

Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University

(University Functions to be Enhanced: 1. Boost academic excellence in specific areas of the university's strength, 2. Generate innovation that can help solve global issues and advance societal reform, 3. Take a lead in resolving regional issues through collaboration with regional communities.)

Collaborators : Keio University, University of the Ryukyus

Participators : Tohoku University, The University of Tokyo, Osaka University, Kyushu University, RIKEN, University of Cambridge, Max Planck Institute, Stanford University, Scripps Institution for Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, University of Hawai'i, French National Center for Scientific Research, Chalmers University of Technology, University of Oxford

Summary

Background of vision formulation

Conducting top quality research in Japan and became among the world best in 10 years since establishment, but OIST is still growing and in the middle of its development.

- ✓ Small in size (about 90PIs), Limited research area [Constraints of size, research area]
- ✓ Challenges in external communication due to its diversity [Language/cultural barriers]
- ✓ Access and transport challenges to "Okinawa, Onna Village" [Geographical constraints]
- ✓ Unique features and resources are not yet generating benefits to others domestic entities
- ✓ Limited staff exchanges with domestic entities in Researchers, URA, Technical & Admin staff
- ✓ More room for contribution to the development of Okinawa and Japan's economy and society
- ✓ Required diversification of financial resources for self-sustaining operation



To overcome the challenges and carry out bold reforms based on "nexus" concept, established a grand design university vision

Strengthen our research support system and environment, create synergy with the J-PEAKS facilities programs, expand research activities overseas, domestically, and in Okinawa. Promote international brain circulation, shared use of facilities and equipment, and undertake reforms to become part of research universities groups that will drive the strengthening of Japan's research capabilities.

Pursue world-class research excellence



Enhance contributions to Okinawa by linking to our strengthened innovation
Linking the 3 aims of the programme

A vision for OIST in 10 years with “Enhanced Research Capabilities”: OIST nexus

■ We will build on our existing foundations as an international center of excellence in life sciences and quantum research etc., to intersect, integrate, and synergize the wisdom of all OIST researchers and staff including students, postdocs and other early career researchers, the world-class research resources and potential of the university, develop a university-wide, systematic initiative to promote cutting-edge, "curiosity-driven", interdisciplinary research.



■ We will be a “bridge between Japan and the world”, using Okinawa as a home to promote seamless and sustainable international collaboration and brain circulation. We will build a global 'Wider OIST' platform through industry-academia-government-finance partnerships, maximizing and strengthening our research capabilities and operational infrastructure to overcome the above-mentioned constraints and challenges.

■ We will strengthen even further our world-class research, internationality and interdisciplinarity, and under the banner of “One World One Health” and “promotion of Okinawa”, to create disruptive innovations and accelerate discovery of solutions to global and regional challenges, to present an “attractive image of a university in the 21st century” and grow into a “world-class research university” to become the “Best in the World”.



Strategic structure & Partners

Enhancement of university management capability & governance

Innovation

Contribution to Okinawa

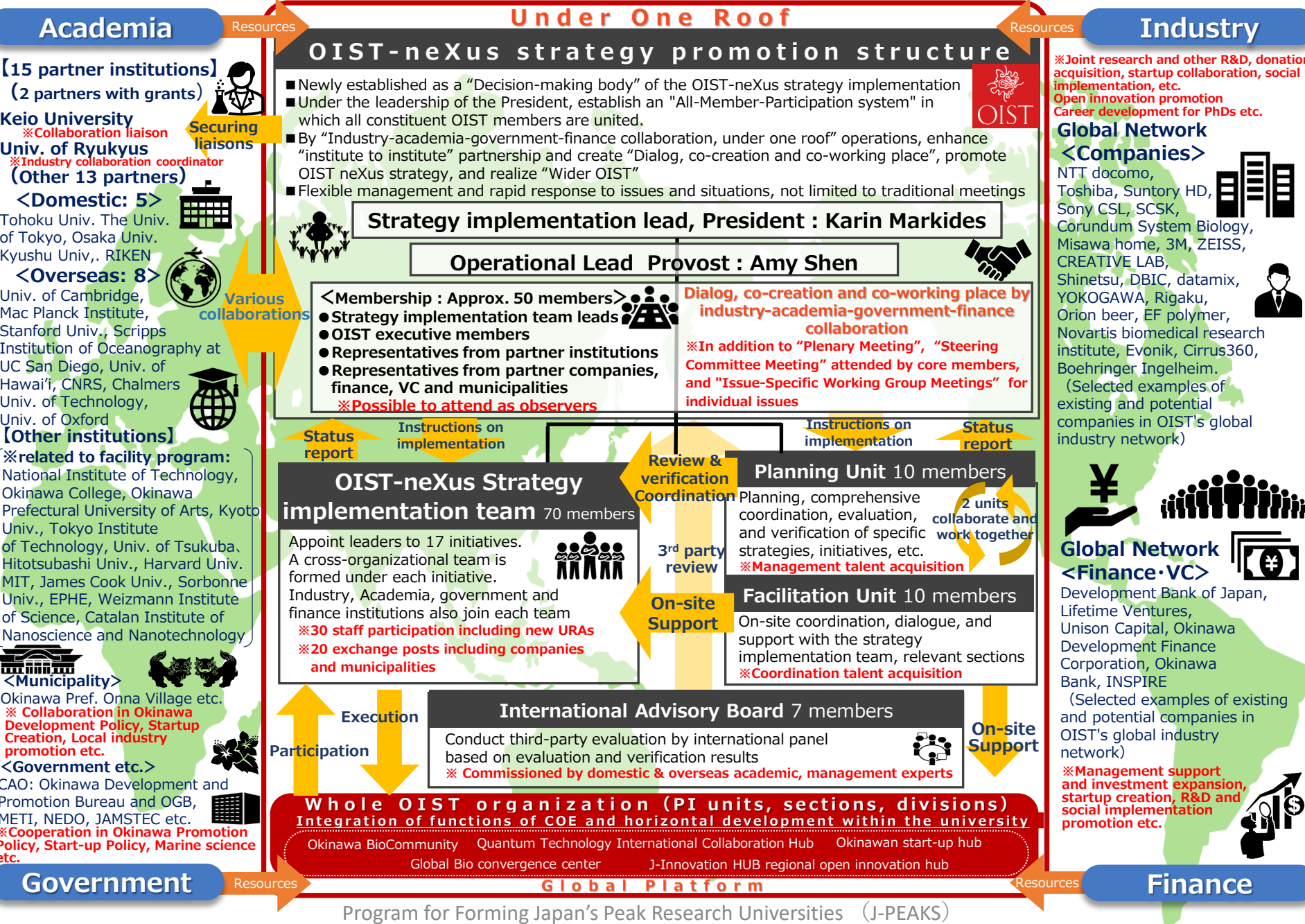
Research excellence

1. Strengthen gateway function by establishing a global collaboration platform
2. Establish world-class Open Clusters
3. Foster next-generation, early career leaders, and promote international brain circulation
4. Strengthen industry-academia-government-finance collaborations and innovations; promote generating benefits to Okinawa
5. Increase external funding; increase operational flexibility of high-trust funding
6. University-wide administrative reform; increase operational efficiencies and capabilities

(Partner University) Keio University, University of the Ryukyus *Shared use of Facilities and equipment, resource sharing such as appointing partnership liaisons **(Partner Institutions)** Tohoku University, The University of Tokyo, Osaka University, Kyushu University, RIKEN, University of Cambridge, Max Planck Institutes, Stanford University, Scripps Institution for Oceanography at UC San Diego, University of Hawai’i, French National Center for Scientific Research, Chalmers University of Technology, Oxford University *Enhancing institutional collaborations

The OIST-nexus strategy (6 pillars·17 initiatives)

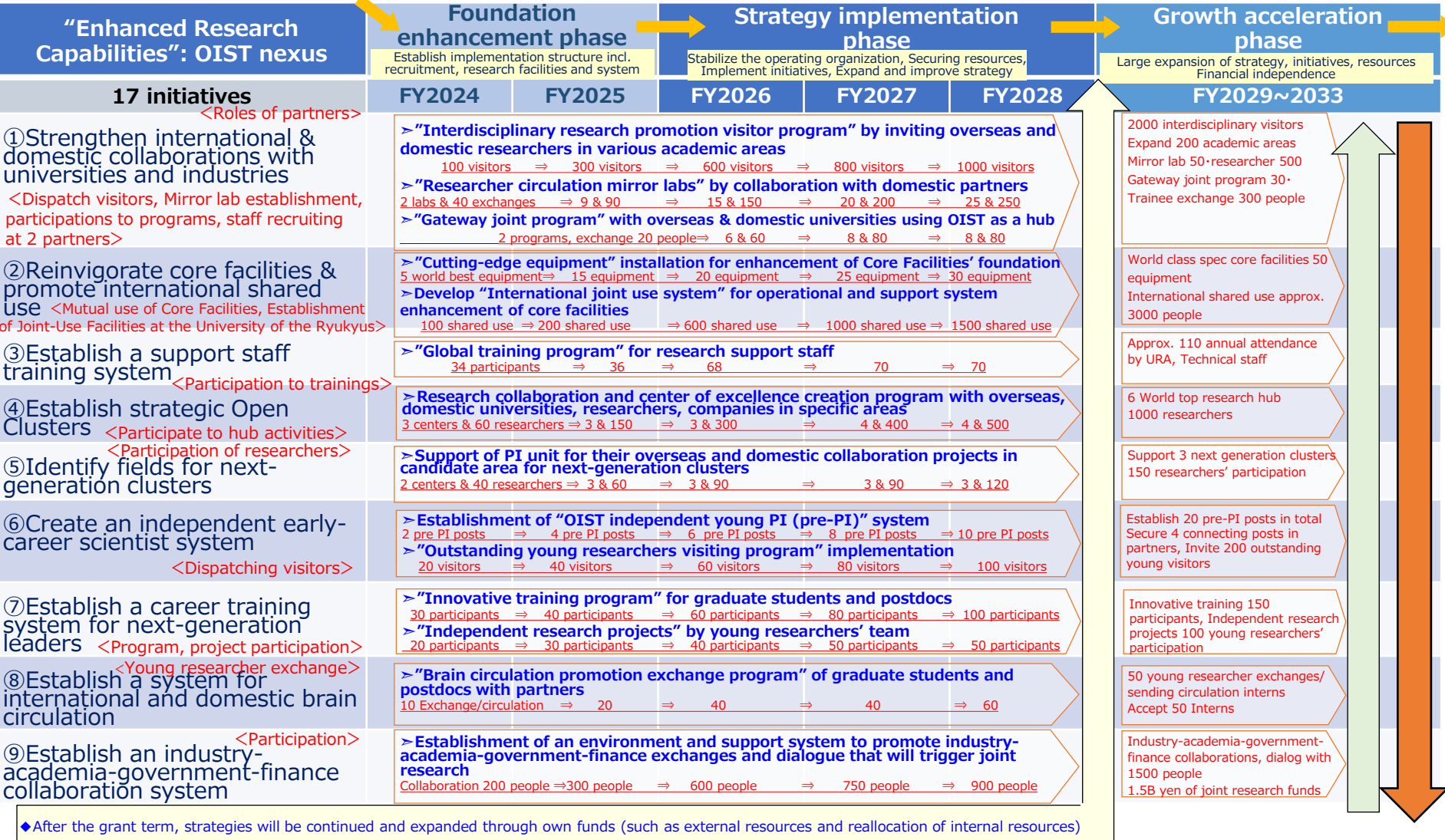
1. Strengthen gateway function by establishing a global collaboration platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ①Strengthen international & domestic collaborations with universities and industries ②Reinvigorate core facilities & promote international shared use ③Establish a support staff training system
2. Establish world-class Open Clusters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ④Establish strategic Open Clusters ⑤Identify fields for next-generation clusters
3. Foster next-generation, early career leaders, and promote international brain circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⑥Create an independent early-career scientist system ⑦Establish a carer training system for next-generation leaders ⑧Establish a system for international and domestic brain circulation
4. Strengthen industry-academia-government-finance collaborations and innovations; promote contributions to Okinawa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⑨Establish an industry-academia-government-finance collaboration system ⑩Establish a system to promote scientific solutions for social implementation and to tackle regional challenges ⑪Establish a system for launching global start-ups
5. Increase external funding; increase operational flexibility of high-trust funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⑫Strengthen capabilities for international and large research grants acquisition ⑬Strengthen capabilities to identify industrial contacts and gain industrial funding ⑭Strengthen the operational flexibility of the high-trust funding system
6. University-wide administrative reform; increase operational efficiencies and capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⑮Strengthen the management structure led by the president ⑯Enhance administrative capabilities through recruiting outstanding support personnel ⑰Digital transformation of research support operations



Timeline

FY2023: Preparation and approach run phase

- ◆MEXT Open Innovation Facility construction ◆METI Incubation Facility construction ◆CAO Incubation Facility construction
- ◆System design, conducting surveys (Revision of organizations, establishment of rules, MOUs, survey of international and domestic universities, questionnaires)
- ◆Securing staff (Advanced advertisement, recruiting process) ◆Discussion with partners (staff exchanges and collaborations, cost bearing)
- ◆Core Facilities equipment selection



◆After the grant term, strategies will be continued and expanded through own funds (such as external resources and reallocation of internal resources)



“Enhanced Research Capabilities”: OIST nexus