A place for postdoctoral fellows to work actively - A proposal to dispatch them to innovative SMEs -

The 30th Regional Cluster Seminar June 18th, 2008

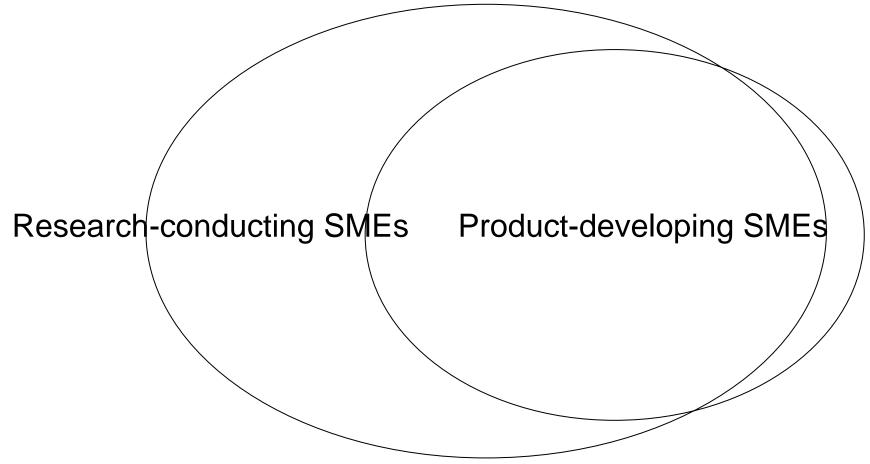
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Institute of Economic Research, Kyoto University

To find innovative SMEs

- Research-conducting firms are not necessarily have a product-developing capacity including that for achieving values from the developed products in the market (innovative capacity).
- We propose a new definition of "product-developing SMEs"

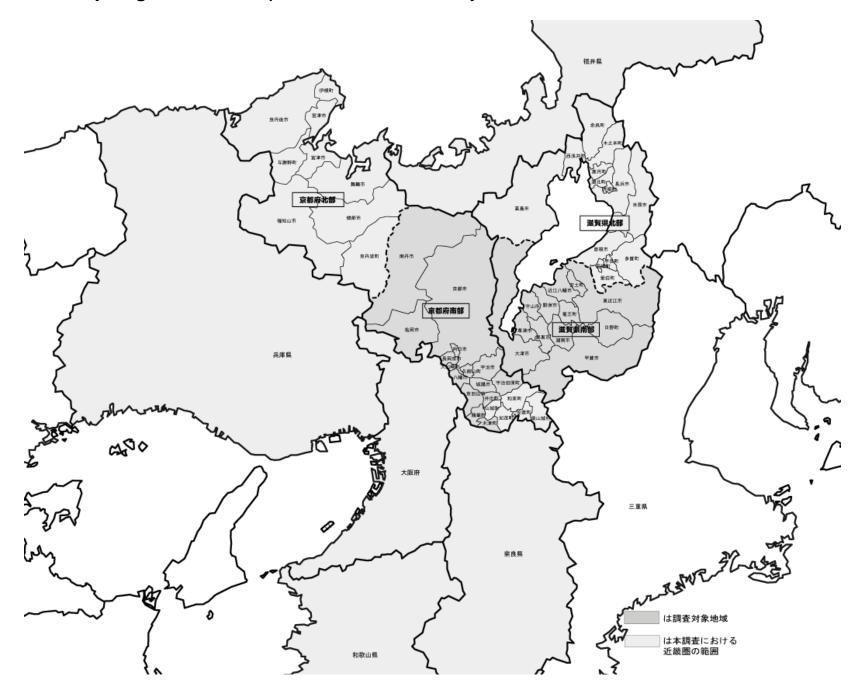


Types of SMEs

Product-developing SMEs

- Definition: SMEs that have designing capabilities and their original products in their sales.
- "Original products" refers to products based on their planning and design including semi-products and components, even sold under their customers' brand.
- Non-product-developing SMEs
 - Parts-processing SMEs (mostly sub-contracting SMEs)
 - Definition: SMEs that are engaged in parts processing, such as cutting/grinding/sanding, casting/forging, pressing, plating/surface treatment, component assembly, injection molding and metal tool manufacturing.
 - SMEs research-conducting but not capable of selling their original products

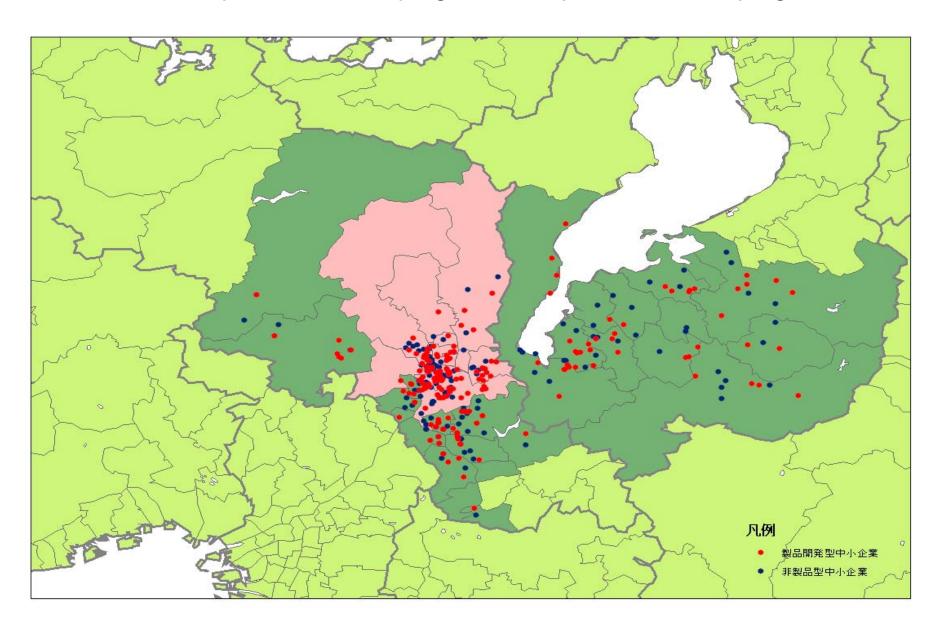
"Keiji region" in the questionnaire survey conducted in Nov.- Dec. 2006



Number of respondent firms and response rates

	Keiji re	egion			
			Kyoto pref.		Shiga pref.
				Kyoto city	
machinery and metal related nanufacturing)	Accessed firms	Response rate	Response rate	Response rate	Response rate
Survey on Middle-sized and SMEs	2183	371	288	174	83
(Response rate)		(17.0%)	(18.4%)	(19.3%)	(13.4%)
SMEs	2161	368	286	174	82
(Response rate)		(17.0%)	(18.4%)	(19.5%)	(13.4%)
Product-developing	-	184	139	89	45
Non-product-developing	-	184	147	85	37
Middle-sized firms	22	3	2	0	1
(Response rate)		(13.6%)	(15.4%)	(0.0%)	(11.1%)
Survey on large firms	14	7	7	7	0
(Response rate)		(50.0%)	(58.3%)	(63.6%)	(0.0%)

Locations of product-developing and non-product-developing SMEs



Core technologies of product-developing SMEs in Keiji region

Mechanical design and manufacturi	ng domain>				
Technology field and core technology Firm's name			Technology field and core technology Firm's name		
Optics & image processing technology (processing by optics & image processing		Mechatronics & automated machine technology	s development and manufacturi	ing	
X線分析・イメージング技術 計量システム・光センサー技術 光半導体自動検査技術 小型固体レーサ・光学素子・光学機械技術 光学技術、画像処理技術 工業用デジタルカメラ技術 画像処理技術 光学応用計測器技術 光学記計・レーサー光制御・画像処理技術 Measuring, analysis and high-precision (other than those above)	株式会社エックスレイ・プレジョン 近江度量衡株式会社 株式会社オプトシステム 株式会社島津デバイス製造 株式会社ジャスト 竹中システム機器株式会社 株式会社ビューテック 株式会社理工化学研究所 株式会社レーサーソリューションス・	京教京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京	自動化技術 高精度割出技術 プレス機械技術 特殊設計・システム化設計・位置制御設計技術 高速ハンドリング技術 ロボットハンドリング技術 縫製メカトロ技術 分注、分配、液体ハントリング技術、シーラー技術 パウチのハンドリング技術、紙・フィルムの 行修正技術、紙・フィルムの原反の保持技術 自動機技術、制御装置技術	株式会社第一技研 〒クノエンジニアリング株式会社 ハムス株式会社 マイクロニクス株式会社 ・ 株式会社三橋製作所	京京滋京京京京京京京 京京滋京京京京京京京京京京京京京京市市市市府府 市
(other than those above) 抵抗および電気容量の測定技術 ガス濃度計測検出技術 ガス濃度計測検出技術 おかいで、液体の自動計量技術 プリント基板検査用の微細治具技術 液体危険物の高精度計量技術 実装プリント基板検査技術 (OC(揮発性有機物質)分析機器技術 実装プリント基板の検査治具技術 大西電子株式会社ニューリー・土山 滋賀県 京都市 大大田電子株式会社 滋賀県 京都市 大大田電子株式会社 流道県 京都市 大大田電子株式会社 京都市 京都市 大大田工学・大田工学・大田工学・大田工学・大田工学・大田工学・大田工学・大田工学	Machinery development and manufacture 自動制御、電気計装・設計・施工技術 急傾斜地重量物(3~4t)運搬モルール技術 フリクション巻取軸技術 レス拡管機技術 コーティングラミネート加工機技術 組立パイプのアプリケーション技術 金属切削くず、クーラント及び産業廃棄物の搬送機技術 焼却技術	有限会社アドバンテクノ 内田産業株式会社 有限会社川崎産業 京進工業KK サムエンジェアリンが株式会社 スペーシア株式会社	滋京京京滋滋滋 京京 滋滋 京 京 京 滋 滋 京 京 滋 滋 滋 京 府		
常圧プラズマ表面処理装置技術 低湿度装置開発製造技術 電子部品製造設備技術 半導体製造ライン等の排ガス除害技術 洗浄技術 光学フィルム等の打抜装置技術 メカトロニクス技術、FA装置技術 液晶バックライト製造設備等ガラス加工 設備技術	株式会社イー・スクエア 五和工業株式会社 有限会社エース・エンジニアリング カンケンテクノ株式会社 株式会社三輝 株式会社ダイテックス 株式会社 藤堂製作所 トキワ精機株式会社	京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京京	油圧応用技術 Electric machinery development and relations 高周波誘導機器技術空気分離技術と電気制御技術の応用による窒素ガス・酸素ガス等発生技術受配電設備技術放電灯用安定器技術誘導発熱技術特殊変圧器・特殊リアクトル技術電熱技術・温度をふくめた電気制御技術	株式会社西田製作所 manufacturing technology アカイ電子工業株式会社 株式会社アドバン理研 京都精工電機株式会社 ジーエス・ドイ・テック株式会社 トクデン株式会社 株式会社西島電機製作所 広田製作所	京都 京京 京京京 京京 京京 京京 京京 京京 京京 京京 京 京 京 京

<parts and="" domain="" materials=""></parts>						
Technology field and core technology	Firm's name					
Electronic devices development and manufacturing technology						
半導体デバイス・同プロセス技術、液晶プロセス技術 ドライコーティング技術(真空蒸着、スパッタリング)、ウェットコーティング技術 光半導体デバイス技術 圧電セラミック素子技術 プラスティックフィルムの金属蒸着技術 薄膜形成技術	エスティ・モバイルディスプレイ株式会社 尾池工業株式会社 京セミ株式会社 有限会社タケムラテクノワークス 株式会社麗光 レイデント工業株式会社	滋 京 京京京京京京京市府				
Materials development technology						
高機能ポリイミド樹脂成形・加工技術 紫外線硬化技術 ポリカ平板・波板製造技術 無機合成技術(化学) 鋳物/FRPの開発製造技術 ポリオレフィン架橋発泡シートの成型加工技術 ステンレス材の焼結(拡散接合)技術 アルミ形機の押出技術 金属イオンを検出しないシリコンロールの製造技術	株式会社I.S.T 株式会社オーテック工業 シンヨー化成株式会社 寺田薬泉工業株式会社 株式会社傳來工房 東レペフ加工品株式会社 ニチダイフィルタ株式会社 古河スカイ滋賀株式会社 有限会社プレン加工	滋滋滋京京滋京滋京質賀賀都都賀都賀都都				
Information and telecommunications dom	aain>					
Technology field and core technology	Firm's name					
Information system technology						
マイクロコンピュータ応用システム技術電気・制御・CPU複合技術(EIC複合技術)情報処理装置のハード・ソフトのトータルソリューション技術人工衛星観測関連技術、情報伝送処理技術ICカード技術、ICカートリーダ・ライタ技術	堅田電機株式会社 京都EIC株式会社 新世代株式会社 東洋電子工業株式会社 マクセル精機株式会社	滋 京 滋 京都 京都 京都 府				
Communication network technology						
ネットワーク関連機器の省配線システム技術 データ通信計測技術	株式会社エニイワイヤ 株式会社ラインアイ	京都府京都府				

Environment, medical services and biotech	nnology related domain>		
Technology field and core technology	Firm's name		
Environment improving technology			
廃木材原料活性炭技術 食品残渣処理設備技術、エンジニアリング	株式会社カーボテック ゼロム環境エンジニアリング	京都市 滋賀県	
Health care and medical technology			
エックス線撮影技術 X線発生技術 高機能FRP成形品技術 カスタムメイドのコンタクトレンズ技術	朝日レントゲン工業株式会社 株式会社近畿レントゲン工業社 桑野造船株式会社 株式会社サンコンタクトレンズ	京都市 京都市 滋賀県 京都市	
Biotechnology			
微生物を用いる物質生産(酸素&化合物)技 術	マルキンバイオ株式会社	京都府	
微生物培養技術	洛東化成工業株式会社	滋賀県	
<pre><parts-processing developing="" domain(parts="" have)="" product-="" smes="" technology=""></parts-processing></pre>	s-processing technology which t	he	
Technology field and core technology	Firm's name		
Mold manufacturing technology			
プラスチック成型用金型技術 精密鍛造金型技術	株式会社阿曽工作所 株式会社ニチダイ	京都府 京都府	
Parts-processing technology			
マシニングセンター・研削加工技術 レーザー加工技術 研削・研磨加工技術 研削加工技術 のリーン環境における、フィルム・両面テープ の打抜、切断加工及び検査技術 アルミ合金の新陽極酸化皮膜「ミタニライト」技術 機械加工・板金加工・ダイカスト鋳・プラス チック加工技術	有限会社旭精工 有限会社今井製作所 エフ・ピー・ツール株式会社 株式会社カネコ 三幸総研株式会社 日本アルミナ加工株式会社 日野精機	京滋京滋京 京滋 湖市県市県市 市県 市県市	
高周波溶着技術・発泡スチロール加工技術 精密インサート樹脂成形技術	株式会社藤田化工 ミヤコテック株式会社	滋賀県 京都市	

(Note) This table exhibits the core technologies with the firm's names which the firms granted permission.

Main products of product-developing SMEs in Keiji region

<machinery domain=""></machinery>							
Firm's name		Main product	Firm's name		Main product		
(Measurement and analytical instr	Opt-electronics and image-processing technology applied product (Measurement and analytical instrument and precision processing equipment by			Machines and instruments for various use			
optical technology and image-processing technology)		内田産業株式会社	京都市	農業用モノレール販売			
株式会社エックスレイ・プレシジョン	京都市	小型高感度X線カメラ 可搬型X線透視装置	株式会社オーテック工業	滋賀県	土木用モノレールレンタル 下水管路穿孔機 下水管路内面補修機		
近江度量衡株式会社 株式会社島津デバイス製造 株式会社理工化学研究所	滋賀県 京都市 京都府	計量装置、選別装置 精密屈折計、回折格子 光学応用計測器	有限会社川崎産業 京進工業KK	京都市 京都市	フリクション巻取軸 拡管機		
Measurement and analytical instru	ment (other	than those above)	株式会社京都エスアール	京都市	タイマー(少し具体的に) 教育用機器(少し具体的に)		
有限会社旭精工	京都市	デバイス評価治具 バーンイン検査治具	京阪工業株式会社	京都府	Tシャツ捺染設備 半自動旗印染捺染機		
株式会社エムエステック			スペーシア株式会社 有限会社タケムラテクノワークス 椿本メイフラン株式会社	滋賀県 京都市 滋賀県	組立パイプ部材 ジャガード織物電子化装置 金属切削くず搬送コンベヤ		
株式会社本町製作所	京都市	VOC(揮発性有機物質)モニター			クリーンルームを含む事業場間仕切		
LCD, PDP, semiconductors and other	electronic o	devices manufacturing equipment	藤田化工	滋賀県	り用等のビニールカーテン 天井カセット形ファンコイルユニットの		
株式会社イー・スクエア カンケンテクノ株式会社 株式会社ダイテックス	京都府 京都府 京都市	常圧プラズマ表面処理装置 半導体製造排ガス除害装置 実装基板分割機、その分割刃型	モリミ加工株式会社	京都府	一部 熱風乾燥装置		
株式会社ティーエスインク	京都府	アスクレチクルストッカー	Electric machine apparatus				
トキワ精機株式会社	滋賀県	テレビ用硝子板製造装置 液晶パネル用バックライト製造装置 半導体製造装置	アカイ電子工業株式会社	京都府	一般誘導加熱電源 ボンバータ高周波加熱電源 低周波誘導加熱装置		
Automated machine			株式会社アドバン理研	京都府	窒素ガス発生装置、酸素ガス発生装 置		
キョウシンエンジニアリング株式会社	滋賀県	プレス送り装置、プレス機械、プレ ス周辺装置	広田製作所	京都市	電機ヒーター(半導体向け石英ヒー ター)、電気炉		
ハムス株式会社 京都市 リードフレーム加工等の自動機械装置 株式会社松岡機械製作所 京都市 全自動フックアイテープ縫い付け機オートベルター(全自動ベルトループ縫い付け機)							
		銅箔とフィルムの貼合機械 フィルムの延伸機械 フィルムの塗工機			9		

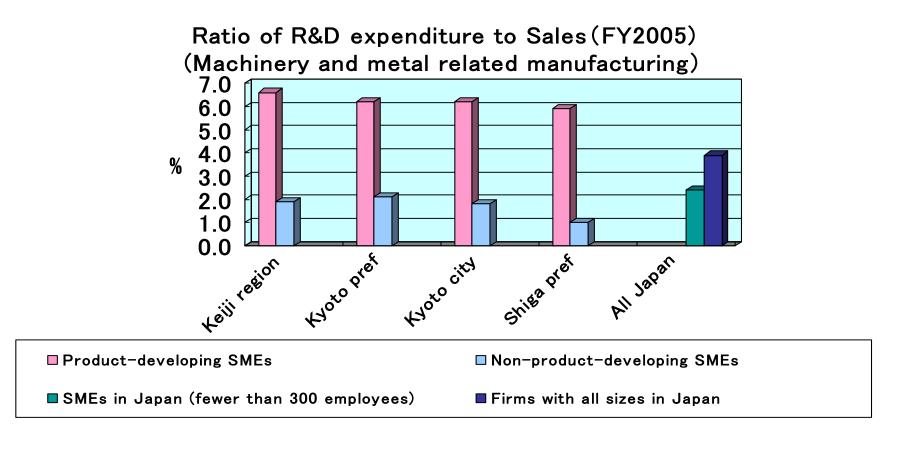
<electronic and="" devices="" domain="" materials=""></electronic>						
Firm's name		Main product				
Electronic devices						
レイデント工業株式会社	京都府	レイデント処理による薄膜形成				
Material technology appl	ied products	s				
シンヨー化成株式会社	滋賀県	塩ビプラッチック、ポリカ波板				
<information domain<="" system="" td=""><td>n></td><td></td></information>	n>					
Firm's name		Main product				
Information system						
京都EIC株式会社	京都府	硝子溶解炉用監視制御システム 溶融硝子液面センサー 硝子溶解炉内監視カメラシステム				
新世代株式会社 東洋電子工業株式会社	滋賀県 京都府	家庭用情報処理装置 津波早期警戒情報ネットワークシステム WMO(世界気象機関)気象情報交換システム 鉄道旅客案内情報システム				
<environment p="" ser<="" •medical=""></environment>	vices •bio-r	related domain>				
Firm's name		Main product				
Environment protecting a	apparatus					
ゼロム環境エンジニアリング	滋賀県	生ごみキルン熱風乾燥炉 生ごみ間接乾燥炉				
プレパイ工業株式会社	京都府	グリーストラップ 小型水槽				
Health care and medical	service rela	ated products				
オオイ金属株式会社	京都府	角型二重食缶、学校給食用食缶、 家庭用金物・アウトドア製品				
桑野造船株式会社	滋賀県	競技用ボート、ボート競技会施設、モータボート(審判用)				
五大エンボディ株式会社	京都市	医薬品外観検査装置、医療用検査システム、 障害支援システム				
マイクロニクス株式会社	京都府	尿自動分析装置 自動シーラー(自動容器密封機)				

<parts-processing domain(parts-processing="" have)="" product-developing="" services="" smes="" which=""></parts-processing>							
Firm's name		Main product					
Metallic molds and machine parts							
株式会社砂﨑製作所	京都市	車両用電気部品、起重機部品、					
株式会社ニチダイ	京都府	│ 送配電用アースフック │ 精密鍛造金型、精密鍛造品、同組み立て、 │ 焼結金網フィルタ					
宮川バネ工業株式会社	滋賀県	板バネ、線バネ、金型					
Parts-processing serv	ices						
株式会社カネコ 近畿総合技研株式会社 日本アルミナ加工株式会社	滋賀県 京都市 京都市	省力設備及び精密部品加工 研削、研磨加工、攪拌機 アルミ部品特殊表面処理 新商品共同開発研究					

(Note) This table exhibits the core technologies with the firm's names which the firms granted permission.

R&D input index of product-developing SMEs in Keiji region (Ratio of R&D expenditure to sales)

Product-developing SMEs have a high ratio of R&D expenditure to sales. It is higher than R&D-conducting firms all over the country.



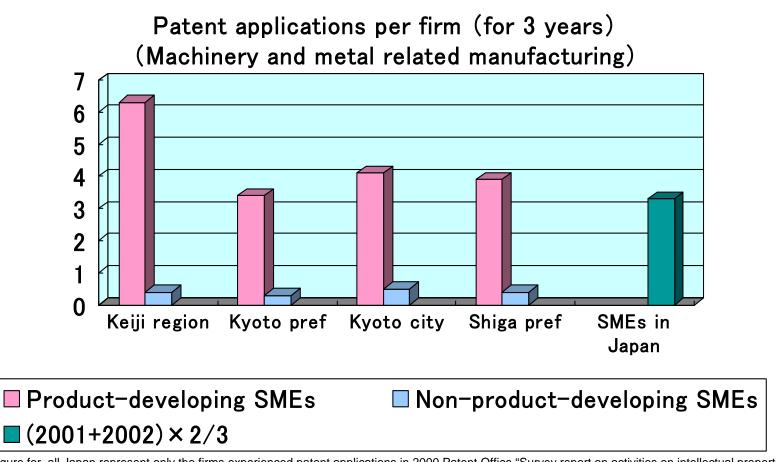
(Note 1) The figures for all Japan is for manufacturing industry and represent only research-conducting firms by Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) "Technology research investigation report."

(Note 2) The figures for Keiji region are simple averages of the ratio for every firm, while those for all Japan are weighted averages.

(Note 3) The figure for product-developing SMEs in Shiga pref. excludes an outlier, while that for Keiji region includes the outlier.

R&D output index of product-developing SMEs in Keiji region (Number of patent applications in the 3 most recent years)

Product-developing SMEs files many patent applications. Their number of patent applications is higher than the national average.

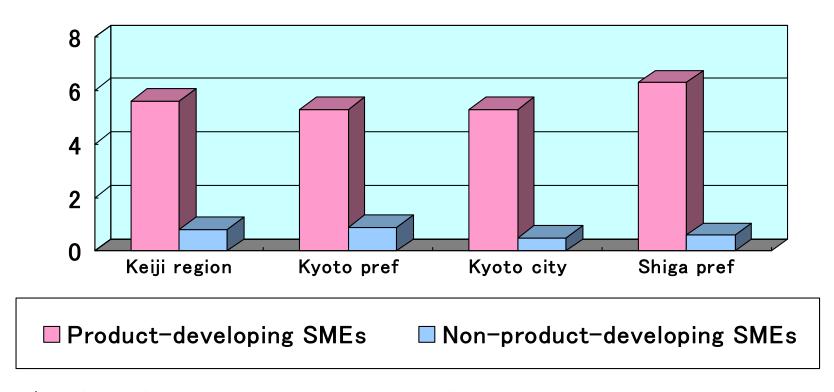


(Note 1) The figure for all Japan represent only the firms experienced patent applications in 2000 Patent Office "Survey report on activities on intellectual properties right" (Note 2) The figure for product-developing SMEs in Shiga pref. excludes an outlier, while that for Keiji region includes the outlier.

R&D output index of product-developing SMEs in Keiji region (Number of new products for the 3 most recent years)

Product-developing SMEs develop many new products.

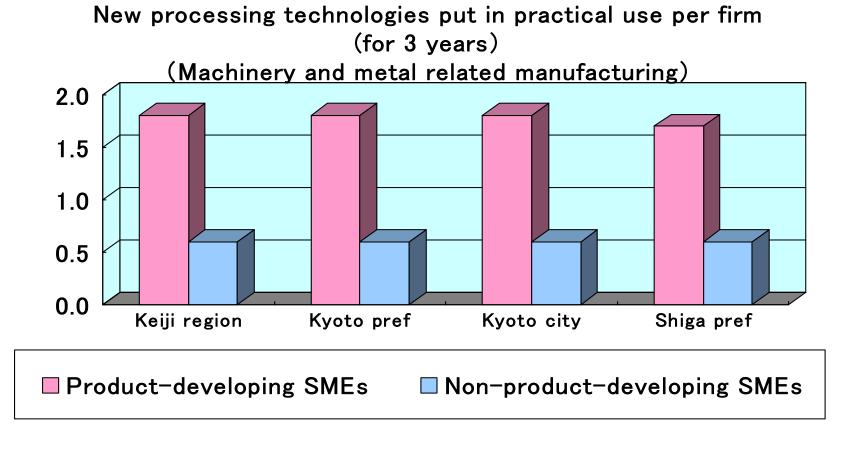
New products per firm (for 3 years)
(Machinery and metal related manufacturing)



(Note) The figures for new products are those launched for the 3 most recent years, including model changes but excluding specific products for one-off orders.

R&D output index of product-developing SMEs in Keiji region (Number of new processing technologies for the 3 most recent years)

Product-developing SMEs put many new processing technologies in practical use.

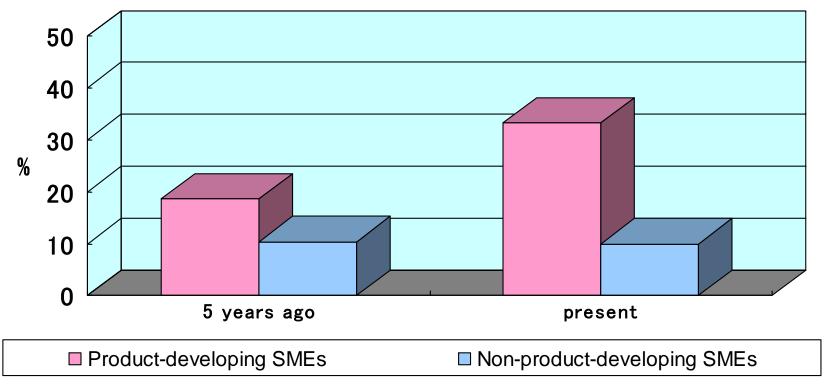


(Note) The figures for new processing technologies are those put in practical use in the 3 most recent years.

Ratio of product-developing SMEs in Keiji region engaged in university-industry linkages

Ratio of product-developing SMEs engaged in university-industry linkages is higher than non-product-developing SMEs and increased rapidly in the last 5 years.

Ratio of firms engaged in university-industry linkages (Machinery and metal related manufacturing)



Problems for product-developing SMEs which were made clear through interviews and symposium

- Existence of product-developing SMEs as promoters of innovation
 - The results of the questionnaire survey on firms in Keiji region confirmed the existence of many product-developing SMEs (respondent firms:184, the firms which gave permission to make public their names:103)
- Collection of information on development needs and through linkages with large firms
 - Development needs of new products very often occur in relation with large customer firms.
 - There are firms which plans to move into new fields of markets different from their present markets by applying their core technologies for new purposes.
- Needs and problems for university-industry linkages
 - The product-developing SMEs encounter new technological challenges when they plan to move into new fields of markets. They have strong needs for collaboration with universities or public research institutions.
 - There are not many firms which succeeds in search for collaboration partners by themselves (these are model cases).
 - Even a very competent firm feels difficulty for finding a collaboration partner. It is required to build up effective search environment to look for collaboration partners.
 - Using the liaison offices of universities and public support institutions brings a first step.
- Problems for securing human resources
 - Some firms succeeds in securing human resources by establishing their notability and by giving good motivation to young people.
 - However, in general, it is difficult for many firms to hire human resources because they are SMEs
 even in the cases they have advanced technologies and good business achievements. This is
 especially true for recruiting new graduates.
 - The shortage of specialized people graduated universities of science and technology in the firms is also a serious obstacle for university-industry linkages.

Problems for product-developing SMEs in Keiji region to collaborate with universities (1) Problems in relations with collaboration partners

(multiple answer)

	All respondents	Firms with collaboration experiences
Number of firms as a denominator including non-answered firms to this particular question	184	62
No suitable collaboration partners	12.0%	1.6%
Difficulty in searching collaboration partners	22.8%	25.8%
Difficulty in evaluating real technological contents of the candidate partners	10.9%	21.0%
Difficulty in applying researches of the candidate partners to actual businesses	13.0%	22.6%
Anxiety about negotiations for allocation of outcomes of the collaboration	3.3%	8.1%
A risk of leaks of technologies and information	6.5%	11.3%

Problems for product-developing SMEs in Keiji region to collaborate with universities (2) Shortage of business resources of the firm to promote the collaboration project

(multiple answer)

	All respondents	Firms with collaboration experiences
Number of firms as a denominator including non-answered firms to this particular question	184	62
Shortage of human resources	27.7%	33.9%
Shortage of financial resources	24.5%	33.9%
Difficulty in finding markets	10.3%	21.0%
Difficulty in manufacturing prototypes	22.2%	6.5%

Problems for product-developing SMEs in Keiji region to collaborate with large firms (1) Problems in relations with collaboration partners

(multiple answer)

	All respondents	Firms with collaboration experiences
Number of firms as a denominator including non-answered firms to this particular question	184	70
No suitable collaboration partners	9.8%	4.3%
Difficulty in searching collaboration partners	13.0%	10.0%
Difficulty in evaluating real technological contents of the candidate partners	7.1%	11.4%
Difficulty in applying researches of the candidate partners to actual businesses	2.7%	2.9%
Anxiety about negotiations for allocation of outcomes of the collaboration	9.8%	18.6%
A risk of leaks of technologies and information	15.8%	21.4%

Problems for product-developing SMEs in Keiji region to collaborate with large firms (2) Shortage of business resources of the firm to promote the collaboration project

(multiple answer)

	All respondents	Firms with collaboration experiences
Number of firms as a denominator including non-answered firms to this particular question	184	70
Shortage of human resources	21.7%	35.7%
Shortage of financial resources	13.6%	17.1%
Difficulty in finding markets	6.5%	10.0%
Difficulty in manufacturing prototypes	2.2%	5.7%

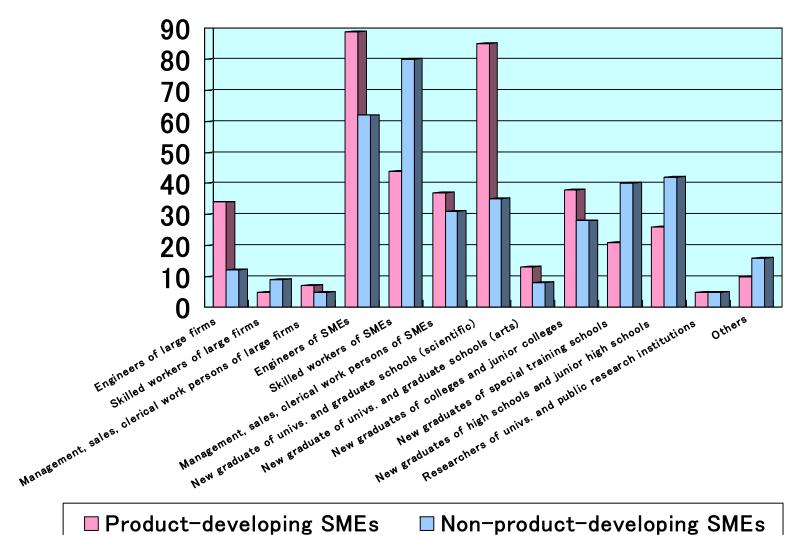
Sufficiency level of human resources in SMEs in Keiji region

			Respondent firms	Sufficient	Barely sufficient	Partly sufficient, partly insufficient	Unsatisfied	Absolutely insufficient
Keiji region								
	SMEs total		358	10	78	80	158	32
			100.0	2.8	21.8	22.3	44.1	8.9
		Product- developing	182	2	41	41	82	16
			100.0	1.1	22.5	22.5	45.1	8.8
		Non- product- developing	176	8	37	39	76	16
			100.0	4.5	21.0	22.2	43.2	9.1

(Note) Upper: Number of firms Lower: Percentage share in respective regions and SME types

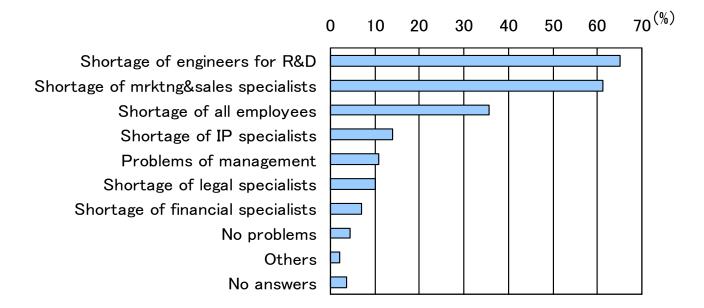
Types of human resources whom SMEs in Keiji region require

Persentage share in respondent firms



Problems recognized with regard to securing human resources (n=1,056)

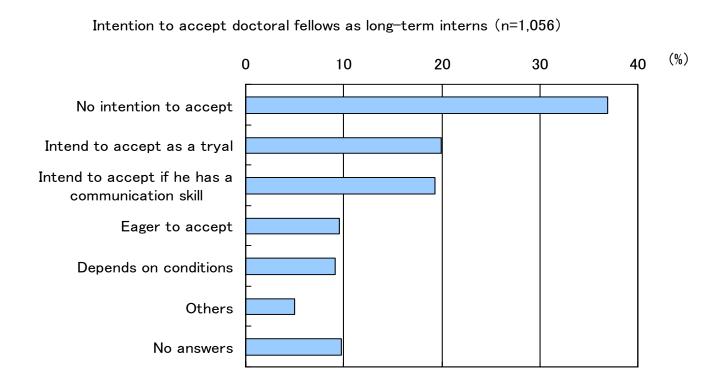




- O Over 60% of firms feel problems in 1) shortage of engineers for R&D such as product development and 2) shortage of skilled persons in marketing and sales promotion.
- O Firms satisfied with human resources are only about 5% and most of firms have any problems in securing human resources.

(Source) Secretariat for Regional Innovation Study Group "Consciousness survey on new business creation, upgrading of technologies and promotion of innovation in regions" April 18th, 2008





(Source) Secretariat for Regional Innovation Study Group "Consciousness survey on new business creation, upgrading of technologies and promotion of innovation in regions" April 18th, 2008

Employment situation of postdoctoral fellows

- Total number of postdoctoral fellows:15,496(FY2005)
 - NISTEP and Knowledge Infrastructure Policy Division, MEXT (2007),"Survey on Postdoctoral Fellows and Research Assistants (FY2006)"
 - c.f. 10,000 postdoctoral fellows support plan (The First Science and Technology Basic Plan)
- Large corporations are not positive to employ doctoral fellows, according to the report of Japanese Business Federation.
 - 73% of new graduates hired for engineering works are masters and doctors account only 3%. The corporations which wants to increase hiring doctors are only about 10%. Most of corporations don't have preferential plan to hire doctors (Japanese Business Federation (Feb 2007)"Summary results of questionnaire survey on doctoral graduate people in corporations").
- On the contrary, arguments which positively evaluate "social capability" of doctoral fellows appear recently.
 - Hamanaka, Junko (2008) "Conditions to promote employment of doctors",
 Journal of Industry-Academic-Government Collaboration, January, 2008 25

Postdoctoral fellows by funding sources (FY2005)

(persons)

Funding source		Total		National universities	
Competitive funds and other outside funds		7,317	(47.2%)	3,834	(53.3%)
	Competitive funds	4,752	(30.7%)	2,423	(33.7%)
	21Century COE Program	1,511	(9.8%)	1,232	(17.1%)
	Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research	1,163	(7.5%)	829	(11.5%)
	CREST	1,294	(8.4%)	20	(0.3%)
	Special coordination funds for promoting science and technology	404	(2.6%)	194	(2.7%)
	Other competitive research funds	380	(2.5%)	148	(2.1%)
	Scholarship donation by private firms	394	(2.5%)	364	(5.1%)
	Other outside funds	2,171	(14.0%)	1,047	(14.5%)
Fellowship / government-financed foreign student		2,766	(17.8%)	1,779	(24.7%)
Operational-expenses subsidy and other funds		4,663	(30.1%)	1,098	(15.3%)
No employment relationship		750	(4.8%)	485	(6.7%)
Total		15,496	(100.0%)	7,196	(100.0%)

(Source) NISTEP and Knowledge Infrastructure Policy Division, MEXT (2007), "Survey on 26 Postdoctoral Fellows and Research Assistants (FY2006)"

Regional Innovation Study Report

Promotion of medium-to-long term dispatch of young researchers such as postdoctoral fellows to firms

It would be most beneficial to upgrade basic technologies of SMEs, if we could make use of young university researchers including postdoctoral fellows as researchers and engineers in SMEs. Short term internship programs from universities to firms are already existing, but now demand by firms for young university fellows especially those specialized in science and technology who can work over mid or long term appears. While product-developing SMEs and venture businesses have themes for new business creation or upgrading existing technologies, most of them are suffering from a shortage of researchers and engineers to engage in technological development. Therefore, dispatching young university researchers such as doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows to regional firms for mid or long term period would make a better match of firms' needs and technology seeds in universities and promote business creation through university-industry linkages. More specifically, we should start a matching system between young university researchers and regional firms especially product-developing SMEs and venture businesses as a trial program in the Industry Cluster Plan, so that we can identify, investigate and solve concrete problems and construct an effective matching and dispatching system.

Economic and social values of dispatching young university researcher including postdoctoral fellows to innovative SMEs

- To accelerate innovations by the innovative SMEs
- To make university-industry linkages most effective through the transfer of knowledge embodied in the young university researchers
- To settle scientific and technological human resources in the regions
- To rectify the present distribution of highly educated people biased to large corporations
- Significance for the cluster policies
 - To further stimulate activity of the industrial cluster projects
 - Possible to effectively apply the results of knowledge cluster projects to industrial cluster projects through dispatching researchers who had worked in the knowledge cluster projects

Image of system to dispatch university young researchers such as postdoctoral fellows

Outline

 In order to conduct joint research with product-developing SMEs and other regional firms, post-doctoral fellows and graduate students are dispatched in a definite period from universities to those firms.

Matching system

- Many regional firms including product-developing SMEs should participate.
 - Industrial cluster promoting organizations have advantage to collect needs information from strong SMEs in each region.
 - The list of product-developing SMEs which was made by Kodama et al. (2007) can be utilized.
- Major universities in each region should participate.
- An overall regional coordination system in each region such as covered by each industrial cluster project etc. should be built.
- Dispatched persons have obligation to keep confidentiality of information.

Dispatch period

- Postdoctoral fellows: One year to be renewed each year
- Postgraduate students (doctoral course): 3-6 months

Sharing expenses

- Participating firms: Salary for the dispatched persons and a part of operating cost of matching and dispatching system
- Government: A part of operating cost of matching and dispatching system management.

Careful preparation is required

- The purpose of the dispatching system must be well-known to the both sides of firms and young university researchers.
- Both needs of firms to accept and universities to dispatch the young university researchers should be searched.
- A concrete system should be designed taking into account of the relationship with labor regulations.