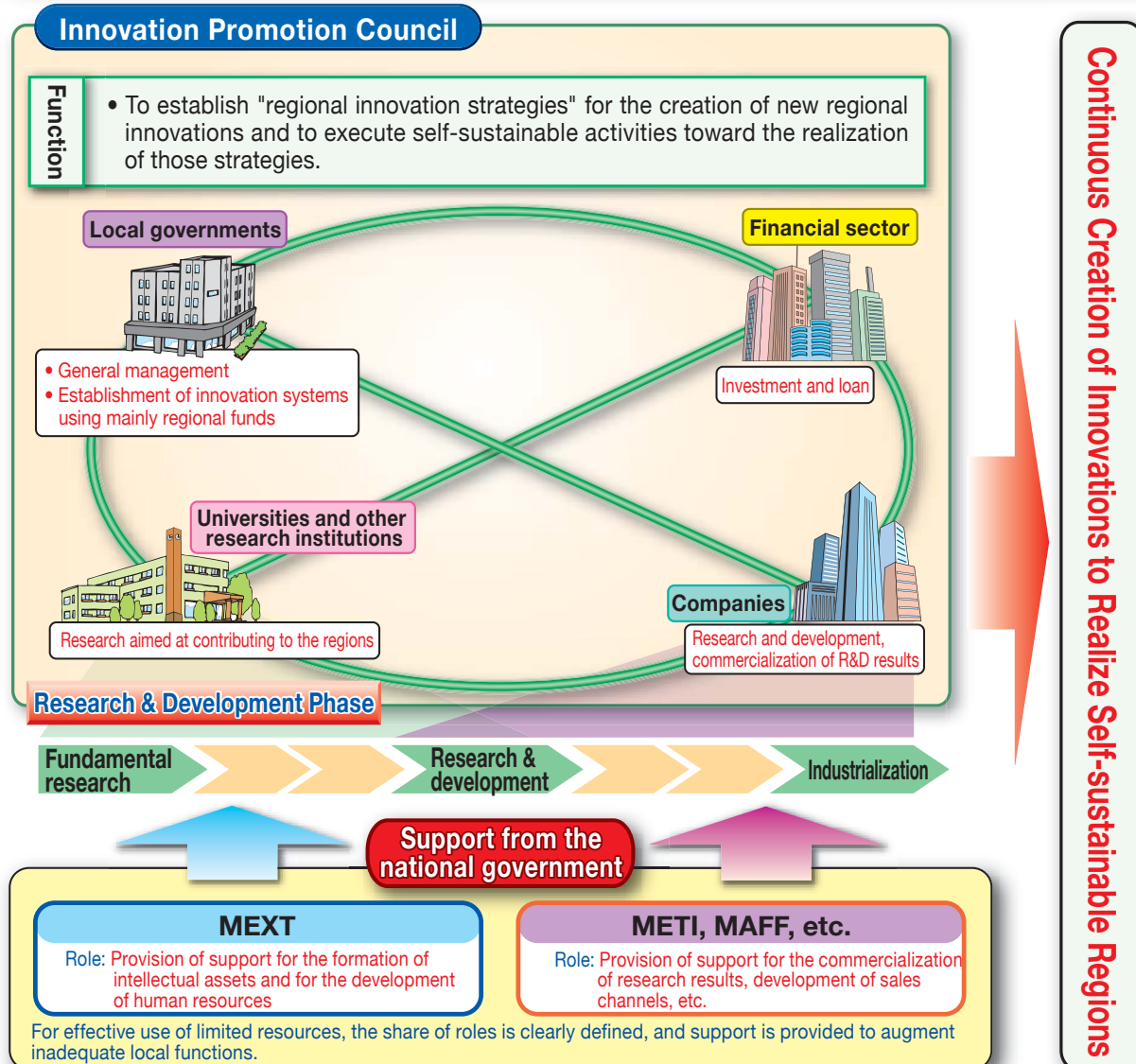


Regional Innovation Strategy Promoting Regions

From Fiscal 2011, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) have jointly selected regions with excellent original visions toward the creation of regional innovations and designate them as "regional innovation strategy promoting regions." To that end, the Innovation Promotion Council (composing members: local governments, business groups, universities and other research organizations, financial institutions, etc.) was established to promote the creation of new regional innovations from a long-term perspective. This council is responsible for establishing regional innovation strategies and is proactively carrying out projects as either "regions focused on strengthening international competitiveness" or "regions focused on advancement of research function/industrial concentration" according to the potential of the individual regions.

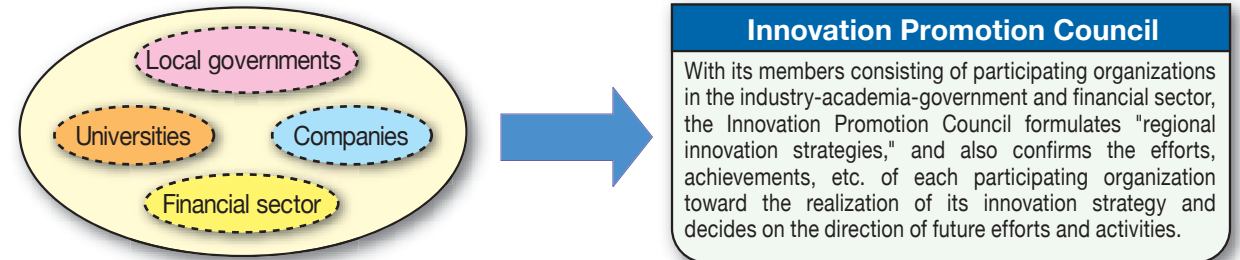
Among the selected regions, those with especially outstanding strategies receive seamless support for all activities ranging from fundamental research conducted by universities to commercialization of research results by companies. All pertinent policies of relevant ministries will be utilized to provide full-fledged support to help the regions realize their regional innovation strategies comprehensively and efficiently.

This will establish systems that allow industry, academia, government and the financial sector to collaborate and create sustainable and expansive innovations by maximizing regional characteristics. The resulting systems will revitalize local communities, and it is also expected to achieve further advancement and diversification of science and technology in Japan as well as enhancement of the international competitiveness of Japanese industry.



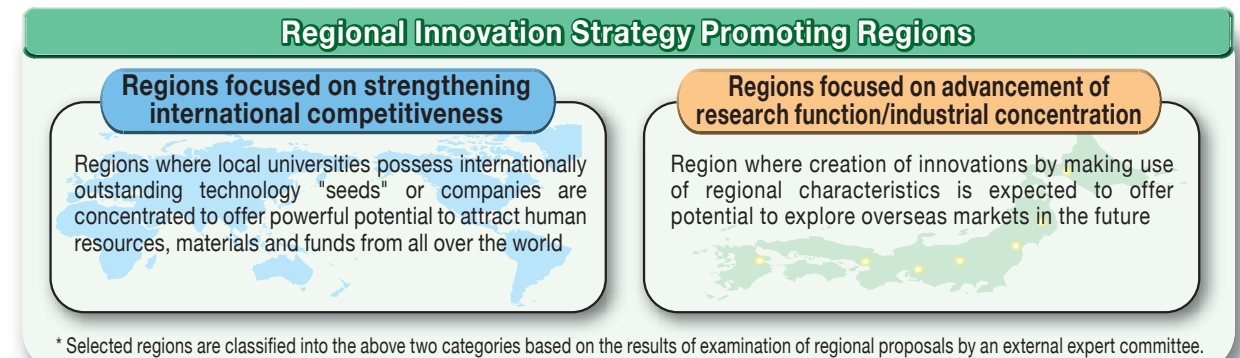
Flow of Processes of Receiving Support from Relevant Ministries

(1) Establishment of regional project promotion systems, formation of Innovation Promotion Council, and proposal making



Establishment and proposal of regional innovation strategy

(2) Selection of regional innovation strategy promoting regions jointly with the relevant ministries



(3) Selection of support programs offered by ministries, such as the Regional Innovation Strategy Support Program

