

Establishing a Structure of Cooperation among Academia, Business, and Government And Moving Towards an Creative and Autonomous Industrial Framework

Shiga Prefecture has attracted numerous universities, private research laboratories, and other research and development institutions. Its beautiful natural environment and rich cultural and historical heritage are suitable for fostering a creative way of thinking. Shiga Prefecture supports national science and technology movements through the full use of the resources it has been blessed with. Sitting at the center of the Keihanshin (Kyoto, Osaka, and Kobe), Chukyo (Nagoya), and Hokuriku (Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui) Regions, Shiga is considered to be a growing capital of new industry.

Furthermore, Shiga Prefecture has attracted a motivated manufacturing industry. Through the use of Shiga's advantages to promote the collaboration among Academia, Business, and Government, the development of new technology, and the improvement of the value-added production, Shiga Prefecture has the potential to become a pioneer in the field of creative manufacturing.

In addition, with Shiga's population rising rapidly, quality of life is expected to improve, and the promotion of the service sector over the course of the 21st century will generate a business structure which will contribute to the benefit of the people living in Shiga.

Shiga recognizes these fundamental principles because of its long history of living together in harmony with Lake Biwa and the rest of its natural environment. Although Shiga Prefecture is small, it works vigorously to preserve the environment while also bringing affluence to its people. Shiga has the potential to promote and create industries which are fit for a society of the 21st century.

However, just because Shiga has made progress in its efforts to establish cooperation among Academia, Business, and the Government as mentioned above, this does not mean that Shiga can rest on its laurels. It must look to the future and tackle the issues at hand. Together with hard-working efforts for promoting industry, the collaboration among Academia, Business, and Government must include citizens and organizations such as NPOs and financial institutions. By combining each group's various strengths and wisdom, Shiga must create a solid network where a free exchange of information and ideas is possible.

Through this collaboration, Shiga Prefecture will create new jobs and markets, improve value-added production, and develop new services and technology which can compete on a global scale, or in other words, move towards a creative industrial framework. Furthermore, without relying on existing systems and institutions, Shiga will cultivate industries which are autonomous, can sustain development, and are capable of adapting to changes in society and the environment, or in other words, move towards an autonomous industrial framework. With Academia, Business, and the Government functioning as one body, it will be important to further develop other promotion policies.