

Basic Policy for Global Startup Campus Initiative

August 29, 2024

Decision of the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council

With the aim of taking concrete steps to embody the Global Startup Campus (GSC) Initiative under the Minister in charge of Startups, the basic policy for its mission, promotion structure, major activities, the ideal form of the operating entity, land/facility, etc. and pilot projects shall be set forth as follows, in view of the Integrated Innovation Strategy 2024 (Cabinet decision on June 4, 2024), Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2024 (Cabinet decision on June 21, 2024), and others.

1. Mission of the GSC Initiative

- The mission of the initiative is to create a hub of the world's leading innovation ecosystem.
- By rigorously creating a global standard research and innovation environment at the flagship campus, the core of the GSC Initiative, we aim to bring about behavioral changes at universities, research institutes, and companies in Japan, as well as across our society at large.
- The results produced at the flagship campus will be deployed throughout Japan via designated cities under Startup Ecosystem Hub Cities. At the same time, we will aim to proliferate the results achieved in Japan across the world through the flagship campus.
- Through such measures, the GSC Initiative will aim to create startups in the deep tech area*, resolve global social issues, and achieve economic growth.

*Deep tech means technologies based on discoveries resulting from research in AI, specific natural science fields such as biotechnology, etc., which, if commercialization and social implementation can be achieved, may exert a significant impact on society by resolving national or global socioeconomic issues.

2. Promotion structure of the GSC Initiative

- The Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council is designated as the control tower of the initiative at the Government of Japan level.
- The GSC operating entity (hereinafter, "operating entity") to be established will be responsible for operating the flagship campus based on policies set forth by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council.

- It is desirable to put in place a consortium (umbrella organization) to allow a wide range of coordination across all GSC-related activities including those not run by the entity.
- The Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council will assess and manage the progress of the GSC Initiative, based on which it will effectively take necessary measures related to the entire GSC Initiative.

3. Major activities of the operating entity

The Government of Japan will work to develop an environment that facilitates innovation through the GSC Initiative. To this end, the operating entity will take concrete steps to enable the flexible implementation of the following (1) through (7).

(1) Basic approach

- As a prerequisite, the operating entity operates on a global basis in light of the flagship campus's goal to serve as the hub of the world's leading innovation ecosystem.
- The operating entity will therefore seamlessly conduct the following major activities while seeking organic collaborations with the world's top-tier universities and research institutes*, individual researchers, overseas startups, and venture capital firms (VCs).
- The official language will be English.
- The operating entity will enable motivated and talented young people, startups, universities, research institutes, and companies across Japan to access the flagship campus so as to contribute to strengthening our country's startup ecosystem as a whole.
- The operating entity will deploy the results and advanced management methods of the flagship campus throughout the country chiefly via the designated cities under the Startup Ecosystem Hub Cities.

*e.g., Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard University, Carnegie Mellon University, Imperial College London, National University of Singapore, research institutes worldwide

(2) Implementation of research and development

(i) R&D in the deep tech field that can have a significant social impact

- Adopt some of the world's cutting-edge research models.
- Focus on attracting motivated and talented young researchers with an entrepreneurial spirit from Japan and overseas.
- Focus on ensuring market feedback at an early stage of research.

- Take into account research that benefits economic security.
- Provide a comprehensive research environment.
 - Sufficient research funds (including employment costs for post-doctoral researchers and research assistants, and support for doctoral students)
 - Startup expenses, gap funds, salaries, etc.

(ii) Development and operation of core facilities

- Offer well-equipped core facilities to achieve an unrestricted research environment that attracts outstanding young researchers. The core facilities will welcome researchers from Japanese and overseas institutions deemed suitable to be occupants of the flagship campus, as well as researchers engaging in R&D activities managed by the operating entity.

(iii) Funding for deep tech R&D

- Obtain and utilize diverse funds to support R&D in deep tech that can have a significant social impact and social implementation by startups.

(3) Incubation and acceleration

(i) Support provided by business development (BD) and intellectual property (IP) professionals

- Employ top-tier BD/IP professionals with global experience.
- Provide full BD/IP support by BD/IP professionals for selected projects expected to bring about a significant social impact when commercialized.
- Adopt flexible forms of employment, including part-time work, to secure BD/IP professionals from among competent, global-minded business professionals employed by companies and patent/legal firms.

(ii) Support provided by VCs

- Attract top-tier overseas VCs and startup support organizations having expertise in the deep tech field. Support global business development by providing access to the top-tier VCs and others.
- Recruit a diverse range of people with overseas business development experience to serve as mentors and advisers, in addition to attracting companies and investors.

(iii) Provision of access to GSC stakeholders

- Provide fee-based wet laboratories and other spaces to domestic and overseas universities, research institutes, companies, startups, etc. as tenants of the flagship campus, in addition to researchers engaged in R&D activities managed by the operating entity.
- Offer support by BD/IP professionals and opportunities for access to VCs.

(iv) Access to research seeds originated in Japan

- Provide companies and VCs worldwide with opportunities to access seeds originated in universities and other institutions across Japan.

(4) Development of human resources

- Implement fellowship programs to develop researchers with an entrepreneurial spirit, VCs, and BD/IP professionals.
- Provide PhD-CEOs and others with training programs taught by BD/IP professionals.
- Welcome a diverse range of human resources from universities, research institutes, companies, startups, etc. into the operating entity and provide a setting for them to learn about global business management that generates innovation.

(5) Establishment of a global network hub

- Create a setting where GSC stakeholders, Japanese and overseas universities, research institutes, companies, startups, VCs, public interest corporations, etc. can interact. When a diverse range of people interact, new synergy will be generated.
- Host exchange programs and other events to strengthen domestic and global networks.

(6) Support for foreign researchers and entrepreneurs

- Provide support for acquiring visas, opening bank accounts, preparing documents, housing, etc. to improve the living environment for foreign researchers, and the business environment for foreign entrepreneurs, including proposals on regulatory and institutional reforms such as establishing National Strategic Special Zones.

(7) Strengthening the GSC Initiative

- Implement collaborative measures with innovation ecosystems nationwide (sharing the results and advanced management methods of the flagship campus, supporting collaboration with overseas ecosystems) to promote structural reforms in the overall ecosystem in Japan.
- Implement research and studies on R&D and incubation, on the domestic and overseas socioeconomic situations, and on R&D trends of cutting-edge technologies.
- Raise diverse funds from various entities in Japan and overseas that are interested in the GSC Initiative and manage an endowment.

4. Ideal form of the operating entity

(Organizational form)

- The operating organization of the flagship campus will be an entity that primarily meets the following criteria.
 - Public in nature and missioned to develop an environment for the world's leading innovation ecosystem in Japan.
 - Capable of implementing the GSC's programs with flexibility and agility.
 - Capable of ensuring the spontaneous participation of private organizations related to the GSC's programs.
 - Capable of cross-sectional and effective implementation of diverse initiatives undertaken by public organizations related to the GSC's programs.
 - Capable of generating synergy with policy needs and trends including economic security.
 - Able to conduct independent and sustainable (self-sustained) operations.
- The Cabinet Secretariat (Global Startup Campus Initiative Promotion Office; hereinafter the same) and the Cabinet Office will establish the concrete form of the operating entity, including taking the necessary statutory measures with cooperation from relevant ministries and agencies, with an eye on establishing a private entity in which the government will have a certain level of involvement regarding executive appointments and budget operations, etc.
- The Cabinet Office will primarily be responsible for overseeing the institutional systems concerning the operating entity, considering that the entity will govern the entire process from R&D and startup creation, through to global business development.

(Organizational operation)

- Appoint the head of the operating entity primarily from among PhD-CEOs and similar individuals who play an active role in Japan and overseas, have a track record not only in research but also in business and organizational management, and have global connections to overseas universities, research institutes, companies, investors, philanthropists, etc.
- Recruit a diverse group of individuals as mentors, advisors, and other staff, taking into consideration their likely participation in organizational operation, in order to strengthen the human resources platform for the GSC Initiative.
- Utilize outsourcing and other means suitable for the specialty of each task and achieve flexible and agile operations and management in response to changes in the future.

(Business deployment)

- On the premise that the operating entity will engage in self-sustained operation*, it will collect funds from companies, non-profit organizations, investors, philanthropists, etc. in Japan and overseas and will implement operations by such various funding sources including competitive research funding by the Government of Japan.

*With regard to expenses for publicly solicited specific R&D operations until fiscal 2032, funds have already been allocated to the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).

- Business deployment will be conducted in an all-Japan framework by obtaining cooperation from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Defense, and other relevant ministries and agencies. As part of the endeavor, Independent Administrative Agencies related to the GSC's programs* will collaborate and cooperate as necessary through providing funds, outsourcing services, human and technical support, etc.

*Examples include the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST).

- Utilize and strengthen the research/business development resources for the entire GSC based on the policy of the Government of Japan.
- The Cabinet Secretariat and Cabinet Office will continue to consider concrete matters regarding the recruitment of personnel, development of the environment, business models, and budgetary framework including how to secure operating funds, with cooperation from relevant ministries and agencies.

5. Land/facility, etc.

(Land)

- Use government-owned land spanning Shibuya and Meguro Wards in Tokyo. In principle, the operating entity will use the government-owned land through an in-kind contribution.

(Facility)

- Construct a building that features design and convenience of the world's highest standard and fosters interactions through various encounters (serendipity), thereby attracting the world's leading people.
- In terms of design and construction, incorporate the operation experience and knowledge via other research and incubation facilities around the world. Maximize use of private-sector expertise and funding, in principle. Value design aspects, soliciting ideas from around the world.

(Collaboration with surrounding community)

- Seek harmony with urban development in neighboring municipalities. Collaborate with the adjacent research laboratory of the Ministry of Defense. Promote development of an all-encompassing environment that offers residential accommodation, health care services, education, etc., including for foreign residents.

6. Pilot projects

(1) Implementation of pilot research projects

- Prior to opening the GSC-related facilities and establishing the operating entity, implement leading-edge pilot research projects efficiently and effectively with the aim of attracting excellent human resources and investments from around the world.
- The Cabinet Secretariat will determine the policy on the pilot research projects preceding the establishment of the operating entity*. In accordance with the policy, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) will implement fund execution management.

*The scope of the policy to be determined by the Cabinet Secretariat includes the following: Matters related to research areas and the international open recruitment of Program Directors (PDs) who will manage the pilot research projects in each research area; the expert committee for selecting the PDs; selection of foreign nationals required for implementing the international open recruitment; and the scope of fund usage for operating the publicly solicited specific R&D projects allocated to JST.

- Implement the entire processes from the open recruitment, screening, and evaluation to the provision and execution of research expenses, strictly in line with global standards under the policy of the Cabinet Secretariat.

(2) Implementation of fellowship programs

- Prior to the opening of the GSC-related facilities and the establishment of the operating entity, implement fellowship programs on a pilot basis in an efficient and effective manner with the aim of fostering human resources development and exchange, thereby facilitating the establishment of global networks.
- Collaborate with the world's top-tier universities, research institutes, VCs, etc., through the fellowship programs to provide outstanding young researchers with mutual opportunities to engage in research, understand the social implementation schemes, and learn about business development.

(END)