

Medium-term Objectives of Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Promotion Corporation

(Tentative Translation by the OIST Promotion Corporation)

Based upon Article 29 of the General Principle Act for Independent Administrative Institutions, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology hereby set the medium-term objectives that the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Promotion Corporation (hereinafter referred to as the “Corporation”) should pursue to achieve during the period starting September 1st, 2005 and ending March 31st, 2009.

Foreword

The Okinawa graduate university project aims to establish a graduate university in Okinawa that conducts "best in the world" quality research and education in the field of natural sciences.

By inviting more than a half of the faculty and students from outside Japan and using English as the official language for lectures, the graduate university should become a truly international higher education institution. With a flexible and highly autonomous management system, the graduate university should conduct cutting-edge research and education in multi-disciplinary subjects that integrate various core disciplines such as biology, physics, chemistry, mathematical science and computational science.

The graduate university thereby seeks to become a center of excellence, not only open for the Asia-Pacific region, but as well as for the world, by taking advantage of Okinawa's geographical superiority and its regional characteristics. The graduate university also aims to contribute to the development of Okinawa in the 21st century, and to the advancement of science and technology in the world.

The Corporation is established as an entity that promotes this project. The Corporation should promote world-class research as well as prepare for the establishment of the graduate university. For this purpose, the Corporation should invite outstanding researchers, train young researchers as well as develop and improve research environments. These will enable the Corporation to establish research infrastructures in Okinawa for the basis of the graduate university that conducts "best in the world" research and education.

I. Time Period for the Medium-term Objectives

The time period for the Medium-term Objectives starts September 1st, 2005 and ends March 31st, 2009 (3 years and 7 months).

II. Issues regarding the improvement of the operation including the services provided for public

1. Scientific and technological research activities

The Corporation should recruit excellent researchers, both domestically and internationally, who can conduct cutting-edge and creative research in interdisciplinary fields based upon the individual freewheeling thinking. The researchers should primarily aim to become the component of the “best in the world” graduate university. The Corporation should also recruit researchers in a well-planned manner in view of the age composition of the researchers to form the core of the faculty of the graduate university so as to gain international recognition. The Corporation should increase the ratio of non-Japanese researchers gradually so that it will be more than 50% at the time of the establishment of the graduate university.

The corporation should promote cutting-edge and creative research based upon the freewheeling thinking of the individual researches mainly in interdisciplinary fields that will contribute to understanding the complex bio-systems.

2. Disseminating research results and encouraging practical application

The Corporation should promote the circulation of research results by way of submission of papers to scientific journals, international workshop presentations, press releases, public relations magazines, open-house events and other similar methods.

The Corporation should, if necessary, retain the intellectual rights of its research results. The Corporation should establish the mechanism of utilizing the research results through proper administration of the research results, positive exchange and organic liaison with industry.

3. Exchange of researchers

In order to facilitate researcher exchange and improve international recognition, the Corporation should hold periodical international symposia on interdisciplinary research areas, as well as promote exchange of researchers by inviting researchers in various ways, i.e. invitation of those on sabbatical leave from their home institutions.

4. Training of researchers

The Corporation should train young independent researchers capable of conducting cutting-edge research. As main elements of the research units, graduate students should be accepted under collaborative graduate programs and promising young post-doctoral fellows should be recruited. Principal investigators will provide proper guidance and assistance to the researchers..

By holding international workshops that target graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and young researchers, the Corporation should develop curricula for the graduate university.

5. Preparation for establishing the graduate university

The Corporation should build the basis of the graduate university by studying and exploring the modalities of the graduate university, research and educational organization, curricula, administrative operations, academic advisory committee, financial plan and also by gradually developing the system and the rules and bylaws.

The Corporation should build the system that can evaluate fairly and properly various capabilities and achievements of the researchers' and have the outcomes reflected on their working conditions. The Corporation should also establish a salary system that enables itself to compete with overseas research universities.

6. Development of facilities

The Corporation should set a long-term plan for campus development. The start of operations with new facilities at the Onna-village site should set the tone for a long-term plan of development. Every effort should be in a planned manner in order to develop facilities necessary for the implementation of the services and to take all possible environmental measures.

The Corporation should also endeavor to make effective use of the facility's space.

III. Issues regarding the Efficiency of the Operation

1. Improvement of the efficiency of the operation

The Corporation should establish the effective allocating system of research expenses and continuously check the usage of resources by promoting the use of IT and other information resources.

The efficiency of operations and administrative activities should be improved to save costs and the financial system for the proper spending of expenses should also be built.

2. Training of administrative staff

The Corporation should improve the professional capability, including English capability, of its staff members by providing necessary trainings in the fields of service disciplines, accounting, contracts, assets management, facility development, IPR, legal knowledge on safety administration and so forth.

3. Evaluation of activities

The Board of Governors is to evaluate the activities of the Corporation, particularly about the research themes, research management, and research results by global standards. The Corporation should announce the result of the evaluation to the public and reflect it appropriately in resource allocation and research management.

IV. Improvement of Financial Conditions

* Increasing independent revenues

The Corporation should endeavor to increase revenues from corporate donations and outside research funds such as competitive research grants.