

Innovations and Clusters

In recent years the development of policies to respond to the hollowing out of regional industry has become a pressing issue, so the importance of regional innovation systems utilizing science and technology activities and their achievements in regions has come to be widely recognized as an effective mean of tackling this problem. There is the strong evidence of the formation of clusters in advanced nations.

The cluster means geographic concentrations of institutions (universities etc.), related industries in particular fields, specialized suppliers, service providers, firms in particular industries, and such institutions as standardizing authorities and organizations in related industries, in which both competition and cooperation can be seen. And it is said that these companies and organizations, which are tied up with each other through their similarity or common characters, increase their each functional value in the cluster as a whole and perform great contribution to realize innovation efficiently.

Innovation : the activities which create new value by creating and utilizing knowledge

Cluster : the idea which Michael E. Porter, Professor of the Harvard Business School, advocate to explain the competitive advantage of regions