



Examination of a hard disk at ITRI.

37 Science and Technology

National Science Council

The National Science Council (NSC) was developed as an expansion of the former National Council on Science Development (NCSD) in 1967. The original NCSD was founded on February 1, 1959, by the Academia Sinica and the Ministry of Education.

In 1972 the president named the NSC a permanent scientific and technical executive agency. As staff to the premier, NSC recommends national scientific and technical policy, and plans, coordinates and evaluates research and development activities. NSC is a funding agency and promotes and supports academic research, scientific and technical training, and international cooperation. It supervises the Science-based Industrial Park and thus promotes the establishment of high technology industry.

NSC is under the direct supervision of the Executive Yuan. It consists of a planning coordination, evaluation division, a program administration division, an international program division, and five scientific divisions of natural sciences and mathematics, engineering, life sciences, humanities and social sciences, and science education.

In recent years, NSC has devoted itself with equal emphasis to the development of basic and applied sciences. This dual mission science policy is necessary so that NSC, in its role of supporting applied research, can plan for the potential needs of basic research in the natural sciences as well as the humanities and social sciences.

Major Achievements

As staff to the Executive Yuan, a funding agency, and administrator of the Science-based Industrial Park, the NSC engaged in the following activities in fiscal year 1987:

1. To promote the nation's science and technology development: (1) drew up twelve mid-term programs for key science and technology development; (2) established the nation's science and technology development indicators from 1980 to pinpoint the nation's science and technology R & D activities; (3) edited the ROC Science and Technology Yearbook, as it has since 1983, to present a summary on the nation's science and

technology development; (4) enforced the Council's planning and evaluation systems; and (5) evaluated sixty-six important governmental science and technology programs with a budget of NT\$6,400 million. Of the total, twenty-one were put on a monitoring list for continuing evaluation.

2. To support academic research: (1) supported research in twenty-four disciplines, including six in natural sciences, five in applied sciences and engineering, three in life sciences, six in social sciences and humanities, and four in science education; (2) subsidized 2,543 specific research projects in various universities, colleges, and research institutes with a total subsidy of NT\$1,270 million; (3) implemented selected integrated research projects based on the specialties of domestic researchers and the feasibility of local research capability; (4) cultivated and recruited high-caliber scientists through regular academic research subsidies, and the dispatch of science and technology personnel to domestic and/or foreign academic institutions for specific training or advanced degrees; (5) presented 2,819 individual awards to science scholars including professors, associate professors, instructors, and research assistants, to encourage them to do research work; (6) provided over 120 thousand instances of instrument services to more than 900 researchers in the nation's 300 academic and research institutes; provided 80,345 instances of on-line retrieval services; responded to 5,779 requests for information from overseas; and provided copying services on 143,985 occasions; and (7) dispatched and received 240 scientists and specialists to and from the United States, Japan, Europe, the Republic of South Africa, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; invited 119 internationally known scholars to give lectures, and dispatched 506 specialists to international conferences and symposia; held seventy-four bilateral symposia with the United States, Japan, Europe, and the Republic of South Africa; carried out collaborative research projects with the United States (twelve cases, not including a collaborative research project on TAMEX), Germany (three), and the Republic of South Africa (five).

3. To promote the establishment of high technology industry: The Science-based Industrial Park allocates a large portion (an average of 5.94%) of its revenue to research and development. Such efforts, essential for the development of high technology, have resulted in world-wide recognition in different fields for many firms in the park.