Title
The International Mobility of Researchers: Policy Support at National and Institutional Levels

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Citation
Issue Date
2007

Type
Research Paper

Text Version
publisher

URL
http://hdl.handle.net/10086/14561
DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY
COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY
FIFTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE STEERING AND
FUNDING OF RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS (SFRI)

29 March 2007, Paris

ROOM DOCUMENT

The International Mobility of Researchers: Policy Support at National and Institutional Levels
— Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) —

For information under Item 8 of the draft agenda, International Mobility

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Executive Summary
Executive Summary

- The Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) have conducted a survey of current policies and initiatives at the national and institutional levels which promote international researcher mobility.

- The survey was intended to provide a broad overview and to look at typical or distinctive examples in the context of a summary of general trends.

- The result of the national survey indicates that current efforts by countries can be roughly classified into the following four categories:

  (1) Support for incoming and outgoing researchers;
  (2) Support for the return and reintegration, and networking of overseas researchers;
  (3) Promotion and international publicity and marketing of higher education and R&D; and
  (4) Support for initiatives that focus on immigration.

- In surveying initiatives to improve international researcher mobility at the institutional level, we focused on the following five aspects:

  (1) Provision of fellowships and grants by the university itself;
  (2) Research and education exchanges among multiple universities via institutional alliances and consortia;
  (3) International strategic plans developed for the university as a whole and arrangements for implementing international activities on campus; and
  (4) Establishment of overseas research facilities and efforts to attract overseas research institutes to set up on campus.
  (5) Social and cultural support for overseas researchers (e.g., housing, provisions for family, language support, etc)

- In analyzing the efforts, there is an undeniable development that involves regional (e.g., European) initiatives to improve international researcher mobility.

- The multi-layered co-existence of initiatives on a regional level, on a national level, and on an institutional level has generated synergistic effects in encouraging further efforts by countries throughout the world.