

Biobank network in Korea

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'The 3rd master plan for management and utilization of national bio-resources' was established to promote the user-friendly utilization environment of bio-resources in 2020. By 3rd master plan, South Korea's 274 bio-resource banks have been organized into 14 themed clusters, each led by central banks. The 14 clusters include human-derived material, cell lines, animal model, microorganisms, etc. Each cluster is composed of central banks and branch banks. The central banks, as leader which would be more than one, support and manage branch banks in their cluster. Each spoke bank collects and manages its own resource for supplying to research and industry fields. The central banks collect the data of their branch banks for the integrated system for public service and manage the projects of their branch banks. The branch bank collects and manages its own resource for supplying to research and industry fields.

To promote collaboration between clusters and biobanks in cluster, the Office for Bio-Resource Planning(OBRP) at Korea Bioinformation Center(KOBIC) in Korea Research Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology(KRIBB) is designated as a secretary of 14 clusters network. The OBRP supports a bio-resource bank management, studies for strategies to utilized bio-resources, and manage the bio-resource information system. It will response national issues and promote collaboration between domestic and global networks.