

### **MOST International Joint Research Program:**

The International Joint Research Program of MOST, started in 1985, has served as a major source of funding support for individual projects initiated through bilateral agreements between researchers or institutions. As of 2000, the government has supported more than 1,436 joint projects through the program. The major partner countries have been the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, China, Germany, and Russia. Recently, the scope of partners has diversified and the nature of projects under the program has changed.

### **Multilateral Cooperation**

**APEC:** As a founding member, the Korean government has actively participated in APEC's Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) activities, including cooperation on industrial S&T, marine resources and development of human resources.

**OECD:** Korea joined the OECD in 1996, and since then it has hosted two conferences. The first, held in 1997, was focussed on International Technology Cooperation under the theme "Facilitating International Technology Cooperation in a Knowledge-based Economy". The second was "International Scientific and Ecological Cooperation for Sustainable Development" held in 2000.

**ISTC:** Korea joined governing board of the International Science and Technology Center in May 1998. Korea has since maintained close and cooperative ties with all ISTC members, including the USA, Japan, EU, Russia, and Norway to promote the goals of the center..

**EU:** Since the conclusion of the Arrangement on S&T Co-operation in 1992, four S&T Joint Seminars have been held, and Korea-EU scientists and students have been exchanged between two regions. In addition, Korea has arranged for the placement of a Korean official in the Joint Research Center for increasing its understanding of on the EU's advanced S&T system, and to find ways to enhance cooperation.

**Inter-Korean Cooperation:** The main objective for inter-Korean S&T cooperation is to facilitate co-economic development. A short-term objective is assistance by South Korea into North Korea for solving such difficulties as food and energy shortage. In the long terms, R&D cooperation is expected to improve S&T capabilities for both Koreas and enhance economic benefits.

## **6. Canada's Science and Technology Reporting in Korea**

Korea does not currently have a dedicated S&T counsellor in the Embassy. S&T responsibilities are, for the most part, handled by the Advanced Technology Trade Commissioner and Commercial Officer. These officers dedicate about 20-30% of their time to liaising with the Ministry of Science and Technology, the numerous private and public sector R&D institutes, interacting with Canadian science based agencies and reporting on the Korean S&T environment.

The team also supports other trade officers at the Embassy in Seoul (Infotech, Life Sciences, Space, Chemical, Nuclear, Agrifood) and the Consulate in Pusan (Marine Sciences, Environment) in dealing with developments in their specialized sectoral responsibilities.