The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) initiated the Knowledge Cluster Initiative and other policies in Fiscal 2002, and has been addressing the improvement of regional science and technology infrastructures for the creation of new technology "seeds" and the establishment of industry-academia-government collaboration systems. Since Fiscal 2011, MEXT has been promoting the "Regional Innovation Strategy Support Program" as part of the project for developing innovation systems aimed at establishing and improving the systems that enable individual regions to proactively create innovations through the industry-academia-government collaboration policy. The Regional Innovation Strategy Support Program aims to steadily expand the achievements of previous activities by maximizing the science and technology infrastructures developed and refined by individual regions and also to utilize all pertinent policies of the relevant ministries to provide fully-fledged support to the regional innovation strategy promoting regions (see page 3) that have proactive and excellent visions toward the creation of regional innovations.

**Purpose**

The project for developing innovation systems is intended to establish systems which enable individual regions to proactively create innovations through the revamped function of universities for promoting the collaboration of industry, academia, and government; the regional joint research by industry, academia, and government; the formation of regional universities networks; and the establishment of advanced interdisciplinary research and development centers. To achieve this goal, MEXT promotes the Regional Innovation Strategy Support Program and other programs listed below.

**Regional Innovation Strategy Support Program**

* Provides support to the "Regional Innovation Strategy Promoting Regions" selected jointly by the relevant ministries, with special focus on the formation of intellectual property and the development of human resources.

**Program for Promoting Self-Sustaining Management of Industry-Academia-Government Collaboration in Universities**

* Provides support to the establishment of systems for industry-academia-government collaboration addressed by individual universities and other organizations.

**Program for Realization of Innovation Center for Fusion of Advanced Technology**

* Provides support for the realization of center for fusion of advanced technology.

**Establishment of Regional Innovation Systems through Effective Industry-Academia-Government Collaboration**

* In the past, the regional promotion of science and technology was aimed at revitalizing local communities by encouraging original research activities based on the history and culture unique to each region. These efforts have contributed significantly to the advancement and diversification of science and technology in the entire nation of Japan.

As the Science, Technology, and Innovation Policies must be promoted with nationwide efforts; it is important for each region to establish a system that allows autonomous execution of Science, Technology, and Innovation activities by maximizing regional characteristics and strengths so that the nation and regions can work in collaboration to lead the world based on science and technology.