1. Purpose

Following the results obtained during the Knowledge Cluster Initiative (1st stage), MEXT strongly supports the formation of world-class clusters while focusing on a “Selection and Concentration” approach.

2. Budgetary Measures

- **FY2009 budget: 7.5 billion yen**
- Flexible budget allocations to regions according to their R&D field and degree of progress over five years.
- Make consigning contracts with core organizations (e.g., science and technology foundations) designated by local governments.
- Sets the minimum amount of expenditure by local actors to develop clusters.

**Hokkaido Area** (with Sapporo as the core)

- **Sapporo Biocluster “Bio-S”**
  - FY2009 budget: 7.5 billion yen
  - Flexible budget allocations to regions according to their R&D field and degree of progress.
  - Make consigning contracts with core organizations designated by local governments.
  - Sets the minimum amount of expenditure by local actors to develop clusters.

**Hokkaido University, etc.**

- Sets aside a certain part of the budget for the “Expansion Program” to encourage collaboration with other clusters and/or institutions in different regions (both in Japan and overseas) to enhance competitiveness.

**Hokuriku Innovation Cluster for Health Science** (Life Sciences)

- University of Toyama, Toyama Prefectural University, Kansai University, Kofu University, Kochi University of Technology, Kyoto Municipal Industrial Research Institute

- 300-500 million yen per year, over five years

**Kyutechgunken**

- Kyoto University, RIKEN, STA, AIST, Kyoto University, etc.

**Kyoto and Keihanna**

- Kyoto Environmental Nanotechnology Cluster (Nanotech/Materials Environment)
- Kyoto University, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Osaka University, Kobe University, Osaka Prefectural University, Kanazawa University, Kanazawa Institute of Technology, Kanazawa Medical University, Toyama Prefectural Institute for Pharmaceutical Research, etc.

- Over 50 million yen/0.1 billion yen is earmarked for promotion of collaboration with other relevant ministries (e.g., METI’s Industrial Cluster project)

**Kurume region**

- University of Tokushima; Tokushima Bunri University, etc.

**Tokushima Health and Medicine Cluster** (Life Sciences)

- University of Tokushima, Tokushima Bunri University, Tokushima Prefectural Industrial Technology Center, etc.

**Biomedical Cluster Kansai** (Life Sciences)

- National Institute of Biomedical Innovation (NIBIO), Shinshu University, Tokyo University of Science, RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology, etc.

**Hamamatsu**

- Hamamatsu Optronics Cluster (IT, Nanotech/Materials, Life Sciences)

**TOKUSHIMA**

- Tokushima Regional Biotechnology and Food Research Institute (BFRI) and Chemical and Biology Industry Research Institute (CTRI) of Fukuoka Industrial Technology Center (FITC), Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), etc.

**Tokai Region Nanotechnology Manufacturing Cluster** (Environment, Nanotech/Materials)

- Nagoya University, Nagoya Institute of Technology, etc.

**Biomedical Cluster Kansai** (Life Sciences)

- University of Toyama, Toyama Prefectural University, Kansai University, Kofu University, Kochi University of Technology, Kyoto Municipal Industrial Research Institute

**Tohoku**

- Tohoku University, Tohoku Institute of Technology, etc.

**Hokuriku Innovation Cluster** (Life Sciences)

- National Institute of Biomedical Innovation (NIBIO), Shinshu University, Tokyo University of Science, RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology, etc.

**Nagano Prefecture region**

- Shinshu University, RIKEN, STIC, etc.

**Greater Sendai Area**

- Advanced Preventive Health Care Services Cluster (Life Sciences)
- University of Akita, Toyama Prefectural University, Kanazawa University, etc.

**Hamamatsu Optronics Cluster** (IT, Nanotech/Materials, Life Sciences)

- Hamamatsu University School of Medicine, etc.

**Biomedical Cluster Kansai** (Life Sciences)

- National Institute of Biomedical Innovation (NIBIO), Shinshu University, Tokyo University of Science, RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology, etc.

**Nagano Prefecture region**

- University of Tokushima; Tokushima Bunri University, etc.

**Tokushima Health and Medicine Cluster** (Life Sciences)

- University of Tokushima, Tokushima Bunri University, Tokushima Prefectural Industrial Technology Center, etc.

**Tokai Region Nanotechnology Manufacturing Cluster** (Environment, Nanotech/Materials)

- Nagoya University, Nagoya Institute of Technology, etc.

**Knowledge Cluster Initiative (Innovative Stage)**

1. Purpose

The purpose of the program is to promote the development of internationally competitive clusters in regions where industry, academia, and government have collaborated in order to enhance the competitiveness of regional industry and to create new industry. To accomplish this purpose, MEXT promotes global expansion of these clusters by taking full advantage of strong and distinctive R&D potentials and core technologies, while encouraging each region’s independence.

2. Budgetary Measures

- **FY2009 budget: 1.2 billion yen**
- Flexible budget allocations to regions according to their R&D field and degree of progress.
- 300-500 million yen per year, over five years
- Make consigning contracts with core organizations (e.g., science and technology foundations) designated by local governments.
- To enhance regional independence further, each region is responsible for activities equivalent to more than half of the national expenses allocated for cluster formation.