

Transition of Policy of Regional R&D

1st Science and Technology Basic Plan (FY1996 ~ FY2000) – Foundation of Regional R&D –

- Increasing public awareness of S&T, promoting both 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 their coordination
- Supporting 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 inter-regional technology 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

References: Innovation-related Policies

- 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
- Strategy for Regional Empowerment through Science and Technology (Decision in Council for Science and Technology Policy 75th session, May 2008)
 ~Aimed at Eco-systems in the regional footholds~
 1. Strategy for enhancement of variety
 - ◇ Enhancement of variety among the regions
 - Flexibly responded to the original concept independently devised by the region
 - To enhance continuity among regional S&T policies by modifying the term of the project, or by the cooperation of Ministries concerned
 2. Strategy for enhancement of a global foothold

Outline of the Program

● Categories

Applicants select the following two categories depending on the progress of the Industry-Academia-Government cooperation.

① Basic stage (Standard scale of the project: about ¥100 million × 3 years)

Program that centers on joint research aiming to create new technical seeds in regions with certain program results of Industry-Academia-Government cooperation.

② Development stage (Standard scale of the project: about ¥200 million × 3 years)

Program for further developing the regional innovation system and creating new business by the areas where completed City Area Program (Basic Stage or Growing Stage) with remarkable success and were expected the future development.

(References: Ended Programs)

- Growing stage (ended in FY2006)
 Designed for the region where the results of Industry-Academia-Government cooperation are abundant and a significant number of study results exist. Joint research and growth of the research results are mainly supported.
- Starting stage (ended in FY2007)
 To reinforce Industry-Academia-Government cooperation, focusing on problem analysis and research exchange sessions, etc.

● Menu of program

Menus listed below are combined in the range of the budget of the above-mentioned document type and the program is executed.

- ① Exchange sessions... Holding research exchange sessions, and employment of science and technology coordinators (specialists and experts) etc.
- ② Joint research... Industry-Academia-Government joint research to produce technological seeds.
- ③ Development of research results... Feasibility study and joint research for the development and practical application of technological seeds.

