

# We strive to revitalize the regional economy and foster companies' expansion into overseas markets by forming internationally competitive industrial clusters.



Make the Front Runner

The Industrial Cluster Program (\*) is a measure developed by METI that seeks to create new businesses and industries, as well as to revitalize the regional economy, by creating regional human networks and developing an environment that facilitates a series of innovations in individual regions. More specifically, the program seeks to facilitate the formation of human networks that comprise various members, such as managers, engineers, researchers and fund providers, and that encourage competition among members of such networks, so as to promote the development of new businesses and products, and venture company start-ups. Under the Industrial Cluster Program, METI-KANSAI is promoting the following three projects: Kansai Front Runner Project/Neo Cluster, Kansai Bio Cluster Project/Bio Cluster and Environmental Businesses KANSAI Project/Green Cluster.

\* "Cluster," originally used to describe a 'bunch of grapes,' is here used to mean a group or gathering.

## ■ Symbol mark of the Kansai region Industrial Cluster Program

The symbol mark represents the energetic image of three industrial clusters (Neo Cluster, Bio Cluster and Green Cluster) and three major actors in those industrial clusters (industry, academia and government), generating synergy with each other and moving forward into the future. The slogan of the program is "Make the Front Runner." The slogan expresses the program's commitment to producing innovators who can lead the formation of new clusters and internationally competitive companies by implementing numerous innovative projects.

## Projects and Activities carried out under the Industrial Cluster Program

### Kansai Front Runner Project/Neo Cluster

Seeks to form an internationally competitive industrial cluster for the next-generation industries

The Kansai Front Runner Project seeks to form an internationally competitive and vigorous industrial cluster for next-generation industries (information appliances, robotics, high performance parts and materials, and high efficiency energy equipment/devices) by promoting collaboration among companies themselves, as well as among companies, universities and public support organizations in the Kansai region.

#### Digital Concept Partners(DCP)

Business matching to promote partnerships between Kansai-based large global IT companies and venture businesses and research institutions around the world



■ Business Matching Session for Transfer of Technology 2006



■ Digital Concept Partners Opening Forum

### Kansai Bio Cluster Project/Bio Cluster

Seeks to create a bio cluster comparable to the best in the world - Kansai Bio Cluster

The Kansai Bio Cluster Project seeks to create a bio cluster comparable to the best in the world—Kansai Bio Cluster, by implementing in the Kansai region various projects in fields with high research and industrial potential, such as drug discovery/regenerative medicine, advanced analytical equipment and manufacturing biotechnologies (bioprocess, environment and food).

#### BioBridge Kansai

Project for strengthening collaboration with overseas bio clusters



■ Osaka/Saito Bio Hills

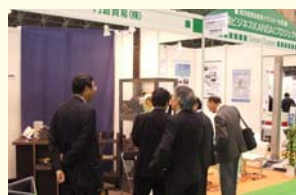


■ Kobe/Kobe Medical Industry Development Project

### Environmental Businesses KANSAI Project/Green Cluster

Seeks to serve as a driving force for promoting environmental innovation

Environmental business is a new business field that symbolizes the new values of the 21st century and helps reduce environmental load in various fields. The Kansai region is home to a large number of environment-related companies and universities/research institutions that have technological seeds. To make full use of this advantage, this project seeks to build a network for developing and providing new technologies, products and services that help reduce environmental burdens and establish an environmental system. The project also seeks to create new businesses and a sustainable recycling-oriented society by attaining the best balance between environmental preservation and economic development.



■ Enviro-Shiga 2007 (9th Shiga International Environmental Business Exhibition) (Booth of the Sakai Business Incubation Center, a key collaboration organization for the Environmental Businesses KANSAI Project)



■ Battery cases made from recycled waste plastic (photo provided by Ohmi Bussan Co., Ltd.)