

# Cluster Policy of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

The Second Science and Technology Basic Plan, created by the Cabinet in March 2001, sets out the importance of creating “knowledge clusters” in the regions. Moreover, the Third Science and Technology Basic Plan, established in March 2006, stipulates the formation of clusters with high potential to develop into world-class clusters as well as small scale clusters that make use of individual regional characteristics.

Based on these plans, in fiscal 2002, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) initiated the Knowledge Cluster Initiative - creating clusters with high potential to compete on an international level - and the City Area Program - making use of regional characteristics. In fiscal 2010, MEXT unified the Knowledge Cluster Initiative, the City Area Program and the Project for the Strategic Development of Industry-Academia-Government Collaboration under the Project for Developing Innovation Systems, in order to strengthen industry-academia-government collaboration and promote the self-sustainability of the regions.

## Reference: Project for Developing Innovation Systems

The Project for Developing Innovation Systems aims to establish and improve the systems for the proactive implementation of innovation-creating activities conducted in the regions by strengthening the industry-academia-government collaboration functions of universities and other research institutions and by forming regional industry-academia-government networks.

### ◆ Regional Innovation Cluster Program FY2010 budget: 12,065 million yen

In order to strengthen industry-academia-government collaboration in the regions, the project focuses on the industry-academia-government collaboration activities conducted by universities and other research institutions that serve as the core research centers, and provides support to these institutions for promoting organizational collaboration with other institutions in the area in an effort to create world-class clusters.

**【Global Type】** 7,942 million yen  
○ Provides support for the formation of internationally competitive, world-class knowledge clusters.

**【City Area Type】** 3,000 million yen  
○ Provides support for the formation of knowledge clusters that may be small in scale but that maximize local characteristics.

**【Accelerative Support】** 1,000 million yen  
○ Provides priority support to regions where efforts have been made in the past for the formation of knowledge clusters.

### ◆ Program for Promoting Self-Sustaining Management of Industry-Academia-Government Collaboration in Universities FY2010 budget: 2,649 million yen

**【Function Support Type】** 2,041 million yen  
○ Provides support for personnel expenses and activity expenses for strengthening the industry-academia-government collaboration functions of universities and other research institutions.

**【Coordinator Support Type】** 593 million yen  
○ Provides support for the activities and training of industry-academia-government collaboration coordinators.

