

Recent Developments of S&T Policy in Korea

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- Since 1999, the S&T policy making mechanism in Korea has been more focused and centrally controlled with some massive and intensive government effort.
- 1999 is the year that the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) was established and chaired by the President of Korea. First year of full scale national evaluation of R&D programs was undertaken by NSTC and the evaluation results were considered as part of referendum for R&D budget appraisal by the Ministry of Planning and Budget (MPB).
- The National Science and Technology Foundation (Basic) Law was enacted in July, 2001 and the law requires the NSTC to prepare five year plan for S&T promotion and development.
- The first trial of preparing the plan started in 2001 and finished at the end of that year: 1st five year S&T plan covering the period of 2002 to 2006. Due to the newly elected Presidential cabinet, the plan was required to revise in terms of years to cover (from 2003 to 2007) and some major S&T policy and R&D development strategy.
- During the period of 2001 to 2003, NSTC has approved several R&D national strategies as follows:
 - (1) First version of National S&T promotion and development Plan(2002-2006) based on the National Strategic Priority for R&D Development
 - (2) Revised version of the Plan(2003-2007) based on the National Technology Road-Map(NTRM)
 - (3) The Next Generation Growth Engines Plan proposed and approved in the middle of 2003
 - (4) The highest position entitled by Information and S&T advisor to the President was newly introduced in February of 2002, and the Minister of S&T is supposed to be promoted as one of the Vice Prime Minister of Korean Ministerial Cabinet with a given authorization of overall monitoring and facilitating related policies.
 - (5) The full scale of national R&D program evaluation and pre-views and coordination of R&D budget is to be completely authorized to the S&T Innovation Headquarters affiliated, but independently operating, with the Ministry of S&T.
 - (6) The final results of '03 Technology Foresight' are expected to be introduced to the public in the end of 2004.