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## The four primary institutes of science and technology work together to promote innovation

- The four primary institutes of science and technology (GIST, KAIST, DGIST, and UNIST) jointly agreed on January 22, 2020, to the 4th Special Committee on Future Human Resources under the National Science and Technology Advisory Council (Chairman: Sung-soo Kim, Director of the Science and Technology Innovation Division, Ministry of Science and ICT, hereinafter, "Special Committee on Future Human Resources").
  - The new innovation plan calls for the formation of a Strategic Committee of the Institute of Science and Technology \* under a joint secretariat representing each of the four primary institutes of science and technology (\* Strategy Committee of the Institute of Science and Technology has been operating since October 2019 and is comprised of members, directors, and experts from the institutes of science and technology).
- Each institute of science and technology has established and implemented its own development plan and R&R (Role and Responsibility); but recently, limitations have been pointed out, such as lack of cooperation between the institutes and weakening world-class competitiveness caused by advances such as Nanyang

Technological University. With the launch of the Joint Secretariat in May 2019, Korea's institutes of science and technology has developed a plan to leap forward as global leaders.

- The innovation plan aims to make the institutes of science and technology top 10 universities in the world by 2030 under the theme of 'Global Leader in Science and Technology Innovation for Human Prosperity and Happiness.' The basic plan is to nurture global science and technology specialists required for research and education and to establish a system of autonomy and responsibility that supports innovation in education and research.
- Detailed tasks were divided into five areas: ▲ governance, ▲ education innovation, ▲ research innovation, ▲ internationalization, and ▲ institutional innovation.
- Under "governance," a "Communication Director" was proposed to strengthen the linkage between the boards of individual institutes of science and technology, and the "Integrated Society" was proposed to establish a single short- to medium-term decision-making system. It also included a plan for systemizing the operation of the committee for the appointment of a president. The role of the joint secretariat will also be strengthened and used as a focal point for advanced planning and cooperation.
- Under "education innovation," the focus is on creating an educational environment that fosters creative students. The plan was designed to strengthen the evaluation of student selection interviews and increase the selection of diverse students so that a variety of students can be introduced into the science and engineering institutes. Measures have been proposed to strengthen basic liberal arts education and online field education by using online regular learning. The Center for Teaching and Learning will develop and spread teaching methods and to support career paths for students to enter into various fields.
- Under "research innovation," the focus is on strengthening research capabilities, including the establishment of a collective research system. Specialization strategies will be prepared to select and focus on the strengths of each research center, and the pool of young researchers will be further strengthened in the research centers by expanding support for postdoctoral researchers. In addition, the government will push for the resolution of social issues affecting institutes of science and technology, establish a point system for research institutes to overcome the limitations of individual laboratories, and provide subsidies to support long-term research.

- Under "internationalization," a measure was proposed to enhance the international reputation of the Korea's institutes of science and technology by increasing international exchanges. The plan is to promote the circulation of global students and foreign teachers and to raise international status through the activities of members at global scholarship advisory groups and overseas joint research institutes.
  
- Under "institutional innovation," the focus is on enhancing the efficiency and openness of institutions by improving teacher evaluations, hiring excellent teachers, systemization of projects, expanding administrative expertise, improving regulations, and strengthening research ethics.
  
- In the meantime, the plan will be implemented by the "(Tentative) Working Committee on the Implementation of the Innovation Task Force of the Science and Technology Institutes," which consists of the heads of the four primary institutes of science and technology along with the Korea Institute of Science and Technology Joint Secretariat. A working-level subcommittee consisting of the planning directors from each science and technology institute will check the progress of each institute on a quarterly basis to enhance its ability to implement the reforms.

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