

Knowledge Cluster Initiative

Collaboration with Other Ministries and Agencies

1. Building systems of collaboration with ministries and agencies relating to regional cluster policies

In order to bring together the compartmentalized policies of each ministry and agency under the Council for Science and Technology Policy, the Coordination Program for Science and Technology Projects was established with regard to themes that should be collectively promoted by ministries and agencies because of their national and social significance, and "Regional Science and Technology Clusters" have been established as one such theme. In order to revitalize local economies based on developing S&T, a coordinator has been appointed and unnecessary overlap of related policies of ministries and agencies will be eliminated, and projects will be actively and effectively promoted due to strengthened collaboration.

Furthermore, committees from related ministry bureaus and local governments in each block have been established to more effectively implement state science and technology development policies such as regional clusters. Information exchange and explanatory meetings of related ministries and agencies policies are carried out under these committees.

2. Collaboration with METI (Industrial Cluster Project)

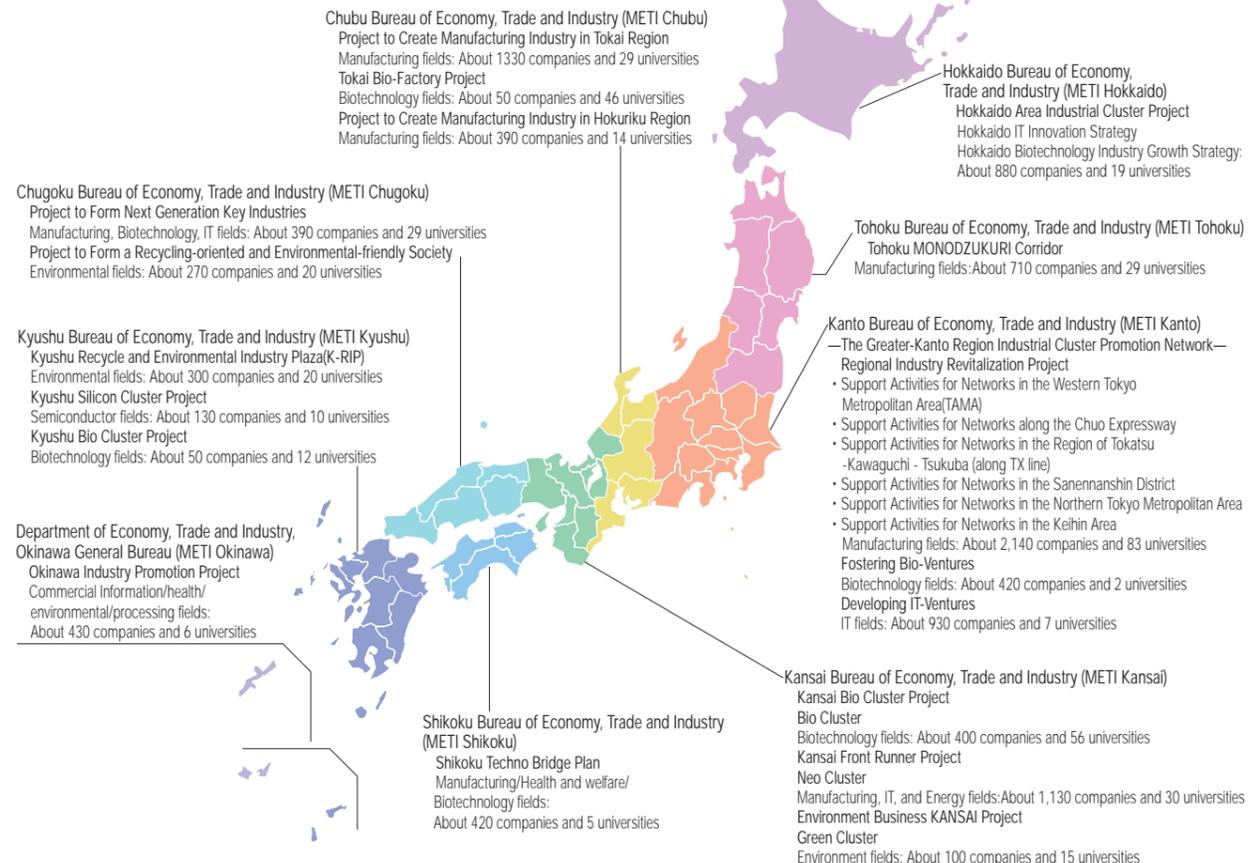
Collaboration with the Industrial Cluster Project promoted by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry(METI) and other projects has been further promoted (e.g.: Establishment of Regional Consortium Research and Development Project, "Interministerial Collaboration Framework"). The Regional Cluster Promotion Council has been established jointly with METI and Joint Achievement Announcement Meetings have been held in each region.

Furthermore, a Knowledge Cluster/Industrial Cluster Forum (Seminar) was jointly held three times in regional locations and once on a national level in FY 2006. The Regionally Launched Advanced Techno Fair was held in Tokyo, where the two ministries provided and exchanged all information on the achievements of their joint efforts.

Policies of both ministries have been mutually complementary, e.g. the seed generation achievements of MEXT policies have been applied and commercialized by METI, and conversely, feedback of market needs has led to R&D of new seeds.



The second Term Industrial Cluster Project



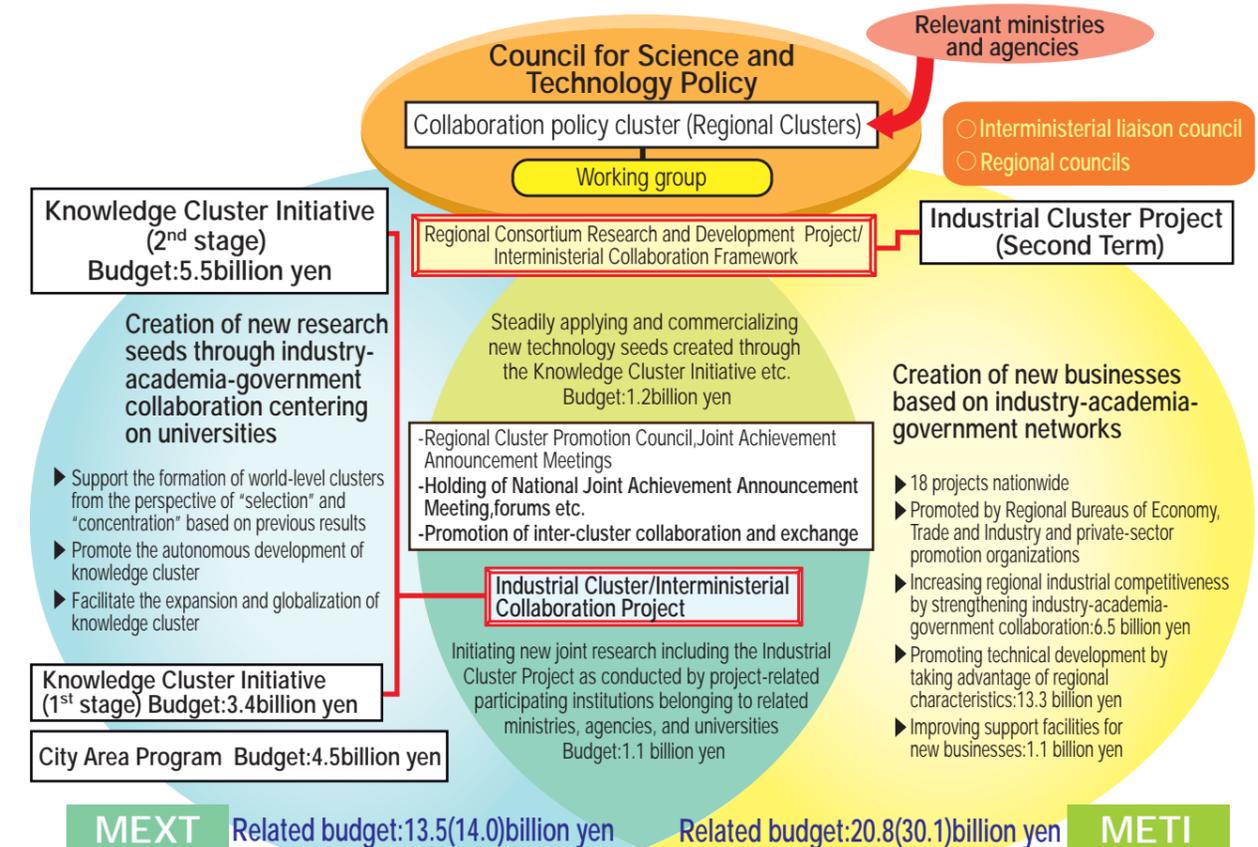
Regionally Launched Advanced Techno Fair 2006 at Tokyo Big Site (November 29 to December 1, 2006)



The 6th Industry-University Collaboration Promotion Conference at the KYOTO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER (June 16 and 17, 2007)

Outline of regional cluster-related budget for FY 2007

MEXT
METI



Implementation of seamless policy from creation of seeds to application and commercialization

Notes: The related Budgets are for FY 2007. Amounts in parentheses are budgets for FY 2006.