

Promotion of Industry

Japan Bio- technology Business Competition

Outline

This is the one and only Bio-business Competition in Japan utilizing the research seeds of universities and research institutes for promotion of Japan's bio-industry, aiming for start-up of bio venture enterprises, discovery of business-seeds and transfer of technology to companies, promotion of industry/ academia joint research. It started in 2000. Co-sponsored together with major universities nationwide, entries were sent in from all around Japan, for the Competition's recognition as the gateway to success in bio-venture of nationwide operations.

For the Competition, prize money is offered to the most excellent and excellent of prize winners; and for those who passed screening by examining documents, of personal records, arrangements are made for meetings with supporters such as life science-related companies or venture capitalists, as well as for consultation with some specialists, all as a support to industrialization.

About 60 entries are made every year from university researchers and bio venture enterprises, to be strictly screened by nationally selected and known specialists, for prizes to be awarded only to those considered to have good future prospects. The Competition has produced concrete results such as 25 cases of new bio-venture enterprises and 11 cases of technology transfer and business tie-ups.

❖ Wide-range Target Fields

- ① Bio-medical: medicines, appliances and instruments, analyzers, regenerative treatment,
- ② Bio-science: genes, protein, bioinformatics,
- ③ Agri-bio: microorganisms, gene-recombined produce, functional food,
- ④ Nano-bio: biochips, DDS, biocompatible materials, medical micromachining, etc.

Researches by overseas researchers are accepted as eligible entries, as long as start-up of business or further researches are conducted in Japan.



❖ BIO Information Highway Plan-Phase II

Phase II of this Plan was drawn up in March 2004, putting together some measures for promotion of bio-industry as one of the engine industries. Ultimately it aims to form a world-class bio-cluster in North Osaka.

More concretely it is to move ahead with 25 projects in the following 7 fields:

- ① creation of new medicines
- ② development of medical appliances/instruments including those to support R&D
- ③ promotion of bio-grid project
- ④ functional food R&D
- ⑤ industrialization of nano-biotechnology
- ⑥ support to ventures, human resources
- ⑦ inviting overseas research institutes and pharmaceutical companies and bio-venture enterprises

For Phase I of this Plan, mainly OCCI, Osaka Prefecture and Osaka University (in July 2001) put together bio-industry promotion measures for the Osaka region, with emphasis on creation of new medicines, and achieved some success in inviting a state-organized project and creation of private sector venture businesses. And so Phase II has been drawn up to further enlarge the target areas.



❖ Study Group on Development of Functional Food

- To Offer the Latest on Functionality and Safety of Food, and to promote Industry/ Academia/ Government Collaboration -

Amid rising concern for prevention of diseases caused by food, the “functional food” dispatched worldwide by Japan has become a key area for R&D in the EU and U.S., and competition involved is now intensifying. On the other hand, by the progress in scientific verification of disease-preventing effects by food as a result of bio researches, indications and regulation on functional food are now internationally undergoing some changes.

For the purpose of offering the latest information, both within and outside Japan, on the functionality and safety of food as well as of urging development of new products and means of verification through the same collaboration, OCCI conducts the Study Meetings consisting of two Parts (Part1: Information Offering Seminar, Part 2: Joint R&D Proposals). Participants now are those of 79 companies and 34 universities and research institutes from nationwide.

❖ NANO-BIO Industrialization Seminars

- Offering Useful Bio-information, to Promote R&D and Joint Development by Companies -



In fiscal 2003, OCCI organized and set up ‘Study Meetings for Nano-bio Industrialization’ consisting of researchers from universities and state research institutes as well as those of private sector companies, and made studies on the tasks ahead of us concerning the feasibility of industrialization and the work involved, by putting in order trends of R&D both in Japan and abroad. At the state-run agency, the road map for strategy of development is being drawn up, by analyzing key technologies through studies of technological development both in and outside Japan.

For nano-biotechnology to develop as the next generation’s leading industry, it is essential for numbers of joint development to be achieved one after another by industry/academia/government collaboration. At OCCI, seminars are held in series under themes such as ‘Medical field’, ‘Device’ or ‘Measuring’, to offer the latest useful information for companies to promote nano-bio-related R&D on the strength of their own technologies.

❖ FORUM for INDUSTRIZATION of NEXT GENERATION MEDICAL SYSTEM

- Project to Promote Development of Medical Supplies -

In July 2003, OCCI set up the Forum for the purpose of promoting development of medical supplies, including medical appliances and instruments or materials and bio-related ones to support researches, all of which are required by the medical and research fields, and also manufacturing of appliances and instruments still at the stages of being developed for basic techniques at universities and research institutes.

With the makeup of the Forum promoting nationwide medical fields and research institutes to make proposals for joint development directly to companies, concrete results are being produced in progress in development of medical supplies, or in application of technology to manufacturing of products or trial products.

❖ Forum Makeup

- Regular Study Meetings --- (consisting of Part I and Part II)

Part I : At Part I “Latest Information Session”, introduction is made with full information on; status quo and main issues (both domestic and overseas) concerning medical appliances and instruments; the latest on re-examination of regulation for development of medical appliances and instruments, outstanding examples of cutting-edge (most advanced) medical appliances and instruments developed by research institutes and also those by companies.

-Part II : At Part II “Joint Development Proposal Session”, the needs of medical fields and research results are announced by medical researchers, and proposals for joint development aiming for application to manufacturing are made directly to companies. These proposals are most wide-ranging; from improving conventional ones, or those keenly needed in the fields yet still left undeveloped, to the most innovating ones that may epochally advance even today’s foremost medical service.

- Working Group Meetings --- (held from time to time as occasion rises)

❖ BIO-Business School



For the development of bio-industry, it is essential for bio-venture enterprises to be nurtured and brought up, one after another, to make researches required for commercialization or industrialization of basic results of researches. However, the problem in Japan is the conspicuous lack of human resources for such bio-venture. For the purposes of developing such human resources and of providing staffers for start-up of venture businesses, the School is held where not only bio-business but also business management is taught as well.

<http://www.bbstation.net/> (only in Japanese)

❖ Industry / Academia Collaboration, IT Business Forum

- You can find New Business Opportunities -



At this Forum, high-tech venture enterprises in IT-related fields announce their business-plans and research institutes and others introduce technology seeds that can be expected to be utilized for start-up of new business. With investment in and partnership with venture enterprises in mind, about 70 companies participate in the Forum, and those interested in the announced business-plans form working group with the venture enterprises concerned for early start-up of business. Such activities are bringing about good results in setting up new venture business as well as in promoting investments. Whenever occasion arises, the Forum accepts applications for making an announcement of business-plans and also for participating in the Forum.

<http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/it-forum/> (only in Japanese)

❖ Workshop on Environment Issues

- Timely Offering of Wide-ranging Information -

For companies and manufacturers, dealing with environment issues forms an important factor in their business strategy, on top of all the beneficial activities so far contributed to the society.

With consideration of appropriate responses to increasingly diversifying environment issues, useful and wide-ranging information for business management is timely offered, through introduction of state-proclaimed and regionally-enacted environmental measures and also examples of innovative management of these issues.