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Overview and Analysis of the Japanese and US Innovation Systems

by Sergio Jofre

SUCCES WP1 Meeting
Stockholm June 18 2008

The report was elaborated on the base of a literature review and personal experiences from Japan (Department of Environmental Engineering, Osaka University).

Today's presentation includes

- a) Introduction
- b) Comparison of Japanese and US innovation systems
from the point of view of the **Triple Helix** concept based on the
Academy-Government-Industry interaction in Japan and the US
- c) Main Findings
- d) Conclusions for SUCCESS WP1
- e) Suggestions for finalizing our contribution

Introduction - 1

There is no single definition of innovation systems when we observe the process at national level

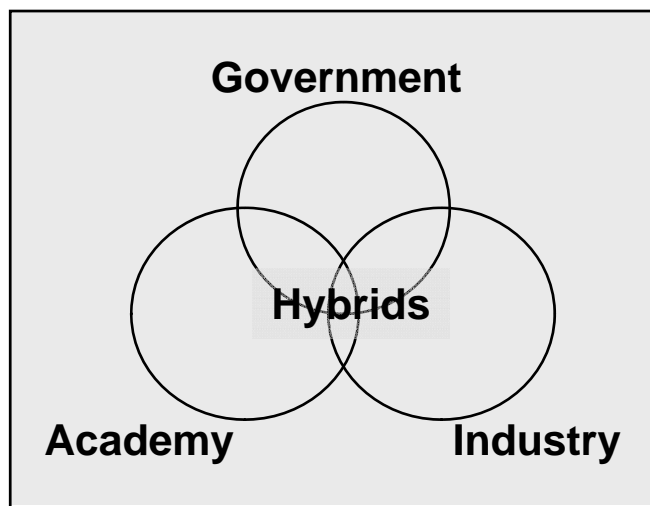
However, we can understand a **National Innovation System (NIS** or **National System of Innovation)** as the flow of technology and information among people, enterprises and institutions which is key to the innovative process on the national level.

According to **innovation system theory**, innovation and technology development are results of a **complex set of relationships among actors in the system**, which includes enterprises, universities and government research institutes.

Introduction - 2

Therefore,
In order to observe the complexity and dynamism of innovation systems a relatively new model has been developed:

The “**Triple Helix**” model of innovation that captures multiple reciprocal relationships at different points in the process of knowledge capitalization.



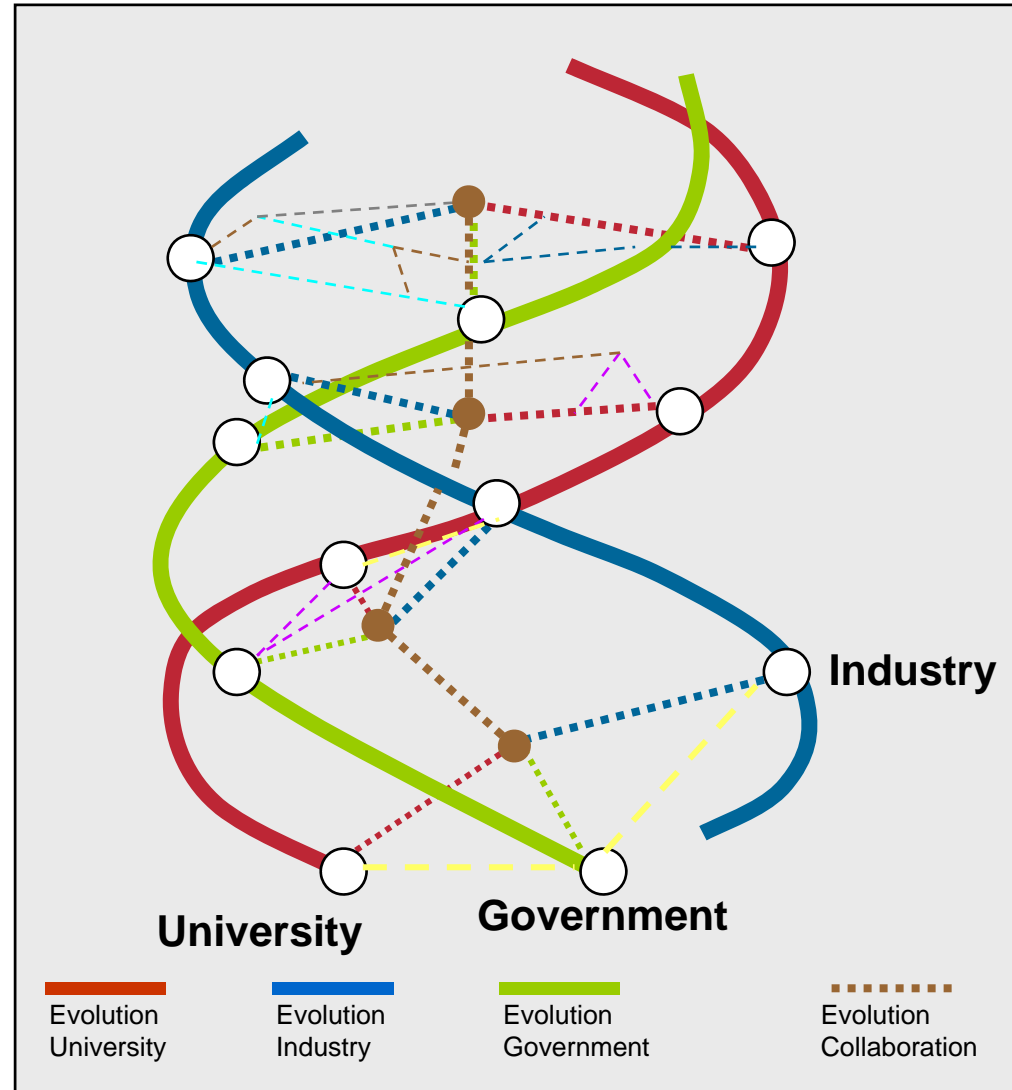
Generation of knowledge infrastructure
in terms of overlapping institutional spheres,
Each sphere takes the role of the other and
hybrid and tri-lateral networks emerge at the
Interfaces

(most countries moving towards the adoption
of this model)

Introduction - 3

Evolutionary Triple Helix model

The overlay of communications and expectations at the network level guides the reconstruction of institutional arrangements overtime (system evolution)



Comparison of Japanese and US innovation systems

Current [innovation systems in Japan and the US](#) are in a state of transition. The main drivers of this transition are the need to efficiently respond to increased globalization and competitiveness of markets, and the challenge of sustainable development.

Japan:

Former innovation system based on [“technology substitution for energy”](#)

Need for increasing growth with limited resources and energy

Innovation lead by government and industry

“In-house” R&D of large companies/tacit knowledge embedded in work and sales forces

Focus on production efficiency (e.g. the lean production concept) and manufacturing power

US:

Former innovation system based on [“IT substitution for manufacturing technology”](#)

Increasing growth through developing new functionalities

Innovation lead by a liberalized arrangement of different innovation agents

Strong incidence of foreign human resources, mobility and competitiveness

Focus on new functionality and network synergy (e.g. The silicon Valley)

Findings 1 - Triple Helix in Japan and the US

Government

JAPAN	US
<p>Trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergoing restructuring (less divisions more autonomy and power) • design of S&T and R&D policies and strategies (including all national sectors) • Encouraging industry-academy collaboration • Aiming social consensus • Aiming less “interference” • Increasing funding of R&D <p>Role: High (aiming lower)</p>	<p>Trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dictating and keeping “rules of the game” • Regulation and Deregulation • Facilitating Innovation Environment • Setting up national priorities • Aiming more “presence” • Aiming more funding to R&D <p>Role: Moderate (aiming Higher)</p>

Findings 2 - Triple Helix in Japan and the US

University (academia)

JAPAN	US
<p>Trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergoing restructuration (from public to corporate) • Aiming more liberalization and autonomy • Selective and competitive • Lower incubation business competence (aiming Higher) • Lower incidence of foreign skills (aiming higher) • Lower rate of external collaboration (aiming higher) • Aiming to increase funding variety • “in-house” IPR mechanisms • Increasing scientific production <p>Role: Historically low to Moderate (aiming higher)</p>	<p>Trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberalized and autonomous • highly selective and competitive • High business incubation competence • High incidence of foreign skills (decreasing enrolment & recruitment) • High rate of external collaboration • Variety of funding sources • “In-house” IPR mechanisms • Decreasing scientific production (aiming higher) <p>Role: High (aiming to sustain)</p>

Findings 3 - Triple Helix in Japan and the US

Industry

Japan	US
<p>Trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High incidence in Government S&T Policies and Strategies (sustaining) • Strong “in-house” R&D and High embedded tacit knowledge (sustaining) • Low mobility and low foreign skills dependency (increasing) • long-term and large size networks (sustain or increase) • Outsourcing Basic Research (increasing) • Use of “Open Science” and IPR mechanisms (increasing) • Passive search for external collaboration (aiming higher) • Low Venture Capital (aiming higher) <p>Role: Historically very High</p>	<p>Trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent & Proactive (sustain/increase) • Diversify R&D and lower tacit knowledge (decreasing aiming recovery) • High mobility and foreign skill dependency (decreasing foreign recruitment/aiming recovery) • short-term collaboration networks (aiming longer) • Collaborating in Basic research (sustain) • IPR mechanisms (sustain) • Active search for external collaboration (sustaining) • Venture capital (including Angels) <p>Role: High</p>

Conclusions for SUCCESS WP1

Japan and the US are undergoing major changes at different organizational levels in order to align their national systems of innovation with globalization and sustainability.

Fundamental changes in both NIS has been inspired on each other history of failure and success. Therefore, there is common path of learning,

NIS in Japan and US are merging (towards the innovation ecosystem)

Results of interaction between academy-government-industry (and hybrid institutions and networks) are incidentals, there is no single formula for success, therefore:

“models of collaboration are less relevant that the benefit implicit in the simple action of collaborating”

“Collaboration at any rate and time increases the possibility to induce synergy, while flexibility and learning capability increases the chance of adaptation”

Suggestions for finalizing contributions to WP1

Regarding our contribution:

- Extending the scope of the analysis to the EU case (Triple Helix)
- Including in the analysis a chapter for “energy policy” in Japan, US and EU

Regarding WP1 in general:

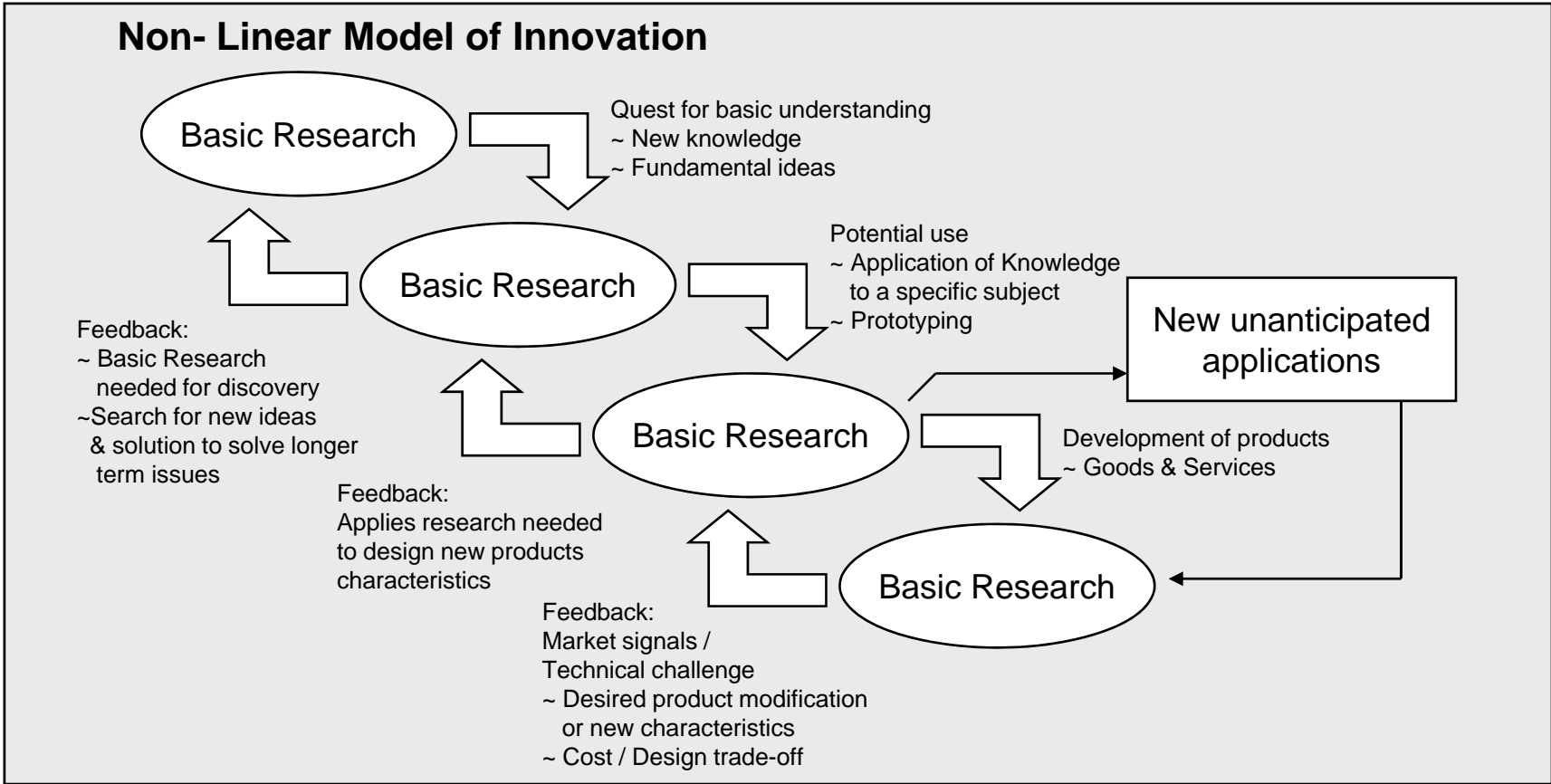
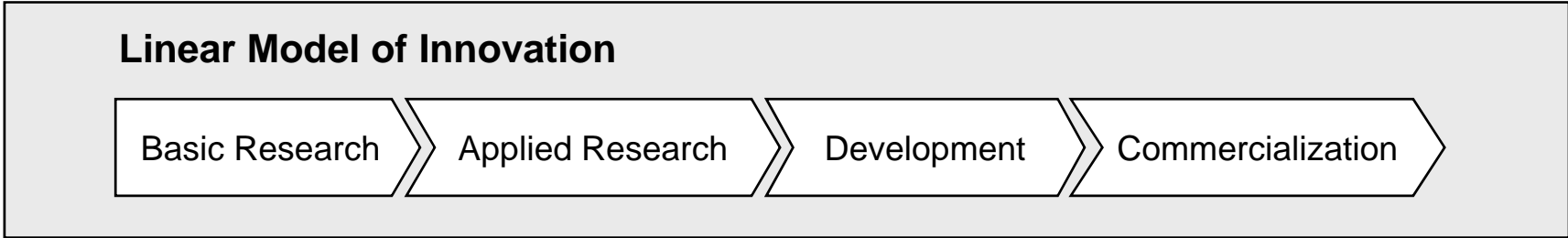
- many of today’s contributions to WP1 relates to innovation system studies – but with slightly different approaches (national innovation systems, technology specific innovation systems, regional innovation systems)
- Therefore, we would like to propose a final review and edition of complementary contributions based on the innovation system approach:
 - **Bruggink**, Benchmarking EU governance of energy innovation systems
 - **Markhorst**, Literature review of knowledge transfer, sustainable universities and regional models of innovation
 - **Jofre**, Overview and analysis of Japanese and US innovation systems
 - partly **Ottani & Bou**, *Innovation networks – concepts and empirical review*

Many thanks for you attention

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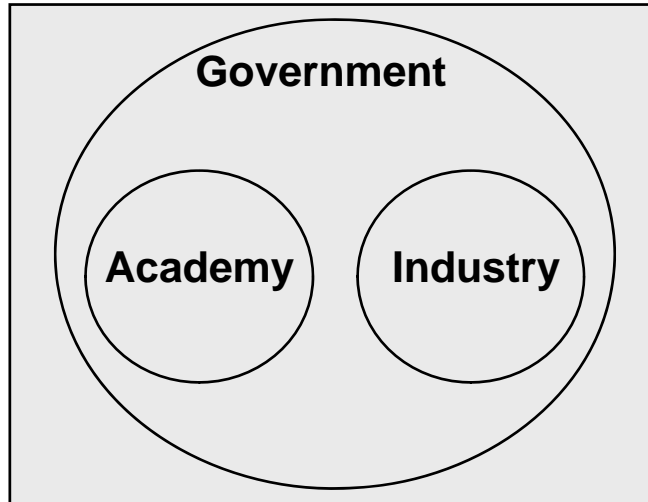
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Q&A



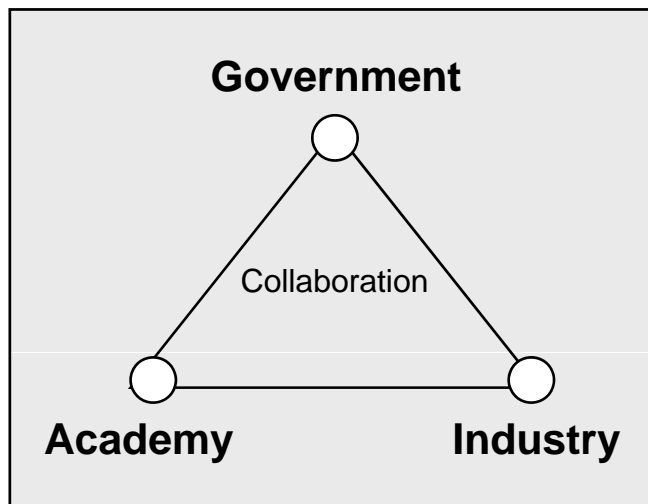
Tri-lateral Collaboration Models

Static model



Nation state encompasses academia and industry and directs the relations between them
Strong form: Soviet
Soft form: Latin America & Norway

"Laissez-faire" ("let do") model



Institutional spheres with strong borders dividing them and highly circumscribed relations among the spheres
Examples: Sweden & US

Innovation Ecosystem

