Cluster development projects have attracted attention from governments as a means to stimulate regional economic growth around the world, in order to accelerate various improvement and innovation by strategic and substantial integrations among stakeholders. This program offers opportunities to analyze various clusters in Japan and other countries as a reference to develop tailored policies, strategies, activities for each cluster.

Objective
To acquire practical and effective cluster approach, which is appropriate for the settings of targeted regional industry

Outcome
1. To summarize and share the description of participant’s cluster development, such as policy, strategy, operation, activity.
2. To compare participant’s cluster by understanding the basic concept of cluster approach
3. To clarify the role/function of stakeholders in launching/managing/operating cluster
4. To select appropriate methods and tools to activate cluster in the respective setting
5. To be able to propose an idea/plan to activate participant’s cluster by using knowledge gained from the program

Target Organization / Group
- National/Regional Governments, business associations, universities and research institutes, which initiates and/or facilitates cluster
- Officers/staffs engaged in cluster development, operation, management, etc.
- More than 3 years in relevant field
- Sufficient English ability for discussion

Contents
- Preparation/Problem identification: Report based on analysis of participant’s cluster
- Lectures and Case analysis: Basic concept/principal of cluster, government policy as cluster strategic plan, Ornizational structure and the function, Cluster initiative organizations, Cluster coordinators and facilitators (or Pointpersons, secretariat etc.), Various types of Linkage
- Summary: Action plan based on the review of participant’s cluster approach

The term Cluster was introduced by Michael Porter (1990) as a “geographical concentration of interconnected companies and institutions in a particular field.”. However, the economic cluster model is more than a group of firms within the same industry, and it represents a synergy, a dynamic relationship and a network between not only the companies that comprise a cluster but also the successful partnering of the stakeholders.

Cluster operates in widely different settings, but there is no single model to make all cluster successful. Each cluster needs to find the approach that will be most effective under the given circumstances.