

Overview of the Knowledge Cluster Initiative

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Knowledge Cluster Initiative is to create internationally competitive knowledge-concentrated systems for technological innovation (Knowledge Cluster). Knowledge Clusters will be organized closely around the knowledge creation bases which consist of universities or public research institutions. Other related public research institutions and R&D firms are also expected to come into it. Proper attention to the autonomy of local governments should be paid in the whole process.

2. Budgetary Measures

- 2004 government budget: 9 billion yen (US \$ 81.8million, EU€ 70.3million)
2003 budget: 6.9 billion yen (US\$ 62.7million, EU€ 53.9million)
- 500 million yen (US \$ 4.5million, EU€ 3.9million) per year for each cluster, over five years
- Grant for the core organizations (science and technology foundations etc.) designated by local governments
(calculated as US \$1=110yen, EU€1=128yen)

3. Points

- Setting up a "Knowledge Cluster Headquarters" in each region as a control tower for the project management (staffed by a President, Project Director, Chief Scientist (CS), and other professional experts)
- Staffing with specialist science and technology coordinators ("connoisseurs"); and use of advisers like patent attorneys
- Carrying out industry-academia-government joint research at university research centers or other institutions, which are expected to produce new technological seeds in accordance with industrial needs
- Patenting and developing research results
- Forums or other type of meetings on research results will be held

Structure of the Knowledge Cluster Initiative

