

Global Startup Campus Initiative Implementation policy for pilot programs

June 10, 2025

Cabinet Secretariat

Director for Global Startup Campus Initiative

Based on the Basic Policy for the Global Startup Campus Initiative (decided by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council on August 29, 2024), the implementation policy for the pilot programs to be conducted before the establishment of the Operating Entity for the Global Startup Campus (GSC) is defined as follows.

1. Basics

- The mission of the GSC initiative is to attract leading domestic and foreign researchers, startups, venture capitalists (VCs), accelerators and corporates to develop of the innovation ecosystem in Japan and build the world's top-tier hub for innovation.
- In order to become a catalyst for attracting outstanding talents and investment from around the world, we will partner with overseas entities to implement the following programs: **(1) international research program to attract researchers and investors, (2) acceleration program for commercialization, and (3) talent development (fellowship) program.** Through these efforts, we will materialize the activities under GSC and build partnerships with stakeholders.
- In implementing the pilot programs, **we will partner with program operators in Japan and overseas that have track records of each program above,** perusing flexibility of the program and developing the programs themselves. **The partnering entities are expected to develop mechanisms to foster innovative ideas from young talents.**
- The Cabinet Office (CAO) will manage the whole pilot programs, while getting advice from the Steering Committee, which consists of external experts established at CAO. The budget of be pilot programs will be the fund already set under the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).
- **CAO will promote the collaboration with programs provided by Japanese universities, national research and development agencies, funding agencies, venture capital firms, accelerators, financial institutions, the startup ecosystem cities.**

2. International research programs to attract researchers and investors

- The purpose of the international research program is to test and evaluate a new international research model that attracts outstanding researchers from around the world through collaboration with overseas entities. This model is built around innovative research themes with high social impact, set by Venture Directors (VDs) who have experience in both research and commercialization. These themes take into account the latest global trends in deep-tech fields.
- This program will be tested and evaluated through the following components:
 - ① Selection of VD
 - ② Setting of innovative research themes with high social impact by VD
 - ③ Open call and selection of principal investigators (PIs) under VD
 - ④ By giving discretion to make decisions to the VD, promote R & D aimed at commercialization to achieve innovative research themes with high social impact
- VD shall be a person who has experience in both research and commercialization, along with the ability to define innovative research themes and manage a portfolio of research projects. VD must also demonstrate a strong commitment to contributing to the development of Japan's innovation ecosystem.
- In setting innovative research themes, consideration should be given to incorporating **market feedback** while aiming to generate startups capable of transforming society and the economy on a global scale. The themes should possess originality and appeal that can attract top researchers from around the world, and they should be aligned with Japan's strengths and challenges.
- To achieve innovative research themes with significant social impact, researchers affiliated with universities, research institutions, startups, and other organizations will be selected and awarded through an open call, with the cooperation of overseas entities, under the leadership of VDs. These researchers will engage in R&D aimed at commercialization.
- To support the commercialization of research outcomes, CAO will enhance the collaboration among operating entities for the international research program, acceleration program and talent development (fellowship) program especially for the sake of establishing mechanisms for incorporating market feedback from the early stages of research implementation.

- In promoting this program, CAO, in collaboration with JST, will solicit domestic and international entities capable of supporting the selection of VD candidates, formulation of innovative research themes, and market feedback processes. Based on deliberations by the Steering Committee, one or more of these entities will be designated as the operating entities.
- JST will make contracts with operating entities designated by the Cabinet Office to outsource the international research program.

3. Acceleration program for commercialization

- The purpose of the acceleration program is to test and evaluate a support model for commercialization from the research stage, with a view to global expansion in the deep-tech sector.
- This program will test and evaluate a commercialization support model for researchers and startups in Japan aiming for business expansion in global market. The model includes supporting activities such as providing business management know-how, mentorship, community-building support, networking opportunities with overseas venture capitalists, assistance with intellectual property strategy, and support for IP protection.
- In addition to outcomes generated from the above-mentioned international research program, this program will also target research outcomes produced by domestic universities, research institutions, and funding agencies that allocate research grants.
- In promoting this program, CAO, in collaboration with JST, will solicit domestic and international organizations capable of providing commercialization support based on university research outcomes with a view to global expansion. Based on deliberations by the Steering Committee, one or more of these organizations will be designated as operating entities for the acceleration program.
- JST will make contracts with operating entities designated by the Cabinet Office to outsource the acceleration program.

4. Talent development (fellowship) program

- The purpose of the talent development (fellowship) program is to test and evaluate talent development models that support the innovation ecosystem. This will be pursued by nurturing researchers and research teams with strong entrepreneurial ambition and by attracting individuals highly motivated to contribute to Japan's innovation ecosystem.

- Under this program, talent development models will be tested and evaluated for researchers and research teams with strong entrepreneurial mindset and talents forming the innovation ecosystem. These models will include initiatives such as sending domestic researchers and other talents abroad and inviting international researchers and other talents into Japanese institutions.
- In promoting this program, CAO, in collaboration with JST, will solicit domestic and international organizations capable of implementing talent development activities that contribute to the innovation ecosystem. Based on deliberations by the Steering Committee, one or more organizations will be designated as operating entities for the talent development program.
- JST will make contracts with operating entities designated by the Cabinet Office to outsource the talent development program.
- In inviting researchers and research teams from abroad, the program will implement urgent measures in response to recent changes in the international landscape.