Kansai Science City

Aiming to create new industries through teamwork and networking between industry, academia, and government, and by exploiting a unique combination of factors—like science/technology, industrial infrastructure and cultural assets—in Kansai Science City,

Cluster Vision

In order to realize the Cluster Vision, we have undertaken the following projects:

1. The construction of a “knowledge reproduction cycle” through the collaboration of industry-academia-government. In order to construct a mechanism that would allow the parties responsible for innovation to form partnerships organically and enable the knowledge reproduction cycle to operate autonomously and efficiently, we have endeavored to clarify and share the regional Cluster Vision, gather and build a network of researchers, entrepreneurs, educators, etc., establish a support system for cycle sustainment composed of regional governments, economic organizations, etc., promote exchanges and joint research activities with major domestic and foreign clusters, and foster next-generation researchers and entrepreneurs.

2. Joint study to create new technologies that serve as the core of next-generation industries. The research group led by the Nara Institute of Science and Technology worked on research projects in the life sciences including technology to produce proteins for medical use from vegetable foliage, the development of low-cost medical materials, and purification of the soil with plant roots. The research group led by Osaka University and Osaka Electro-Communication University undertook studies into intelligent lighting systems in the area of “Neo-Kyoto,” or new concept electrical appliances. These systems have the capacity to independently adjust light output to the most appropriate level. This group also studied wireless communication technology that does not use encryption and high-function myoelectric prosthetic hands. The group worked hard to achieve the “creation of new industries that combine Kansai’s cultural assets and IT technology.” Utilizing next-generation learning systems and Kansai’s rich cultural assets.

3. Incubation/commercialization support utilizing research results. In order for research results to help create new businesses, we undertook support activities tailored to corporate requirements, including marketing research on the potential for utilization of research results, support for trade show exhibitions, and advisory services after selection as public projects.

Project Overview

Since 2002, we have been promoting our project based on the concept of “realizing full lives emphasizing human values, or lifestyles appropriate to the 21st century.” The joint research, led by the three core universities, has evolved into an immense project with the participation of a total of 153 organizations, producing 581 research papers, 239 patent applications, 44 technology transfers, and 11 virtual businesses and commercializing 29 products. Moreover, directions for practical use are starting to take shape for core technologies for next-generation industries such as genetic engineering technology for chloroplasts, although commercialization will take a little more time. Furthermore, the movement (working around regional governments and the Kansai Economic Federation) to create new businesses via this project has gathered momentum across the entire region and is becoming instrumental in the development of an innovation system based on industry-academia-government collaboration, such as establishment of the Kansai Center for New Industry Creation and Exchange. That being said, however, we are still only halfway to the realization of the innovation cluster the region has been attempting to create. We are still confronted by a number of challenges including the limited scope of the economic benefits of this project and the need to enhance our international competitiveness.

Therefore, the Third Science and Technology Basic Plan also emphasizes the rejuvenation of the innovation process, and Kansai Science City remains committed to building an international innovation cluster.

Project Director
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