

2. Snapshot of Korea S&T in 2002

A) Korea R&D Budget for 2002

B) S&T Structure in Korea in 2002

C) S&T Organizations Korea in 2002

Korea is a rapidly developing economy which has pursued remarkable economic growth since the 1950s. Korea has progressed from the assembly of low-priced, simple consumer products to the design and development of complex industrial and scientific processes. Many of Korea's companies are recognized as world leaders, however further growth requires that the country deepen and naturalize its own S&T infrastructure to maintain its competitive edge and enhance its standard of living.

Korea aims to be one of the top seven technologically advanced nations by 2025. The Government has announced an ambitious plan, Vision 2025, reforming the somewhat convoluted S&T infrastructures and policies within the government, as well as significantly increasing the powers of S&T agencies, such as the Ministry of Science and Technology. Along with these changes come substantial increases in funding. Investments are to be focussed in key areas such as information technology, biotechnology, environmental technologies, aerospace, nanotechnology, and energy over the next 20 years.

Current Korean S&T policy is shifting away from a government led, supply-oriented, and domestic focussed model to one that is private-sector driven, demand-oriented, and internationally focussed. In this way the government intends to meet the long-term market development for the benefit of the Korean economy and the social needs of the growing population. The Korean strategy can be summarized as a move from an "imitate and improve" tactic to one of "innovate and internationalize".

A) Korea's R&D Budget for 2002

Total Korean R&D expenditures in 2000 were US\$ 10.41 billion, showing an increase of 16.2% from the US\$ 8.96 billion spent in the previous year. The proportion of R&D expenditure to GDP is 2.68%, up 0.21% point from 2.47% in 1999. Per capita R&D expenditures were US\$ 259, up 21% from US\$ 214 a year earlier. The national government and public sector provided about 24.9 percent of the total R&D funding in 2000, up 5.0% over the previous year. The private sector financed the remaining 75.1%, up 5.3% over 1999. Research institutes spent 14.7% of total R&D funds, while universities and colleges disbursed 11.3%, and companies expended 74.0%.

In 2002, the Korean government announced that 4.7%, or US\$ 3.73 billion, of the federal budget would be the public sector's contribution to R&D. This an increase of 16.1% from the previous year's US\$ 3.21 billion. The overall Korean R&D expenditure is forecasted to be US\$ 14.90 billion in 2002.

MOST is the largest financial contributor to R&D within the public sector with US\$860 million, followed by Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy (MOCIE) with US\$707 million and the Ministry of National Defence (MND) with US\$577 million.

The Korean science-based ministries have indicated that in their budgets they will spend US\$ 1.009 billion in 2002 on five important selected technologies: US\$ 400 million for information