

Details of Regional Innovation Strategy Support Program Initiated by MEXT

The Regional Innovation Strategy Support Program provides support for proactive and self-sustainable local activities, such as those for the formation of intellectual assets and the development of human resources, in regions where MEXT's assistance is expected to contribute largely to the realization of their regional innovation strategies. Regions eligible for receiving support are selected from among the regional innovation strategy promoting regions (see page 3). Programs are shown below.(Each selected region can combine these programs to promote projects for the creation of regional innovations.)

(1) Concentration of researchers who play core roles in regional innovation strategies

In regions where there are competent researchers who play core roles in regions. At the same time, it is necessary to strategically allocate researchers who will lead the creation of regional innovations in order to prevent research activities from halting in the future due to shortages of researchers with similar technological knowledge or young succeeding researchers.

To this end, support is provided for the purpose of inviting researchers from the inside and outside Japan who will contribute to the realization of regional innovations and carry on future regional visions.

[Organizations eligible for receiving aid]
Research institutions such as universities

[Use of aid]
Personnel costs of researchers (including the initial costs of facilities and equipment, the costs of project implementation, etc.)

(1) Invitation of competent researchers from inside and outside Japan



Innovation Promotion Council

Local governments
Establishment of regional innovation strategies

Establishment of knowledge network

General coordinating organizations

Roles of local collaboration coordinators

- Establishment of knowledge networks such as consortiums
- Collection and organization of local technology "seeds"
- Survey on company needs and matching technology "seeds" with company "needs" ...and others



(3) Establishment of knowledge networks of universities and other research institutions

For the creation of regional innovations, it is important to conduct a series of activities, such as sharing of many excellent technology "seeds" possessed by universities and other research organizations, identification of technology needs of local companies, and commercialization of results derived from such technology "seeds."

Support is provided for the activities of local collaboration coordinators who render necessary support aiming at establishing knowledge networks of local universities through activities to collect and organize the information on technology "seeds" possessed by universities and company needs.

[Organizations eligible for receiving aid]
General coordinating organizations

[Use of aid]
Personnel costs of local collaboration coordinators and project directors (when specified conditions are met) and their activity expenses, as well as activity expenses of general coordinating organizations (costs of equipment, project implementation, etc.)

(2) Development and implementation of human resource development programs toward the realization of regional innovation strategies

In order to foster capable individuals who will contribute to local communities and ensure continuous efforts toward the realization of regional strategies, types of individuals who will contribute to the realization of regional innovation strategies must be identified and such individuals must be fostered continuously in the regions.

To this end support is provided for the development and implementation of programs for fostering human resources capable of playing an important role in the development of new local industries and the revitalization of local communities.

[Organizations eligible for receiving aid]
General coordinating organizations or research institutions such as universities

[Use of aid]
Personnel costs of developers of human resource development programs, and their activity expenses (including costs of equipment, costs of project implementation, etc.)

University A
Local universities, etc.
Strengthening of regional contribution roles

(2) Development and implementation of human resource development programs

University B



Development of human resources capable of contributing to revitalization of local communities

(3) Employment of local collaboration coordinators

Companies, financial institutions, etc.

Making their facilities available

(4) Sharing of research facilities, equipment, etc.



Arrangement of technical support staff

(4) Sharing of research facilities and equipment among local universities and other research institutions

Research institutions such as universities possess many research facilities and equipment that local small and medium-sized companies with inadequate research infrastructure would like to utilize in order to conduct their research activities. Effective utilization of such research facilities and equipment is expected to revitalize the research and development activities in regions.

Therefore, support for allocating staff members to show how to use equipment and to give technical advice is provided to organizations that make their facilities and equipment available to companies in local areas, in order to promote sharing of research facilities and equipment.

[Organizations eligible for receiving aid]
Research institutions such as universities that newly make their research facilities, equipment, etc. available to external groups or individuals

[Use of aid]
Personnel costs of technical support staff members, and the expense of their activities (costs of project implementation)