

2002 for the research and development of nuclear reactor, proton accelerator, nuclear fusion, nuclear fuel, nuclear safety, radioactive therapy and radioactive wastes management techniques. As Natural energy resources are scarce in Korea, it is essential for the country to develop alternative energy sources and to increase energy efficiency. As estimated 41% of Korea's energy comes from atomic sources, hence nuclear science and engineering have been a major focus. Korea would also like to develop basic technology for fuel cell and fuel cell vehicles by 2010. Superconductivity and super-thin-film solar battery projects are also receiving lots of attention.

#### **4. Future S&T Directions in Korea**

In September 1999, the Korean government launched a long-term strategic initiative, the Long-term Vision for Science and Technology Development toward 2025 (or Vision 2025). Vision 2025 is a series of 40 tasks and 20 recommendations to guide the transition to an advanced and prosperous economy through the development of science and technology. The goals are grouped in three time frames spanning a 25-year period. Each time frame is defined by a unifying theme that characterizes the primary focus of activity for that period.

- First Step (by 2005): Place the Korean scientific and technological capabilities at competitive levels with those of the world's leading countries by mobilizing resources, expanding industrialized infrastructure, and improving relevant laws and regulations.
- Second Step (by 2015): Stand out as a major R&D promoting country in the Asia-Pacific region, actively engaging in scientific studies and creating a new atmosphere conducive to the promotion of R&D.
- Third Step (by 2025): Secure a scientific and technological competitiveness in selected areas comparable to those of G-7 countries.

The plan has several major features such as follows;

- Shifting the innovation system from a government-led to a private sector-led one;
- Improving the effectiveness of national R&D investment;
- Aligning the R&D system from a domestic to a global network; and
- Meeting the challenges of the information technology and biotechnology revolution

#### **5. Korea's International S&T Activities**

Korea has accomplished considerable S&T development through international linkages. In the past most of the relationships with foreign partners were limited to technological imports or assistance of reciprocal nature. Partnerships were limited to such advanced countries as the United States, Japan and a handful of European countries. However, as a newly industrialized country, Korea now recognizes the need for a new approach to international cooperation. Korea is seeking a more prominent role in the international S&T community, and is actively pursuing both bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

At the time of writing, Korea has already signed 41 Intergovernmental Agreements with 10 countries in the Americas, 15 in Europe, 13 in Asia and 3 in the Middle-East/Africa. These range from Joint Cooperation Committees involving joint research funds, to overseas cooperation centres or exchanges of S&T missions and scientists. Separate Nuclear Cooperation Agreements have been signed with 16 countries. Under the auspices of International Cooperation Program office of MOST, 135 S&T Cooperation Agreements have been entered into. These are primarily bilateral R&D projects, however twelve joint R&D Centres