

technology, US\$ 307 million for bio-technology, US\$ 116 million for environmental technology, US\$ 102 million on space technology, and US\$ 84 million on nano technology. This does not include private sector expenditures.

MOST also plans to spend US\$ 8.3 million to help facilitate 128 International Joint Research Projects (124 bilateral and 4 multi-lateral) in 2002. Three of the projects are with Canada.

B) S&T Structure in Korea in 2002

The structure of the S&T system in Korea is a bit convoluted and the government is trying to streamline the entire system to make it more effective.

In order to set priorities for the allocation of S&T budgets, and to effectively review and coordinate national S&T policies and R&D programs, the government established the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) in January 1999. The NSTC is chaired by the President of the Republic of Korea and is composed of the ministers of S&T-related ministries and representatives from the S&T community. The NSTC holds ultimate power over the coordination of R&D programs and budgets within Korea. MOST serves as the secretariat for the NSTC. A second advisory board, the Presidential Council on Science and Technology (PCST), is primarily comprised of non-governmental scientific experts and corporate leaders representing various areas of science and technology. The PCST, formerly was quite irrelevant to the

centrally-controlled, government-driven central planning exercise, however, it is becoming more important as the government loosens its grip on the planning process. The government would like to have scientific policy satisfy more of the private sector's needs and is accordingly more open to that sector's views.

MOST is responsible for implementing the national coordination of S&T efforts within the country. This includes R&D initiatives, human resource development and education, internationalization policies, as well as coordinating activities amongst the science based ministries and government-supported research institutes. Most oversees compliance with the various national initiatives.

The Science and Technology Framework Law (No. 6353) implemented in July 2001 consolidated the authority for inter-ministerial S&T policy and R&D coordination within MOST to help establish an institutional system which would foster an innovation-driven culture in Korean society. The new law contains important provisions for the establishment of policies and plans for the overall support mechanism for related R&D projects and agencies. It also replaces the basic laws covering systematic S&T promotion and education at the national level.

MOST is also responsible for almost 150 Centers of Excellence (COE) in Korea: Science Research Centers (SRCs), Engineering Research Centers (ERCs), and Regional Research Centers (RRCs). These COEs were created to implement programs encouraging basic research in major universities. The SRCs and ERCs, founded, in May 1989, focus on the innovative research in basic sciences and new technologies, while the RRCs, which started in 1995, emphasize cooperative research between regional universities and local industries. The SRCs and ERCs are selected on the basis of creativity and research capability. In the selection of RRCs, both research capability and contribution to the regional economy and community are important factors. Once the centers are selected, they receive government funding for nine years provided that the interim evaluation done every three years shows good progress. So far, 36