Knowledge Cluster Initiative

Transition of Cluster Policy

1st Science and Technology Basic Plan (FY1996 FY2000) Foundation for regional R&D

Increasing public awareness of S&T, promoting basic and pioneering R&D, and constructing S&T related facilities

Creating and expanding various research systems in which national and public universities/research institutions and private firms participate, and enhancing coordination

Support for public research institutions

2nd Science and Technology Basic Plan (FY2001–FY2005)—Start of Cluster Policy—

Formation of regional knowledge based clusters

Implementation of S&T policies in the region

Fostering and providing expert human resources, enhancing coordination, and promoting interregional technological transfers

Further promoting industry-academia-government collaboration in the region

3rd Science and Technology Basic Plan (FY2006–FY2010) —Development of Cluster Policy—

Building regional innovation systems and creating vital regions

"Because the promotion of S&T in regions contributes to building regional innovation systems and creating vital regions thus enhancing the sophistication and diversification of S&T in Japan as a whole and enhancing the competitiveness of innovation systems the government will actively encourage such promotion."

Formation of regional clusters

Promoting long-term efforts based on strategic initiatives of regions and the collaboration of relevant organizations

Competitive support for cluster formation carried out under local initiatives

Selective support to regions that have the potential to develop as world-class clusters

Developing clusters with strengths that utilize regional characteristics, however small in scale

Smoothly developing S&T policies in regions

Reference: Innovation-related Policies

Comprehensive Strategy for Innovation (decided by the Council for Science and Technology Policy (CSTP), June 2006)

Enhancing systems to foster innovation "from seeds to fruits"

(1) Promotion of collaboration among academia, private and government sectors

(2) Enhancing regional innovation systems

Promotion of independent regional innovation

Enhancing systems to foster innovation "from seeds to fruits" with strengthening network

Closer collaboration between local government, local companies and universities, with the latter serving as a center of knowledge creation

(3) Continual funding, collaborative promotion of knowledge

(4) Implementation of measures focused on Strategic prioritized S&T

Innovation 25 (Cabinet decision June 2007)

Strategies for social system reform

Promotion of efforts to create vigorous local communities

Vitalization of local industries

Support for the development and commercialization of new products/new services utilizing local resources

Support for local governments to independently assemble industries and form clusters

Promotion of compact cities

Knowledge Cluster Initiative

Overview of the Knowledge Cluster Initiative

As part of policies to achieve their cluster vision, local governments will, based on a cluster vision for an individual region, implement the following in concert with other measures (of their own or of other ministries and agencies):

(1) Conducting joint research by industry, academia, and government

Conducting joint research by industry-academia-government at university joint research centers or other institutions to produce new technology seeds in light of corporate needs

Patenting research results and conducting R&D relating to incubation

(2) Using projects by local governments, related ministries, etc.

Fully implementing projects, from R&D to commercialization, and using R&D systems controlled by related agencies and ministries like the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)

(3) Other

Setting up a "Knowledge Cluster Headquarters" in each region as a control center for project implementation (staffed by a President, Project Director, Chief Scientist, and others)

Assigning science and technology coordinators (experts), with emphasis on expertise, and using advisers like patent attorneys

Holding forums and other meetings to announce and discuss research results

MEXT

MEXT selects a region and provides funds to core organizations in order to realize the cluster vision for the local region

Cluster Visions for Each Region ← Local governments

Planning   Designation

Local governments plan their own cluster visions

Local governments enact various policies in order to realize the cluster vision for the local region

Core Organizations (Designated by local governments)

Knowledge Cluster Initiative (Accumulation of "wisdom" and "personnel")

Setting

Collaboration   Contact researh   Collaboration

Universities

Knowledge Cluster Headquarters (Management of the Knowledge Cluster Initiative)

Companies and other relevant organizations

Collaboration (Joint research, etc.)

Collaboration   Collaboration

Projects of other agencies and ministries (METI's industrial cluster project, R&D by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), etc.)

Projects of local organizations (universities, business groups, etc.)