Approach for Promoting Health Research by Cabinet Office

Sep. 11, 2009
Cabinet Office,
Government of Japan
Life Science in Japan’s S&T budget (FY 2009)

S&T budget
Total: 3,555 b yen (=37.4 b dollar)

Basic research
- University
- Kaken-hi
- COE program

Target-oriented R&D
- Life Sciences (346 b yen)
- IT (158 b yen)
- Environment (121 b yen)
- Nanotechnology (88 b yen) …

System reform, etc

1,477 b yen (41.5%)
1,687 b yen (47.5%)
391 b yen (11.0%)
Strategic priority setting in Life Sciences

Additional 7 Strategic Priorities in Life Sciences

‘Better Foods’ and ‘Better Life’

Production and supply of safe foods with international competitiveness

Application of bio-function for material production and environmental improvement

‘Better Health’

Clinical and Translational Research

Innovation in medical science and technology for cancer treatment

Emerging/ re-emerging infectious diseases

Upgrading of cutting-edge infrastructure for life science

- Analysis on relationship of RNA, protein, sugar-chain, and metabolites
- Understanding of brain or immune system
- Simulation of life system using cutting-edge Information Technology (IT)

Upgrading of cutting-edge infrastructure for life science

- Life Science Data Base
“Super Special Consortia” for supporting the development of cutting-edge medical care

☆ In order to conquer the disincentive effects on development of innovative technology, we set up “Super Special Consortia” to implement experimentally parallel discussion with the department which dealt with special case in research funds and/or its regulation.

☆ It is characterized as a super consortia focusing on “Innovative Technology”, not on administrative boundary unit as previous.

☆ In FY2008, we firstly establish “Super Special Consortia for supporting the development of cutting-edge medical care” to promote cutting edge regeneration medicine, development and application of medicine and medical instruments, etc.
Outline of application for the “Super Special Consortia”

☆ **Prospective projects**
We would accept application from projects implemented by groups of researchers on the following priority areas.
1. iPS cell application, 2. Regeneration medicine,
3. Development of innovative medical instruments
4. Development of innovative biotechnology-based drugs
5. Development of drugs and medical devices used in medical treatment and diagnosis which are important for the people’s healthy lives

☆ **Issues can be implemented by “Special district”**
1. Pharmaceutical consultation in its development stage
2. Integrated and efficient research funds management and other suggestions regarding structural innovation which can promote innovative technological development.

☆ **Research period**
From FY2008 through FY2013 (5 years; tentative)

☆ **Application procedure**
24 projects were signed out among the 143 Research Projects on November 25 in 2008.
- Research for Tissue Engineering and evaluation for drug safety by iPS Cells
- Research and development of the production method for durable artificial joint for individual patients
- Research and development for the Cancer Vaccine to cure and protect the recurrence of the tumor
- Research and development for the next generation Vaccine (aerosolized, plaster, or oral administration)
- Research and development for Medical device for minimally invasive surgery using an endoscope
......etc.
Characterization of 24 Projects

1. Whole Projects

Prospective Projects

1. iPS cell application,
2. Regeneration medicine,
3. Development of innovative medical instruments
4. Development of innovative biotechnology-based drugs
5. Development of drugs and medical devices used in medical treatment and diagnosis which are important for the people’s healthy lives

2. 1st Selection (Examination by means of documents)

3. Adoption

☆ In Nov. 2008, we singled out 24 projects such as iPS cell research and technology.
Setting up of “Council for the Promotion of Health Research”

Council for Science and Technology Policy (held on June 19, 2008)

“A whole picture of the budget for S&T in FY2009 and Policy of resources distribution”:
In the “Health research area”, as the first example, we start to deal with setting up of strategic plans and budget compilation at the integration of related offices and administrations.

- Functional role as a “control tower” in bridging researches and clinical researches
- Consists of several related ministers and intelligence
- Setting at Cabinet Office
- Utilization of systems of “Super Special Consortia for supporting the development of cutting-edge medical care”

Basic specialist research committee of Council for Science and Technology Policy

The 1st conclusion: Consideration aiming at promoting comprehensively clinical researches

Council for the Promotion of Health Research

- Functional role as a “control tower” in bridging researches and clinical researches
- Consists of several related ministers and intelligence
- Setting at Cabinet Office
- Utilization of systems of “Super Special Consortia for supporting the development of cutting-edge medical care”

Setting up of “Council for the Promotion of Health Research” to implement specific plan
Establishment of the Council for the Promotion of Health Research

Council for the Promotion of Health Research

(Cabinet Office)

- Minister of Science & Technology
- Minister of Education & Science
- Minister of Labor & Health
- Minister of Economy, Trade & Industry

Intellectual

- Comprehensive strategic planning
- Estimation of budget request
- Integration of public subscription and evaluation
- Standardization of management system for research funds

Prioritized securement of research funds

Integrated management of research funds

Implementation and securement of Special Consortia’s budget

Will be implemented in FY2009

Public-Private Dialog for Innovative Drugs

Reflection of opinion from industrial circles

Public-Private Dialog for BT Strategic Promotion

Comprehensive promotion of bio-technology

Council for Science and Technology Policy

- Budget for Innovative technology
- Strategy for promotion of Life science
Goal for Health Research within 10 Years

(1) Practical application of innovative technologies to create new medicines

- Implementation of application of regenerative medicine, such as iPS cells application
- Development of innovative medicines which fit individual constitution of patients
- Overcome of dementia such as Alzheimer disease
- Securement of innovative research platform for development of new medicines

(2) Practical application of innovative medical devices

- Establishment for less-invasive medical care
- Development of innovative medical devices
- Development of innovative diagnostic devices
- Development of medical devices to support long and healthy life

(3) Evolution of novel integrated technology for medical care (medicine, medical device, regeneration)

(4) Continuous research for seeds of new medicines and development of disease prevention

(5) Establishment of regulatory science for promotion of health research.

- Promotion of research for evaluation method, which is measured safety and efficacy of innovative medical technology to catch up the result of advanced research in regulatory science
Action Plan to Solve the Current Issues

(1) Preparation of centers of excellence
- Strengthen centers of excellence for clinical research and translational research for cutting-edge medical care, such as regeneration field
- Promotion for the application of the centers of excellence in Japan

(2) Education and securement for clinical researchers and supporting staffs
- Setting up a supporting system to nurture and secure clinical researchers and supporting staffs

(3) Continuous research for seeds of new medicines and medical devices
- Evolution of research to use innovative method, such as genomic epidemiology
- Setting up the database in hearth research field

(4) Promotion to return results of technology immediately to the public
- Enhancement of regulatory science
- Reformation and application of the technology platform and system to accelerate practical application
- Promotion of the “Super Special Consortia”
- Promotion of clinical research by collaborating the related ministries
- Nurture and support of bio-venture companies
- Securement of intellectual properties

(5) Others
- Promotion of public understanding for the importance of innovative science