

Korea Research Council for Public Technology:

<http://www.korp.re.kr/>

Korea Institute of Science & Technology Information (KISTI):

<http://www.kiniti.re.kr/>

Korea Institute of Construction Technology (KICT):

<http://www.kict.re.kr/>

Korea Railroad Research Institute (KRRI):

<http://www.krri.re.kr/>

Korea Ocean Research & Development Institute (KORDI):

<http://www.kordi.re.kr/>

Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science (KRISS):

<http://www.kriss.re.kr/>

Korea Institute of Energy Research (KIER):

<http://www.kier.re.kr/>

Korea Institute Of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM):

<http://www.kigam.re.kr/>

Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI):

<http://www.kari.re.kr/>

3. What's New? 2002 S&T Policies and Program Developments in Korea

Korea's S&T policy is directed toward the continuous development of the nation, concentrating more on meeting social needs, and pursuing harmonization of human activities and nature. This is a drastic departure from the past policy which was geared solely towards rapid industrialization. As a responsible member of the international community, Korea is ready to play an active role in the global effort to improve human welfare through the advancement of science and technology. To this end, MOST is seeking to establish a more balanced innovation system that encourages a simultaneously cooperative and competitive tripartite partnership among industries, academia, and public research organizations.

The Five-year Plan for S&T Innovation was established in December of 1997. The plan is designed to promote the national R&D capacity to the level of G-8 countries. Key Aspects of the plan are:

- Public R&D Investment - to increase government expenditures on R&D to at least 5% of the total government budget by the year 2003 (2001: 4.4%, 2002: 4.7%);
- Promotion of Basic Research - to increase investment in basic research to 20% of total government R&D budget (2000: 16%);
- Manpower Development and Utilization in Science and Technology - to expand R&D manpower to 192,000, or 40 researchers for every 10,000 people of the Korean population.

Major R&D Programs:

MOST has embarked on a number of ambitious science and technology projects. Summaries of these projects are in what follows:

The 21st Century Frontier R&D Program was initiated in 1999 with a vision to develop core technologies and to secure leading-edge technologies in promising areas by 2010. The government plans to support 20 projects at a total cost in excess of US\$ 3.5 billion under the program. Ten projects have already been launched in the areas of genetics, nano devices and superconductivity. An additional 10 projects are to be initiated in 2002. These projects will be a combination of basic and applied research, but with a greater focus on information technology, bioengineering, nanotechnology and new materials.

The Creative Research Initiative (CRI), launched in 1997, symbolizes the policy shift in S&T development in Korea "from imitation to innovation.". Its aim is to strengthen the national potential for technological competitiveness through creative basic research. The grant supports