-08, West Bay Condominium, Singapore 128036 (SG). **CAI, Lin** [CN/SG]; Blk 715 Clementi, West Str. 2 #07-79, Singapore 120715 (SG). **CHUA, Nam-Hai** [—/US]; 422 E. 72 St. #33c, New York, New York 10021 (US).

(74) Agents: **KARTA, Glenn, E.** et al.; 1425 K Street, N.w., Suite 800, Washington, District Of Columbia 20005 (US).

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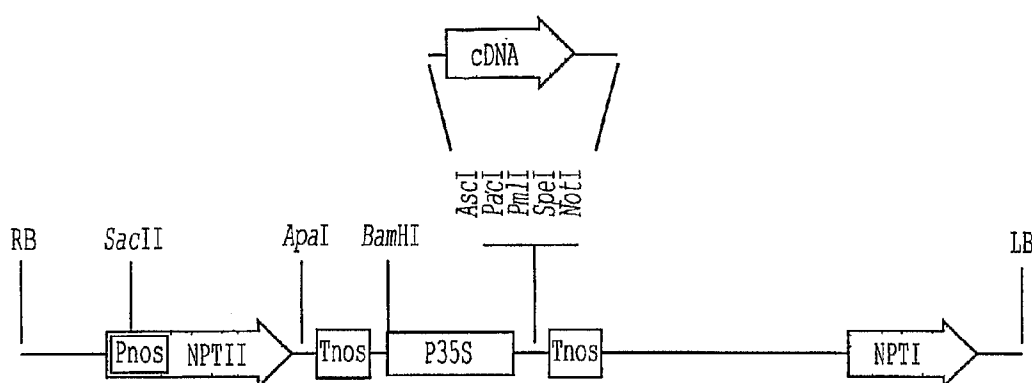
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(57) Abstract: A group of genes including *GhCIR1* from cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*), and *AtCIR1* and *AtCIR2* from *Arabidopsis thaliana* promote shoot regeneration in plants even in the absence of cytokinin. In the presence of cytokinin, the genes significantly improve transformation efficiency. The genes can be used as an enhancer as well as a selectable marker of transformation in plants. The proteins encoded by the novel genes have a homeodomain (HD) at the N-terminus and a highly divergent domain at the C-terminus. The proteins share a common structural motif.

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