

The Research Project

“Proposal of Regional Industrial Policy to Kawasaki City toward Innovation Cluster Formation”

(Outline of the Project)

Kawasaki City is one of the major industrial cities in Japan, where more than 4,500 manufacturing firms are based, employ about 90,000 workers, and their sales exceeds four trillion yen. The city established the first and biggest incubation facility in Japan, called Kanagawa Science Park (KSP). Kawasaki City, however, has faced stagnation of this regional economy due to the decline of the manufacturing industry in recent years. To cope with this problem and enhancing R&D activities, Kawasaki City now aims to change the old industrial structure into a new one, namely a knowledge-based industrial structure, by forming clusters of such new industries as environment, information technology, new materials, and biotechnology, utilizing original technologies of manufacturing industries.

At present, Kawasaki City is moving toward becoming an "International City of Industrial, Environmental and Cultural base" in the following ways:

Through the emergence of pollution-free and environmentally friendly companies in the seaside area, through an accumulation of high-tech corporate groups and advanced science and technology research laboratories in the inland area, and through new cultural and arts industries in the hill area.

The tasks of Kawasaki City are to accelerate this trend by regional industrial policy, to seek conditions under which industry can live together harmoniously with citizens, and to encourage the city to lead Japan in innovation.

Senshu University is now trying to contribute to this challenge by lending academic resources to policy making of this city.

Our research project, “Proposal of Regional Industrial Policy to Kawasaki City toward Innovation Cluster Formation,” which is funded by the "Open Research Center Plan" of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, started last year. Not only faculty members of Senshu University but also researchers outside the school, policymakers, and practitioners of regional industrial policy participate in this program for making concrete proposals for urban and industrial policy of Kawasaki City.